

**TOWNSHIP OF SOMERSET, COUNTY OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES FOR JANUARY 20, 2022 / Page 1 of 10**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Township of Somerset Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Shaw on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7:00PM in the Somerset Township Community Room, 12715 E. Chicago Road, Somerset Center, MI, 49282. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. There were 17 people in attendance.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Supervisor – Tim Shaw – (Present)
Treasurer -Josh Bice - (Present)
Trustee – David Pumfrey - (Present)
Trustee – Steve Meckley –(Present)
Clerk - Mike Bohnet – (Present)

AGENDA –Supervisor Shaw asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Clerk Bohnet moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second Treasurer Bice. Vote taken with Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Absent: 0, Motion carried. Agenda approved.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS –Supervisor Shaw asked that people limit their time for Public Comment to 3 minutes and that they be respectful to each other and the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Opened at 7:02PM and 1 citizen came forward to speak. Closed at 7:04PM.

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HILLSDALE COUNTY SENIOR CENTER – Samantha Gordon from Perennial Park gave a presentation on the services available to Somerset Seniors. She said 13% of the Somerset population is over 60 years old and 5.6% of the Somerset Township residents live below the poverty level. Gordon passed out literature to the Board of Trustees.

REPORTS

Fire & Rescue – Fire Chief Friess gave the Fire & Rescue report for the month of December, 2021. Fire and EMS calls for December totaled 95 for a 2021 total of 1,123 calls which is an increase of 94 calls compared to last year. The 2021 call level was the highest level of calls ever recorded. During December 2021 there were 79 medical emergencies, 7 fires, and 9 vehicle accidents. Used 125.5.1 gal. diesel fuel and 136.7 gal of gas. (See Attachment #1).

Treasurers Report – Treasurer Bice gave the Treasurer's report. Bice reviewed all reconciled bank accounts as of 12/31/2021. All funds balance was \$3,651,320.59. The report included for the first time the new Fire Department Medicare savings account with County National Bank. (See Attachment #2).

Police Report – Police Chief Bancroft gave the Police report for the month of December, 2021. Hours worked were 521.5, miles driven 4,180 and 15 citations were issued. There were 9 auto crashes, and 127 Incident reports. Gas consumption was 377.1 gallons. Chief Bancroft updated the Board on the Jerome incident that required a Swat Team involvement and resulted in the incarceration of a Jerome male resident. (See Attachment #3).

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Parks & Recreation – Treasurer Bice gave the Parks and Recreation report from the January 5, 2022 meeting. Bice said that Tyler LaBo was elected Chairperson replacing Terry Reister who became Vice Chairperson. Three new donation boxes for Mc Courtie Park were placed on order. Berm house windows and repairs were discussed. Committee working on transferring flag pole from Barnett Park to McCourtie Park. Concession stand being considered. Supervisor Shaw suggested that the Parks and Rec Committee reconsider the installation of vinyl windows in favor of preserving the existing windows that maintain the integrity of the historic nature of the park and follows Township purchasing Guidelines. (See Attachment # 4)

JCB –Deloris Smith-Post gave the JCB report as of January 13, 2022. Combustion motor installed on upstairs furnace due to bearing failure
Working on getting 3 bids for Generator. March 26th Craft Show spots are filling up fast. Considering the Craft Show to be an annual event. Volunteer hours 7 (See Attachment #5).

Supervisors Report – Supervisor Shaw updated the Board regarding ARPA funds and MTA annual meeting in Lansing, Michigan, scheduled for April, 2022.

Assessor's Report –Supervisor Shaw gave the Assessor report for January, 2022. All received documents are current and up to date on our active data base. Normal workload of paperwork and residents coming in to the office/phone calls. Anthony and Maribeth have completed a field inspection for all properties that have had a building permit pulled relevant to assessing functions. All of these inspections include an updated picture of improvements, a sketch that includes the physical dimensions of the improvements, and the % of completion as of 12-31-2021. (See Attachment #6).

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Zoning Administrator – Zoning Administrator Figiel gave the report dated January 20, 2022. (Final 2021 report) There were 62 Zoning Compliance Permits issued. 4 Zoning Compliance Permits denied. 3 Applications to Zoning Board of Appeals. 2 Dimensional variance. 1 dimensional variance to be heard. There were 3 people considering filing for dimensional variance. 134 site inspections. 25 finals issued. Figiel read the enforcement list. Working with Hillsdale County Drain Commissioner to resolve issues. Tire State Grant discussed. (See Attachment #7).

County Commissioner – Supervisor Shaw read a report Commissioner Brent Leininger submitted for January 2022, that included County ARPA funding of \$8.9 million under the new \$10 million allowance Final Rule, The \$11.5 million 800 Mega Hertz radio system project and the potential restructuring of the Hillsdale County Road Commission. (See Attachment #8).

Hillsdale County Road Commission (HCRC) - Hillsdale County Road Commissioner Gary Leininger was not in attendance.

Planning Commission – Chairperson Carolan gave the Planning Commission report from the January 11, 2022 meeting. Carolan said 2022 officers were elected. Chair Person, Carolan, Vice Chairman, Hartzler, Secretary Berro. Zoning Administrator addressed Planned Unit Development (PUD), Mini Storage, Litter, Vehicle Repair and Storage and Sign ordinances. Minutes of 1-11-2022 Meeting on Website. (See Attachment #9).

Election Report – Clerk Bohnet gave the Election report. Bohnet said that Somerset Township will have 6 proposals on the May 3, 2022 ballot along with the Hillsdale County proposal for Special Education. (Roads, Parks & Recreation, Capital Improvement, Fire, Police, and Operations). Ballot language REQUIRED TO BE TO County Clerk by 2-8-2022. County will begin Election Inspector training soon. (See Attachment #10 & #11).

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Flash Report – Clerk Bohnet reported that revenues of \$1,096K exceeded expenditures of \$1,011K by \$85K for YTD December 31, 2021. Expenditures were 33% of the 2021/22 amended budget of \$3.0M. Burn rate for next 6 months is \$233K/month. Anticipated Revenues and Expenditures within 2021-22 budget of \$3,026K. (See Attachment #12 & #13).

Finances – Clerk Bohnet reviewed January 2022 payables and payroll. Clerk Bohnet moved to pay the January 2022 accounts payable bills in the amount of \$50,144.60 and payroll in the amount of \$82,224.77 totaling \$132,369.37. Second Pumfrey. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Bice, Meckley Pumfrey, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried. (See Attachment #14, #15 and #16).

CONSENT AGENDA - Moved by Bice to allow and take action on the following 7 items. Second Pumfrey. Vote taken: Ayes 5. Nays: 0. Absent 0. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes from the December 16, 2021 Somerset Township Regular Board of Trustees meeting.

Approve Minutes from the January 10, 2022 Special Board Meeting

Approve Communications List for January 2022.

Approve Kerry Keith as a Firefighter/Paramedic

Approve reappointment of Dan York to ZBA

Approve reappointment of Dale Hinkleman to ZBA

Approve sale of Somerset Center Cemetery Lot 355 Space 4 to resident P. Zeigler \$125.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-Supervisor Shaw said that he and the Clerk had recently watched the MTA Webinar on ARPA. Shaw reviewed a matrix of ARPA potential projects and asked Board members for their continued input. Following discussion, Clerk Bohnet moved to form a Committee of 2 Board members and 3

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Township residents to review and recommend ARPA projects to the Board for approval for the \$237,074 awarded for ARPA. Second Bice.

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BUSINESS (Continued)

Unfinished business (Continued)

Following discussion Clerk Bohnet amended his motion to include the total ARPA monies of \$474,149. Second Bice. Following discussion, Vote taken with Ayes: 4. Nays: 1. Absent: 0, Amended motion carried. Supervisor Shaw said any residents that are interested in being part of the Committee should contact him and that making the Board meetings available to residents via video was a high priority. Bohnet and Shaw to represent Board on ARPA Committee. (See Attachment #17)

Approve 2022 Township Meeting Schedule Revision – Supervisor Shaw said that the 2022 meeting schedule was changed to show revised meeting dates for the Parks and Recreation Committee to the first Monday of the month from the first Wednesday of the month and the meeting time was changed to 5PM from 7PM. also the specific times for the Board of Review were added. Following discussion Supervisor Shaw moved to approve the revised meeting schedule. Second Pumfrey. Vote taken with Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Absent: 0, Motion carried. See Attachment .#18)

NEW BUSINESS

Approve contract with Hillsdale County Road Commission (HCRC) for brining on gravel roads. (44 Miles) – Clerk Bohnet reviewed 2021 HCRC expenditures for Somerset Township. Clerk Bohnet read the brining contract received from Hillsdale County Road Commission (HCRC). Following discussion, Clerk Bohnet

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moved to have HCRC apply 1 application of brine on Township gravel roads for \$ 9,768.00 in 2022. Second Meckley. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Bice, Pumfrey, Meckley, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried. Somerset Township will be first application in 2022. (See Attachment #19).

Approve contract with Hillsdale County Road Commission (HCRC) for Limestone on gravel roads - Clerk Bohnet reviewed the limestone contract received from Hillsdale County Road Commission (HCRC). Following discussion, Clerk Bohnet moved to have HCRC supply 1,000 tons of limestone on Township gravel roads for \$32,500 in 2022. Second Pumfrey. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Pumfrey, Bice, Meckley, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried. HRC to stockpile limestone at Somerset Township. (See Attachment #20).

Approve 2022-2031 millage renewal language on ballot for May 3, 2022 Election (Millage renewal for Roads, Parks and Recreation, Capital Improvement, Police protection, Fire Protection and Operational}

Clerk Bohnet reviewed the Millage Matrix showing millage change from 2012. Bohnet discussed the reason for two alternatives for Resolution 2022-6

Resolution to adopt millage ballot language 2022-1 Roads – Clerk Bohnet read resolution 2022-1 ballot language for Township Road millage for 2022-2031. Following discussion, Trustee Meckley moved to approve ballot language on Resolution 2022-1 Roads to renew Road millage to .25 mills with first year revenue \$56K. Second Pumfrey. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Pumfrey, Bice, Meckley, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Certified by Clerk. (See Attachment # 24).

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Resolution to adopt millage ballot language 2022-2 Parks and Recreation – Clerk Bohnet read resolution 2022-2 ballot language for Township Parks and Recreation millage for 2022-2031. Following discussion, Treasurer Bice moved to approve ballot language on Resolution 2022-2 Parks & Recreation to renew Parks and Recreation millage to .25 mills with first year revenue \$56K. Second Meckley. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Pumfrey, Bice, Meckley, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Certified by Clerk. (See Attachment # 25).

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Resolution to adopt millage ballot language 2022-3 Capital Improvement – Clerk Bohnet read resolution 2022-3 ballot language for Township Capital Improvement millage for 2022-2031. Following discussion, Trustee Pumfrey moved to approve ballot language on Resolution 2022-3 Capital Improvement to renew Capital Improvement millage to .25 mills with first year revenue \$56K. Second Bice. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Pumfrey, Bice, Meckley, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Certified by Clerk. (See Attachment # 26).

Resolution to adopt millage ballot language 2022-4 Fire Protection – Clerk Bohnet read resolution 2022-4 ballot language for Township Fire Protection millage for 2022-2031. Following discussion, Treasurer Bice moved to approve ballot language on Resolution 2022-4 Fire Protection to renew Fire Protection millage to .75 mills with first year revenue \$168K. Second Meckley. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Pumfrey, Bice, Meckley, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Certified by Clerk. (See Attachment # 27).

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Ballot Language Resolution (Continued).

Resolution to adopt millage ballot language 2022-5 Police Protection – Clerk Bohnet read resolution 2022-5 ballot language for Township Police Protection millage for 2022-2031. Following discussion, Trustee Meckley moved to approve ballot language on Resolution 2022-5 Police Protection to renew Police Protection millage to .50 mills with first year revenue \$112K. Second Pumfrey. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Pumfrey, Bice, Meckley, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Certified by Clerk (See Attachment # 28).

Resolution to adopt millage ballot language 2022-6 - Operational Millage - Clerk Bohnet introduced 2 alternative Resolutions for Operational millage 2022-6. The first version of Resolution 2022-6 renewed the additional voted 2012 millage for General Operations back to .3654 mills and the second version of 2022-6 renewed the additional voted 2012 millage for General Operations back to .3654 and recovers the .3860 mills that was reduced from 2012 to 2021 for the County allocated operational millage of 1 mill in 2012 which would be for .7514 mills and be a millage increase to Somerset Township taxpayers. Clerk Bohnet read both Resolutions. Following discussion. Clerk Bohnet moved to approve ballot language on Resolution 2022-6 General Operational millage to renew General Operational millage to .3654 mills with first year revenue \$82K. Second Meckley. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Pumfrey, Bice, Meckley, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Certified by Clerk (See Attachment # 29).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 3, 2022 Election - Special Education and Somerset Township Millage
Township office closed for President Day Monday, February 21, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opened at 8:41PM. 5 people spoke. Closed 8:47PM.

BOARD COMMENT - No Board Comment

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Trustee Meckley moved to adjourn the January 20, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting at 8:48 PM. Second Treasurer Bice. Vote taken with Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Absent: 0, Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Bohnet, Somerset Township Clerk.