

*Eaton Rapids Township  
Eaton County, State of Michigan  
2512 S. Canal Rd.  
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*

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**Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, March 13, 2025  
7:00 pm**

1. Supervisor Wilson called meeting to order at 7:00
2. All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Wilson
3. Roll Call: Wilson X Heck X Vogel X Brown X Benkovsky X
4. Trustee Benkovsky moved to include consideration of a resolution to use part of our park grant money as application fee for another grant that would help get a restroom and a gazebo at Oak Ridge Park. Wilson seconded. Motion carried. Benkovsky then moved to approve the meeting agenda with Heck supporting. Motion carried.
5. Supervisor Wilson moved for the approval of minutes (February regular board meeting) Heck supported. Motion carried.
6. Sheriff's Report: There were 66 calls for the month of February – see full report
7. Fire Department Report: Chief Herig reported that the FD had 61 calls for the month of February. Jim Ivy has stepped down as Assistant Chief and will be taking over Engineer duties. Brad Wilbur will move into the Assistant Chief role. Wilson moved to accept these personnel changes with Vogel supporting. Motion carried.
8. Brief Public Comment -3 Minutes (General Public, County Representatives, Etc) Commissioner Kieth Barber invited us all to watch the county meeting on YouTube to better understand what is happening at County level. He pledged not to vote for any expenditure until a budget was passed.  
  
Ron Goodenoe expressed his support for Brad Wilbur as Assistant Chief. Talked about the need for driveway and parking, also risk mitigating items such as a generator and alarm system.
9. New Business
  - a. Assessor Contract Renewal: Assessor Dowler submitted a request for an increase in wages in the amount of \$1,200. After brief discussion, Wilson moved to approve the increase. Heck seconded the motion. Motion carried. This item will be on the Budget Meeting Agenda.
  - b. Building/Grounds Bids: With the cost of the building running over, it is not feasible at this time to do the landscaping we had envisioned. Scott had three contractors come out and

bid the job three ways. Each would include sloping, topping, and seeding the lawn area. No plantings. The board agreed we could not spend any money until after the budget was approved, March 27. After discussions, it was suggested we contact the chosen contractor and ask to be penciled on the schedule with understanding of the budget situation, so if/when it passed, we'd be ready to go.

- c. Technology quotes to review: Three different vendors came to the hall to present proposals of their tech packages. Wilson presented packets to each board member for consideration and discussed briefly his thoughts.
- d. Budget Discussion: Supervisor Wilson disclosed that there would be enough cuts in the new budget "to make everybody mad." We went through it together and a few things were found that needed to be eliminated, giving a bit more wiggle room. Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27 at 6:30, to be followed immediately by the open budget meeting.
- e. Trustee Benkovsky asked the board to endorse a proposal for another grant for Oak Ridge Park: RESOLUTION #2025-4 Resolution of Support, Eaton County Parks Community Grant Application. This resolution would support using \$500 from the Oak Ridge Park budget line-item Contingency to be used as application fee for a grant that would assist in purchasing/funding a restroom and gazebo for Oak Ridge Park. A roll-call vote was taken: Wilson-Y, Heck-Y, Vogel-Y, Brown-Y, Benkovsky-Y Resolution adopted.

#### 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Heavy Truck Support Letter: After giving everyone the month to consider whether or not to support sending a letter as a board to discourage our legislators from passing any bills that would raise the weight of big trucks on our roadways, a vote was taken. The motion was defeated, with only Clerk Vogel in support.

#### 11. BOARD REPORTS

- a. Supervisor-Wilson - Scott reported long days at the office with the Board of Review and only five residents came in during the times available.
- b. Treasurer-Heck – Janice reported that winter taxes had been collected, apportionments paid and the rest invested for now and doing well. Heck and Brown will be working together to bring in persons and agencies that can be helpful to the township to schedule a time to be available in our conference room. They will work with Tri-County Commission on Aging, Free Tax Services, and other such entities.
- c. Clerk- Vogel – See Clerk's Financial Report Diane read a letter from the Eaton Rapids Teen Center thanking us for our financial gift. Clerk Vogel also reported that she had been contacted by Homeworks Tri-County asking for a letter of support for their company as they pursue a grant to allow them to expand broadband into our township. This letter received unanimous support.
- d. Trustee -Brown: --Amanda had no report
- e. Trustee- Benkovsky—No Report

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

Treasurer Heck reported that someone has been parking in the back of our lot, has pushed over the old fence and leaves their car while they visit at the home behind. She has spoken with the homeowner who asks that we keep her informed if this happens again and not hesitate to call authorities.

#### 13. CORRESPONDENCE See Clerk's Report

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Vogel, Clerk