

## **Merrill Township Board Meeting Minutes**

**(Draft)**

**June 16, 2025, 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call to order at 7:08pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Prayer- Bonnie gave.
4. Roll call: Tabatha-present, Bonnie-present, Dave-present, Harold-present, Pete-absent
5. Public Comment for agenda only (3 minutes per person)
6. Approval of meeting agenda: Tabatha made the motion to approve meeting agenda with adding sign at the boat launch under new business e., and planning commission member under new business f. seconded by Harold All in favor. Motion passed.
7. Approval of consent agenda: Tabatha made the motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Dave. All in favor. Motion passed,
  - a. Approval of May 19, 2025 board meeting minutes. Approval of June 5, 2025 Special meeting minutes. Approval of closed session minutes from June 5, 2025.
  - b. Approval to pay bills: from 5/20/25-6/16/25 general account, total \$64,567.05. (34, 005.45 to transfer station) Transfer Station account, total \$13,047.84.
8. Lilley Township Fire Department report Tabatha read report.
9. Library Report-Sue Redding: Great lakes energy is donating to put doors on the bathrooms, got a new phone system. Pig roast is Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> and Schindy will catering, it is held at the White Cloud Public Library, tickets are 10 dollars. Tickets can be purchased by Sue Redding, any of the board members or at the library. The township board offered their full support to the White Cloud Library to apply for the T-Mobile Hometown Grant. The library is an important part of our community providing many valuable services to our residents. Your support helps us continue to support our community. New drinking fountains installed. Youth advisory committee grant fund for 2025 was received.
10. Children's Day-Sue Redding- All activities, kids day is all set, had first meeting, got donations to cover food and events. If anyone wants to donate can contact Sue Redding. It is free to everyone. Going to have paint class July 19 and August 23<sup>rd</sup>. by donation from 12:00-3PM Next meeting for event committee is June26th. Discussing trunk or treat for the kids, discussed all types of activities to move forward with.
11. Zoning Report-updated what he is currently working on. Permit issues this year, we issued 26 camping permits, and 21 zoning permits so far this year. Received judgment against resident, they have 90 days to respond. Reached out to the attorney number five on second page.

Discussed property overrun with tires, property has been foreclosed on and belongs to Newaygo County, discussed with EGLE and Newaygo County, they have a grant and he hopes they are going to put that property on their list to take care of it. Most of the tires have been removed from Doornbos, and will have the rest removed this week. Requests the board put on the board camping permits due. Request board to consider paying for phone access service, will look into prices for this service and Bonnie stated she is having the same issues with taxes. Requested putting notification on board for new ordinances. Willing to hold meeting to provide information about zoning to community. Sue offered to have it with her event committee. Chuck has been invited to attend local community event to speak. Board discussed different way to inform the community. Completed MTA zoning classes.

**12. Trustee's report**

**a. Dave**

COVID funds update- Working on projects, and moving forward. Generator-Dave met with electric company to set up electrical so we can have a generator. He said the grants committee is also continuing to work on generator grant. Going to work on the park. Parking lot cannot be done until the end of July. Discussed the work being done.

Still looking into backhoe for transfer station.

Working on the cemetery

Property sales- working on sending out letters.

Pete has not provided, paperwork or transfer station keys to Dave as required in resolution. Will ask Pete for to provide information and keys to Dave.

Working on adding township email for Dave.

TS Attendant assistant- Tabatha made motion to approve TS attendant job description, seconded by Bonnie. All in favor. Motion passed. Board discussed the wages. Tabatha made the motion to pay the TS assistant \$13.00 per hour 20 hours per week. Seconded by Harold. All in favor, Motion passed. Tabatha made motion to put an ad in the newspaper for a transfer station attendant with an ending date for submission July 13<sup>th</sup>. Dave seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Environmental Lawyer update: a. Lawyer response: Motion made by Tabatha to approve the legal services engagement letter. Seconded by Dave. All in favor. Motion passed.

**b. Harold-ZBA: Nothing new to report.**

**13. Supervisor's report: Absent**

**a. Grants committee-generator fund**

**b. Property sales receipts**

14. Clerk's report: Accountant audit. Had no errors and no recommendations on both clerk or treasurer's side.
15. Treasurer's report: Starting tax season again on July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you don't have bill by July 15<sup>th</sup>, call the treasurer.
16. New Business
  - a. Deputy supervisor compensation. Based upon the recent changes to the supervisors' duties and we are still paying the supervisor his full wage. Motion made by Tabatha to not fund the deputy supervisor position, seconded by Bonnie. Roll call vote, Tabatha-yes, Bonnie-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Pete- absent. Motion passed.
  - b. Township Zoning-Lawyer response. Tabatha made motion to ask the planning commission to look into rezoning the commercial part of M-37 and authorize planning commission hold additional meetings as needed to address these issues. seconded by Dave All in favor, motion passed. The board recommends the planning commission change from 8 Mile to Hayes.
  - c. Kitchen upgrade-salamander nozzle. Dave and Pat will look into
  - d. Rewriting of policies and procedures-Bonnie discussed updating the policies and procedures. Bonnie will bring to the board next meeting and we will start the process.
  - e. Sign at boat launch: Mark Bates discussed programs with the DNR and Michigan State. Asking to be considered for sign and boat washing station be added to township property. Wants to ask for variance to be given for a sign less then eight feet from the ground, and would like to wave the \$30.00 fee. Discussed volunteers washing boats at the end of season. Board asked ZBA to meet to look into a variance. Mark Bates would like to thank the township for putting on the sign to raise money for the fireworks. Mark works for Great Lakes Energy and funds are available for kitchen upgrades, contact him. Mark said they appreciate all the Chuck the zoning administrator is doing great. Tabatha motion made by to approve waving ZBA fee, seconded by Harold. All in favor. Motion passed.
  - f. Planning Commission Member: Dave made the motion to request J.C. to resign from the planning commission based on breaking the zoning ordinance, signing a petition to get rid of the zoning ordinance, and unbecoming behavior at a public meeting. Bonnie seconded. Roll call vote: Tabatha-yes, Dave-yes, Bonnie-yes, Harold-yes, Pete-absent. Motion passed

**17. Public Comment (3 Minutes per person)**

Judy Morris-request for the board, she has funds donated to neighborhood watch, contacted the road commission to replace the neighborhood watch signs, cost of \$50.00 each which they will pay for. Tabatha makes the motion to approve, Harold seconds. All in Favor. Motion passed. Who has a key to get into the building in case of an emergency, she asked. All board members live in the community year around and can be reached.

Katie Koernke-Who says the indicator is our local paper. State law states has to be in the times indicator. Masterplan, has a lot of questions. We still have Jim in masterplan. Wondering why old information is in the masterplan. Wondering what supervisor's duties are, Dave went over supervisor duties, as stated by law, and discussed how he was working on taking care of things that have been left undone.

Ford Redding-Discussing township property and ZBA.

Lori Landworth-Railroad concerns, not sure who to contact. Asking to have it inspected, feels they are going to fast or having loads to heavy. Should contact the railroad.

Tim Seals-been in this community for four years, has a camper on property and am told has to use at the end of season and uses it all year, keep property clean. Asking the board not push the issue. I bought more property around me, wanting to build a home up here and has a 40.00 fee for the transfer. Bonnie told him to talk to the assessor about combining properties. He stated he spoke to the assessor before, and the assessor was rude. Bonnie stated to send her information and she will talk to the assessor.

Mark Stockwell- had the exact same problem with combining property. Bonnie stated she would assist him and help follow through. Discussed properties that the township owned. The township is not in the business of selling properties and will not be focusing on that right now. The township has two properties that were approved for sale in the past that wasn't taken care of by the supervisor, and they are working to take care of those and that is it at this time.

**18. Adjourn** Tabatha made the motion to adjourn at 9:09 pm, seconded by Harold. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.