

December 5, 2023 Oliver Township board meeting minutes.

Supervisor, Tom Ziel opened the meeting at approximately 7:05 PM. Members and guest present; Tom Ziel, Kevin McKenzie, Gary Sweeney, Angela Guza, Steve Vaughan, Bill Renn, Jim Seley, Lonnie Schulz, Adam Herford, and Bob Ross.

Motion to approve the agenda by Bob Ross and seconded by Kevin McKenzie. Motion passed.

Consent agenda adoption, Minutes of previous board meeting and November checks. Motion to approve by Kevin McKenzie and seconded by Gary Sweeney. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report:

Township Treasurer, Gary Sweeney reported that the M-Class account was set up and had a few dollars put in and taken out. It's working properly. Money will be put into M-class in separate categories for the fire department and general fund. The current rate for deposits is 5.5% interest, compounded daily.

Current balance on hand is \$615,173.87

Fire Chief's report:

Fire Chief, Jim Seley reported that the Christmas weekend went very well. The fire department had chili and Santa Claus for the children at the fire hall.

After many years, Tom Armbruster will retire from the fire department. Oliver Township wishes him well.

There are two new firefighters at firefighter training.

Fire runs:

November 7, bathroom fire.

November 27, one vehicle personal injury.

Jim Seley put in an application for Fire Chief for the upcoming year. There were no other applications received from other firefighters within the department. Adam Herford, asked about the succession plan after Jim Seley is retired from the fire department because of age. Jim Seley said that it was very difficult to find someone that is working full-time to be Fire Chief for the township. Adam Herford stated that Jim Seley must be involved in training a new Fire Chief because years of knowledge could be lost.

Bob Ross made a motion to approve Jim Seley for Fire Chief for one year with the proviso that he actively seeks and grooms new candidates for Fire Chief. Seconded by Kevin McKenzie. Motion passed.

Tom Ziel brought up the fact The printer that Bob Ross uses for the Clerk's office has failed. Bob Ross stated that the laptop and printer were at least six years old. Motion by Kevin McKenzie to get a new computer and printer for the Clerk's office. Support by Gary Sweeney. Motion passed.

Bill Renn is the Supervisor of Chandler Township and also part of the MREC lawsuit settlement group. He gave an update report. The MREC attorneys have not come up with a viable solution for Constellation Wind (formerly Exelon and John Deere) yet. Mr. Renn also stated, that many townships wanted out of the class action law suit against the wind turbine companies. Recently there was new legislation passed that takes local control from the townships for wind and solar, and gives it to the public service commission. The PSC is a three member panel that is appointed by the governor. This will go into affect in 18 months. One of the sticking points is the wind turbine companies want to be able to re-power the wind turbines without any public hearings or oversight by the townships. This goes against established permitting protocol. There are many unanswered questions.

Public Comment:

Lonnie Schulz from Elkton DPW asked if the Township would still contribute \$20,000 to the Elkton streets paving fund in 2024.

Motion by Adam Herford and seconded by Bob Ross to set aside \$20,000 for Elkton Street paving projects in 2024. Motion passed.

Supervisor Tom Ziel reported on the road commission estimates for repaving roads, etc. in 2024. \$530,000 was the estimate. The board asked Tom Ziel to get bids from the Huron County Road Commission and report at a future meeting.

Commissioner's report:

County commissioner Steve Vaughan reported that the county courthouse is getting back to normal after many months of repairs from water damage. He also reported on the ongoing MSU building project and several other state and local issues.

Assessor's report:

Township Assessor Angela Guza, said there was no need for a December Board of Review. Poverty guideline issues are being reviewed and she would help Gary Sweeney, Township, Treasurer, with the Downtown Development Authority tax amounts.

Bob Ross asked a question about how much Township money should be put into M-Class after all the hard work getting it set up and working. A brief discussion followed.

Motion by Adam Herford to put \$160,000 earmarked for the fire department and \$200,000 earmarked for the general fund into M-Class. Support by Bob Ross. Motion passed.

Motion to pay the bills by Adam Herford and supported by Kevin McKenzie. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Ross, and supported by Adam Herford. Motion passed.