

*Eaton Rapids Township
Eaton County, State of Michigan
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Eaton Rapids, MI 48827*

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Board Members:

*Scott Wilson-Supervisor, Janice Heck-Treasurer, Diane Vogel-Clerk,
Amanda Brown-Trustee, Steve Benkovsky-Trustee*

Fire Department:

Rob Herig-Fire Chief, James Ivy-Asst. Fire Chief

Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2025
7:00 pm

1. Supervisor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:58
2. He then led all present in the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL: Wilson__X__ Heck_X__ Vogel_X__ Brown_X__ Benkovsky__X__
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Clerk Vogel moved that the meeting agenda be approved with Trustee Brown supporting. The motion carried.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January regular board meeting) Trustee Benkovsky moved to approve the Minutes from the January meeting. Treasurer Heck supported. Motion carried.
6. SHERIFF'S REPORT; Supervisor Wilson read highlights from the January Sheriff's report- 58 calls for the month
7. FIRE DEPAR REPORT; Wilson also read the January Fire Department Report- 56 runs
8. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT -3 MINUTES (General Public, County Representatives, Etc)
Commissioner Kieth Barber talked about the special election in May for the countywide millage. If it passes, it would allow the Sheriff's Department to cover the county with 24/7 road patrols, and the hiring of new judges to help with serous backlog of cases at the Court. If the millage is defeated, it would mean no road patrols, and no Animal Control.
Public Safety Commissioner Frank Holmes reported that despite the financial challenges, he is seeing good attitude within the workforce. The Sheriff's Department has been saving funds by utilizing virtual training equipment to great effect. He quoted from the annual 911 report that there were 90,000 calls handled in 2024. The Eaton County 911 dispatch system received the top honors in the nation for 2024. A very prestigious honor that went to Maui in '22 after the tragic fires.
9. NEW BUSINESS
 - Eaton County Planning/Zoning: Brandy Miller offered a follow-up report on an ongoing dispute with a township resident over construction code, permitting, easements, etc. She is doing all she can to work with this resident to avoid ticketing. Brandy also said that due to budget constraints, the zoning department may be closing. If this happens the township would need to consider paying for contractual services.
 - Resolution #100A 2025 Poverty Guidelines: Superintendent Wilson presented the new Poverty Guidelines Proposal and moved that it be adopted. Heck seconded the motion. There

was a roll call vote. Wilson-Y, Heck-Y, Vogel-Y, Brown-Y, Benkovsky-Y
Proposal adopted.

- Payroll Services: Vogel reported that the transfer is well underway to put payroll services in the hands of BASIC out of Grand Rapids, and that they will be doing the February payroll
- Wilson introduced the annual payroll resolutions for the board by submitting his with no changes. Heck proposed a raise to \$26,500, Vogel asked for no changes at this time. All resolutions were voted on and passed.
- Wilson announced that the Annual Budget meeting would be held the last Thursday of March, the 27th, at 6:30 followed at 7:00 by the March Board meeting.
- Procedural Audit for Fire Department- Heck introduced the need to have a procedural audit done at the fire department. Her deputy, Josh, has all the qualifications necessary with his military training and fire department experience. She moved to hire Josh Thompson to conduct a comprehensive procedural audit of our FD over the next 60 days, at \$40 per hour. Vogel supported. Motion carried.
- BS&A Training for clerk/deputy: Vogel reported that she is scheduled to talk with BS&A about adding a cemetery management module and will schedule training for herself and Deputy Clerk, Tami Harrison as soon as possible.
- Wilson reported that after working on the budget, we needed to reassess the administrative assistant position. That position is already thousands of dollars over budget with six weeks left in the fiscal year. After some discussion, Wilson moved that the position be changed to “As Needed” to try to keep the budget on track and put on a temporary hold. Benkovsky supported. Motion passed.
- Clerk Vogel reported that she had had a meeting with _____, a lobbyist advocating against the raising of weight limits on big trucks. Upcoming legislation would allow weights on interstate trucing to be raised from _____ to _____. Michigan weights are already much higher, but raised weights would mean many more heavy trucks on our roads, causing wear on the roadways and impacting safety. She had drafted a letter and was asking for support from the board to send to our representatives in D.C. Some members wanted to do more research so the letter was tabled.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None .

11. BOARD REPORTS

- Supervisor-Wilson- Wilson reported that The Township has been awarded a \$50,000 grant toward a new master plan
- Treasurer-Heck – Heck reported that property taxes were 94% paid. See full report.
- Clerk- Vogel- Vogel moved the Board approve January revenues of \$80,887.85 Heck supported. Motion passed. Vogel moved the Board approve January expenditures of \$81,658.10. Brown supported; motion carried. Vogel moved that the Board approve bills paid in January to avoid penalty and interest. Benkovsky seconded. Motion carried. See Bills to be Paid Report.
- Trustee -Brown- No report
- Trustee- Benkovsky-Thanked Trustee Brown for Grant information she provided for parks. Further research established that we did not qualify.

12. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT -3 MINUTES (General Public, County Representatives, Etc)

Commissioner Frank Holmes reported that all indications are that the millage will not pass in May.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

14. The public was dismissed and the Board went into closed session at 8:50 to discuss personnel issues.

15. ADJOURNMENT: Wilson adjourned the meeting at 10:08.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Vogel, Clerk

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Thursday March 13, 2025

The Annual Budget meeting will be held Thursday March 27 at 6:30, followed by the public budget meeting at 7:00