

HAYES TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
February 12TH, 2024 7:00 PM
HAYES TOWNSHIP HALL
09195 MAJOR DOUGLAS SLOAN RD
CHARLEVOIX, MICHIGAN 49720
ZOOM 849 2451 3210

The February 12th, 2024, Ron VanZee at 7:00 pm.

Board members present were Matt Cunningham (Trustee), Julie Collard (Treasurer), Doug Kuebler (Trustee), April Hilton (Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary), Ron VanZee (Supervisor) and Kristin Baranski (Clerk)

Audience Members signed in: LuAnne Kozma, Ellis Boal, Roy Griffitts, David Zipp, Rex Greenslade, Deb Narten, Danielle Hutchenson, CT Martin, Marilyn Morehead, Jesse Silva, Rod Slocum, Sharon Hoffman, Mark Snyder, Janet Simon, Jim McMahon, Tim Boyko, Bob Jess, Steve Bulman, John Donahue, Doug Labelle, Ed Russell, Laura Ford, Jerry Simpson, Robert McLean, Matt Berg, Alisha Berg, Donald Gregory, Michelle Rick-Biddick, Mel Czechowski, David Kemme, and Katherine Simon.

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Ron VanZee called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REVIEWED & APPROVED AGENDA

Mr. Kuebler made a motion, supported by Mr. Cunningham to approve the agenda as presented.

Yays: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, Doug Kuebler, Ron VanZee, and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None Motion Carried

JOE VERLIN, CPA, CGFM GABRIDGE & COMPANY-AUDIT PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:

Joe Verlin, CPA from Gabridge & Company, presented an extended breakdown of the Township's Audit Report to the board.

Audit highlights included:

- The opinion found by the auditor for the townships financial statements was stated as "the financial statements present fairly and, in all material, respects the financial position of the Township as for June 30, 2023, is consider clean." which is the highest level of opinion for a Townships Financial statement. This means the township

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provided the auditor the QuickBooks file, with the revenues, expenditures, and liabilities on it. The auditor also worked with the County, the State of Michigan, Dept. of Treasury, and banking institutes to gather the evidence they needed to provide this opinion.

- The Auditor stated, “there are some areas we believe the township can strengthen their internal control... there are opportunities for improved financial reporting through the year... is the township better off financially June 30, 2023 than they were on June 30, 2022? The answer is yes, by \$114,569.”
- The auditor stated, “after you get through the audit report, we have a separate letter that is addressed to the board. We aren’t necessarily providing any type of opinion on the township’s internal controls, but we do assess the Townships internal controls, in part of performing the audit. If we see controls that we think aren’t properly designed or carried out successfully or consistently during the course of the year, we put them as control findings in the back of the audit report. Hayes Township has 9 bank accounts and 4 fund, QuickBooks is not designed for those nuances of financial reporting. Best practice is three bank accounts: Checking, Savings and Tax.
- Auditor supported Hayes Township investing in BS&A, stating “it will reduce the risk of error because it is designed for reporting the finances of townships, where QuickBooks is designed for small businesses without multiple accounts and funds... This is the systemic cause of the issues fund in the audit and the common issue that I see across our 75 townships we audit.”
- The Auditor stated, “not having the right software is making it difficult for the township to have correct information in it financial records making it difficult t run reports that show that cash truly is reconciled across all the funds... the Township has since, subsequent to the audit report, brought all the bank accounts fully current which we applaud.”
- Auditor stated, “the Township’s finances are healthy... General fund balances are healthy... The Township is 90% funded with 11 months’ worth of reserves and it’s net position is increasing.”

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TODD MILLAR, PARKER HARVEY, HAYES TOWNSHIP COUNSEL PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:

Todd Millar, Township Counsel from Parker Harvey presented the reasoning for an increase in the Township budget for Legal Services.

The Legal budget was affected by the following cases in the last year.

- Judge Hayes rendered his opinion on Friday, in the Reith Riley gravel pit matter that was pending. Petitioners from Hayes township had filed a lawsuit against Reith Riley stating that if Reith Riley continued to mine beyond the 25-year time period they believed Reith Riley would be against the late 1980 Consent agreement and Reith Riley needed to shut down operations immediately. Judge Hayes Ruled the Petitioners failed to prove that Reith Riley was breaching the agreement because they failed to prove that there was any agreement stating Reith Riley would stop mining after 25 years. The judge also determined the language in the 1980's consent judgement discussing the time frame of mining being advisory only, the judge ruled this did not give Reith Riley the right to mine as long as they wanted too. The judge decided neither party was correct in their interpretation of the agreement. Judge Hayes ruled to adopt language from a stipulation agreement submitted to the courts by the Township and Reith Riley before the hearings began. This stipulation states Reith Riley will complete mineral extraction at the Green Pit no later than December 31, 2028. That all of the other provisions of the 1980's consent judgement are still in effect. This stipulation had been created and agreed upon by the Township and Reith Riley back in August 2023 during a consolidated mediation between the Petitioners, Hayes Township and Reith Riley. The Petitioners were not interested in accepting this stipulation during the Consolidated Mediation. The Gravel Pit court case started in April 2023 and continued to January of 2024 and has cost the Township \$20,000 dollars in legal fees this does not include Todd Millars fees for meeting and communication cost.
- Law Project lawsuit #1 was a complaint for mandamus submitted by LuAnne Kozma and Irene Fowle in October 2021. The purpose of this lawsuit was to enforce the Zoning Administrator to submit the claim of appeal they had filed to the ZBA. The appeal was submitted to the ZBA, and the complaint voluntarily dismissed their complaint on October 15th 2021, which was 7 days later.

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- Law Project Lawsuit #2 was on October 29th, 2021, Luanne Kozma and Irene Fowle filed a complaint for Juncture relief trying to get the ZBA to actually schedule a hearing. Once this lawsuit was filed to the court the defendant (being the ZBA and Township) has two options they can answer the complaint and defend it or ask the judge to dismiss the case. The Township decided to file a motion to dismiss, and the judge throw the case out on December 17th, 2021.
- Law Project Lawsuit #3 Was on March 29th, 2022, this complaint was regarding the number of issues surrounding the population of the ZBA more specifically stating the Township needed to take Roy Griffiths off the ZBA and the Court needed to validate of the decisions he had a part in, and other people had conflicts of interest and the Board was making decision outside of the meetings. This case was also eventually dismissed in July of 2022 and the judge stated the Lawsuit should have never been filed and invited the Township to file a motion for sanctions, which the Board decide not to pursue.
- Law Project Lawsuit #4. The ZBA held some long meetings in August 2022 in regard to an appeal and interpretation all centering around the Law Project. After the ZBA had made their decision for these meetings an appeal was submitted to the circuit court by LuAnne Kozma on October 20th, 2023. Court ruled on January 2nd of 2024 that LuAnne Kozma lacked standing to appeal the ZBA hearing. LuAnne Kozma has filed an application for leave with the court of appeals which is pending; township will need to respond.
- Throughout all four of the lawsuits regarding the Law Project have cost the Township \$69,000 in legal fees within 2 years.

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler, to approve Todd Millar to research and investigate to protect the township and to verify the official emails, phone number and address for official township business.

Yays: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, Doug Kuebler, Ron VanZee, and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS UNRELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

Public comment opened and closed at 8:09.

Public comments included:

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- Would like clarification on the Reith Riley court decision. Is concerned the stipulation may have altered the judge's decision.
- Joellen Rudolph (head intervener) stated the interveners have not decided whether they are going to appeal the Reith Riley decision or not. Claimed the interveners had never seen a proposal in writing from the Township or Rieth Riley before they decided to sue. Also, stated before they decided to sue the interveners were told they would have to give up all rights to Rieth Riley if they agreed to the five-year proposal. Also stated mediation was a waste of time and money for the interveners. Because what they recall happening was, Rieth Riley made a offer for five years with no detail of what was included in that, therefore the interveners sent back a counter offer which Reith Riley turned down then mediation closed. Stated they feel Rieth Riley is not done mining in Bayshore, and the interveners are very concerned for the properties near the Green Pit.
- Stated some of the Lawsuits towards the township in recent years should be consider frivolous. Would like to know why the township did not pursue sanctions because it seems the Township was forced to spend \$69,000 dollars of Taxpayers money defending against frivolous lawsuits. Would also like to encourage the township to investigate the issue with previous township administrator still have access to the townships accounting records and systems.
- Pool Authority representative Ed Russell stated the Pool Authority is concerned the Rec Authority recent proposal regarding the terms of the Pool Mileage. The Pool authority is concerned it will have a negative fundamental impact on the pool. Ed stated it is the Rec Authorities responsibility to prepare the mileage to be ballot worthy and choose the election date. The Rec Authority mentioned a two-year mileage verse the current ten-year mileage for the Pool Authority and voted for the November Ballot instead of the August ballot.
- Ellis Boal (Interveners Legal Counsel) stated he is unsure why the Township spent \$20,000.00 regarding the Reith Riley decision because the Interveners did not make a claim directly towards the Township. As for the Law Project, in his opinion as the lawyer for the complainant, they had won this case because the Laws have since decided to end their plans for developing the Boathouse. Also, stated in his view legal fees would have decreased if Roy Griffiths had not originally sabotaged the ZBA

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hearing. Suggested adding the Township By-Laws and policy manual and the township office hours on the Townships website.

- LuAnne Kozma stated in her opinion if the Law Project lawsuits would have not been necessary if Ron VanZee as Zoning Administrator would have originally declined the Laws Application. Stated she felt the Township had violated the Zoning Ordinance. Stated the Judge was mistaken when making his ruling on her case which is why she is appealing it. Thanked the Auditor for all his work on the Townships audit, however, would like to know if the townships have any open debt with the City of Charlevoix.
- Would like to have a podium for the Township residents to stand at during Public Comment. Stated they would like to donate one. Feels the Township Voice is being used as a political tool and would like to see the township spending money elsewhere within the Township. Suggested having a Township Clean Up every year. Suggested the Hours at the hall should be extended and more transparent.
- Concerned with the amount of money the Township has spent in legal fees and feels like the Township could have avoided these lawsuits by following the Ordinance. Feels The Voice is full of useless information, specifically the book club information. Concerned about the audit being labeled as a clean audit by the auditor.
- Stated they support previous comment regarding the opinions of lack of transparency from the Township Board. Also, supports previous comment regarding the Law Project Lawsuits.
- Jesse Silva, part of the Fire school for Charlevoix and Emmet County and would like to thank Hayes Township for purchasing a Fire Truck for the Hayes Township barn. It will be put to good use especially beneficial to the department for training purposes.
- Steve Bulman (previous Planning Commission Member) stated they support Roy Griffiths and Ron VanZee. Stated he sat on the Planning Commission for a couple years and witnessed the stone throwing and constant accusations against members. Stated this call out make it very difficult for the board to accomplish anything. appreciates everyone who dedicates their time and effort at the Township and feels sorry for the members to have to deal with the negative and rude outburst made at meetings by other residents.
- David Zipp stated that that he would like to see the residents who continue to accuse and complain about the board, run and become an official so they might be able to

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develop an understanding of the amount of time and effort that is given by each individual on the board.

- Stated they would like to see the township go after sanctions for the lawsuits that are ruled as frivolous.
- Stated residents of the state of Michigan should be concerned of mining processes. They were disappointed with the Reith Riley court decision; they are still concerned for Reith Riley effects on Bay Shores water supply. Stated they feel The Voice is a waste of Township money, would like to see money spent on a new survey. Would like the Township to enforce a farm fence around the Rieth Riley Green Pit.
- Supports the decision to switch accounting software programs. Suggested to test the new software before completely transferring over to make sure the new software will work for the township. other comments made are attached to the minutes.
- Roy Griffiths informed the board of a false accusation made against him at the January Planning Commission meeting by Ellis Boal stating Roy Griffiths was a crook for not returning fund paid during his rule of Deputy Supervisor. Roy stated after consulting with the Township attorney it was determined there was not an issue with incapability. Stated the false accusations against Township officials need to stop immediately, it is becoming costly and discouraging to individuals wanting to be involved in the Township.
- Requested the Board to clarify how it is determined if a resident is out of order during public comment or not.
- Stated most members or township officials are volunteering their time to the township, they are dedicated to doing the best they can and care about the township and the lakes. Stated she was on the Planning Commission when the Law Project was presented, and she regrets approving the project and feels she had made a mistake voting in favor of it. However, does not feel like the lawsuits were necessary and thanked Todd Millar for all of his work in those cases. Also, thanked the board for all their hard work and feels the township is ran better now then it ever was before.

Closed at 8:52

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 8TH 2024 BOT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

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Mr. Kuebler made a motion, supported by Ms. Baranski to approve the January 8th, 2024, Board of Trustees regular meeting minutes as presented.

Yeas: Julie Collard, Ron VanZee, Matt Cunningham, Doug Kuebler, and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None

Motion Carried

TREASURERS REPORT

Ms. Collard presented a written report reporting all Hayes Township account balances.

CLERKS REPORT: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Clerk, Ms. Baranski, presented the warrants in the amount of \$74,051.44.

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler, to approve Township warrants in the amount of \$74,051.44. A roll call was taken.

Yeas: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, Ron VanZee, Doug Kuebler, and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler to approve the installment payment for the EMS building loan in the amount of \$10,248.13, the total installment payment will be offset 100% by the LCEMSA monthly lease payment. A roll call was taken.

Yeas: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, Ron VanZee, Doug Kuebler, and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler, to approve the bid from Wilmot Electric in the amount of \$600.00. A roll call was taken.

Yeas: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, Ron VanZee, Doug Kuebler, and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler, to approve up to \$2000.00 in additional accounting services to ensure good accounting practices for the Township going forward. A roll call was taken.

Yeas: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, Ron VanZee, Doug Kuebler, and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None

Motion Carried

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COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

Robert Jess presented an oral County Commissioner report.

PARKS AND REC. REPORT

Next meeting will be held on March 4th, 2024, at 6:00pm at Hayes Township Hall.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Cunningham presented the Planning Commission Report. The next regular Planning Commission meeting is February 13th, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mr. Kuebler presented the Zoning Board of Appeals report. No Meetings are scheduled currently.

Mr. Kuebler also reported from the Charlevoix Road Commission Meeting.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ron VanZee presented a Zoning Administrator report.

Report available at the Hayes Township Hall.

TRUSTEES:

Mr. Cunningham stated circulators have not been put in at Hayes Township Park. The need for them will continue to be monitored.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Ron VanZee presented a supervisor report.

BS&A ACCOUNTING PROPOSAL:

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Ms. Collard to approve the proposal, and sign the contract with BS&A with an amount total of \$38,410.00 with an initial payment of \$13,500.00 from the ARPA funds for new accounting software. A roll call was taken.

Yeas: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, Ron VanZee, Doug Kuebler, and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 27TH, 2024 ELECTION INSPECTORS:

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Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Ms. Collard to approve the election inspectors for the February 27th, 2024, election.

Yeas: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, Ron VanZee, Doug Kuebler, and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments opened at 9:15 pm.

Comments included:

- Believes the Township attorney and Judge has brought forward valid points that the cases have been dismissed because there is no evidence of the Township violating or doing anything wrong, which indicates these to be frivolous lawsuits. Stated when they reviewed the Townships audit information, it shows as a clean audit, with no mismanagement of funds and it is normal for audits to have suggestions and recommendations for improvement. Stated they are disappointed in the negative comments directed towards the board because the members are all volunteers that are trying to do their best with good intentions for the Township. Supported the continuing publication of The Voice.
- Quoted Lloyd Kuebler stating, "just because you can do something, doesn't mean you should." Stated the Township should look for a diversity of people to serve on the boards. In their opinion a township of 40,000 people should be capable of finding someone capable of filling every open spot to avoid dual positions.
- Requested clarification of the cost for the new accounting system. Also, would like to see the board and residents communicating better and more politely.
- Stated that many Hayes Township residents utilize the pool and will be reaching out to each board member for their individual support.
- Appreciates Ms. Morehead stated an error on her behalf. Responded to a previous comment made regarding Roy Griffiths and stated if he had stepped aside from the Deputy Supervisor position, they would have never claimed for sabotaging the ZBA hearing.
- Stated they believe the Township owes the City of Charlevoix \$98,000. Stated they do not believe the Michigan Treasury has accepted the Townships Corrective Action Plan. Would like clarification of when the board approved purchase for the Fire Truck.
- Stated they noticed there is no place for residents to hang their coats.

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- Address the Township Attorney, requesting information regarding enforcement of a fence at the Reith Riley Green pit.
- Stated they believe the Pool is a great asset for the Township. Would like clarification on the amount approved for the new accounting software. Supports the Township receiving training with the new software.
- Stated they are not surprised by the amount money spent on legal services in recent years. Stated they understand the difficulty of being on the Township boards especially with all of the criticism. Stated there are better ways to get ones point across with out being so personal and strident.
- Supports the food pantry located in the Hall. Stated they understand locking the doors at the Township Hall, in today's society. They apricate everyone on the board for all their hard work together to better the Township.
- Stated he has witnessed yet again individuals being very disrespectful to the members of the board. Thanked the Board for everything they do.

Public comments closed at 9:41 p.m.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENT:

Ms. Collard responded to the comment regarding the Pool Authority and the Recreation Authority. The Rec Authority is a board that handles the Recreational Authority mileage fund. In 2004 the mileage was set up for a 10-year increment. The Rec Authority has been discussing shortening the mileage increment and they were discussing the November ballot because they feel they will receive the most amount of voter feedback. No decisions have been finalized the next meeting is scheduled for the third Monday in March when they will be discussing these topics further.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Kuebler made a motion, supported by Mr. Cunningham, to adjourn at 9:45p.m.

Yeas: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, Ron VanZee, Doug Kuebler and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

April Hilton

Hayes Township Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary



clerk hayestownshipmi <clerkhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>

Improvements to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Message

Jim McMahon <jim_mcmahon_jii@yahoo.com>

Wed, Feb 7, 2024 at 7:56 AM

To: Ron Van Zee <supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov>, Kristin Baranski <clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov>, Julie Collard <treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov>, Matt Cunningham <trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov>, Doug Kuebler <hayestrustee5@gmail.com>

Cc: "hayestownshipcc@gmail.com" <hayestownshipcc@gmail.com>, "hayestownshippr@gmail.com" <hayestownshippr@gmail.com>

Dear Hayes Township Board of Trustees,

As background regarding the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Master Plan discussion, please read my two previous emails (included below) to the Planning Commission, with "carbon copy" to the P&R committee. These topics and others were mentioned at the January 16 Public Hearing. The P&R chair, Julie Collard, committed during the hearing to answer, in writing, all of the concerns and questions raised.

Some suggestions and questions raised by the audience include the following:

1. To get broader and more diverse public input, mail a paper copy of the survey questionnaire to all property owners. Have the survey designed and administered by an independent, qualified, planning consultant.
2. Include in the P&R Master Plan a Gantt chart (timeline) of all proposed P&R projects, in priority sequence showing:
 - proposed project sequencing
 - costs of each project
 - implementation timeline
3. Consider using the **land adjacent to the township hall for non-waterfront recreation activities** such as pickle-ball courts. It's important to keep waterfront parks for waterfront activities.
4. Resolve and provide the # 1 feature from the 2012 P&R survey for a designated swimming area at Camp Sea-Gull park. This swimming area does not require a sandy beach.
5. Be more specific with the restoration of the waterfront shoreline using the more natural and non-hardened methodology. Include the costs and plan this restoration as one of the key elements described in the Gantt chart. (See # 2 above.)
6. Create a more diverse Parks & Recreation committee by having more non-lakefront property owners as members. Also seek to minimize potential conflicts of interest within its committee members. Committee members should participate without pre-conceived agendas.

These and other suggestions and concerns were made by audience members at the January 16 Public Hearing for the P & R Master Plan. Since this plan is only developed every five years, it's very important and critical to get this work done with more inclusion of all property owners' input. Thank you.

Jim McMahon
phone: 231-347-9829

January 11 email to the Planning Commission, with a carbon copy to the P & R committee:

Dear Planning Commission members,

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan has lots of positive township information and has colorful imaginary, photos, and diagrams. I believe the plan would be more complete with development in two specific areas:

1. The survey was not mailed to each household and property owner. The mailing of a hardcopy survey provides ease of use and assurance that 100% of township households and property owners would be reached. To my understanding, the survey was only available online.

A potential survey respondent needed to know where the survey was located online and to have internet access. For most township property owners and residents, accessing or reading township website information is not high on their personal to-do list. This online approach makes the survey into a chore for most people. Were the survey questions professionally designed, unbiased, and administered?

2. This document does not provide a proposed plan for implementation. There is no list of proposed development priorities in priority sequence.

For example, one of the 1st responsibilities of the township is to protect its assets. Some township waterfronts are under threat of erosion. Protecting the Camp Sea-Gull shoreline using a natural, non-hardened, methodology would be more important than installing a \$350,000 pickle-ball court. Additionally, the most important feature of Camp Sea-Gull is the waterfront. All features at this waterfront park should be supportive of waterfront-related activities.

Many people come to Camp Sea-Gull for relaxation and relative quiet in the late afternoon. Could there be more appropriate places in the township than a waterfront park, with its beautiful vistas and its relative-quiet atmosphere, to locate a pickle-ball court? Please consider locations such as the property adjacent to the township hall for the pickle-ball court?

Recommendations:

1. Re-execute the survey using a township-wide methodology with proven, professional, survey methods to ensure all residents and property owners are reached. A professionally drafted and executed survey would better guarantee broader and unbiased responses.
2. Using a professionally-administered survey, create a vision for the entire township and for all of its parks. Additionally, Camp Sea-Gull requires a general timeline (Gantt chart) for future development.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide constructive feedback.

Jim McMahon

January 15 email to the Planning Commission, with a carbon copy to the P & R committee:

Dear Planning Commission members,

This email is in addition to my earlier January 11, 2024, email regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Please consider both emails.

The Parks and Recreation public hearing must be opened up to audience participation and discussion of issues regarding the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The single 3-minute public comment period is hardly enough time for public comment, open discussion, and audience participation. Below are just a few points for discussion. I'm sure there are many more topics for consideration, if property owners are given reasonable notification and opportunity.

The survey is a key element in getting property owners input and feedback. However, there was no broad communication of the survey with all property owners. It appears that **the only communication was a mention of the survey in a township newsletter for online participation only**. The newsletter is now thought by many residents as a political, self-serving, mailer and it is viewed that way.

This newsletter only reaches occupied homes (addresses) in Hayes Township. My understanding is that this USPS delivery does not reach all township property owners.

There was no "official" hardcopy mailing of the survey to all township property owners.

2. The survey was not professionally designed and independently conducted. There is bias shown in some survey questions. There were significant park topics that were not put into questions.
3. What was question # 2? It is not shown in the master plan document.
4. What method was used to validate each survey responder? There appears to be no survey response security. Was there an opportunity for duplicate responses?
5. Why were there no mentions of the beach area and the swimming area in question # 3? However, many of the respondent replies talked about the beach and swimming areas.

There were no questions about the beach and swimming areas. Isn't this one of the primary uses for waterfront parks?

6. How were the replies from the respondents' and their feedback factored into the development of the master plan? Were there sufficient public meetings to discuss the survey replies? There appears to be no attempt to reply to the concerns expressed in the survey? This leaves the impression that replies and feedback had little value.

7. Specifically, how many online surveys were submitted?

These are just a few questions about the survey. Wide public, active participation in a meeting(s) specifically about the parks and recreation should have been conducted prior to finalization of the master plan. These meetings should be widely publicized and held at the Charlevoix Public Library gathering room, with Zoom participation, in good weather. Holding a meeting in the dead of winter accomplishes few transparent objectives and does not allow broad participation.

The planning commission should re-do the survey, how it is drafted and conducted, and utilize the survey's important role in the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Thank you.

Jim McMahon

January 15, 2024

RE: State Audit

To: Hayes Township Board of Trustees

This letter is in reference to the state audit report concerning violations due to negligence of the Board's responsibilities. After having read both the PNR and Charlevoix Courier articles about the exceeded expenditures, tax statements incorrectly posted, and credit card purchases not properly reconciled, among other things, I am appalled at the Board's inability to handle the financial requirements of running a township. I also believe that the Board has shown a lack of transparency and failure in many facets of their responsibilities as township representatives.

As a Hayes Township resident and taxpayer, I cannot believe this financial negligence involves so many different areas of budget and revenue improprieties. I'm glad that the State of Michigan Department of Treasury exposed your ineptness. Quite frankly, with all of the other problems you have had with the Elmers concrete batch plant, the Scott Law channel and boat basin, the Reith-Riley asphalt plant, you, as a board, seem like you cannot make proper and good decisions for the residents of this beautiful area. If you want to be stewards of the land and be financially responsible for its residents, start by doing the right and proper actions for all of us.

Sincerely,



**Maureen Whitehead
5360 Lake Trl
Charlevoix, MI 49720**

Treatment of Hayes Township elderly Resident

1 message

From: Betty Henne <betty.henne@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 12, 2024 at 1:04 PM

To: Van Zee <supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov>, kristin baranski <clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov>, Hayes Treasurer <treasurerhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>, Matt Cunningham <trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov>, Doug Kuebler <hayestrustee5@gmail.com>

Dear Ron and members of BOT,

On Thursday, February 9, I had an appointment with Treasurer, Julie Collard, at 3:15, to pay my winter taxes. I was pleased to have the appointment because my husband and I would be out of town on the 14th. I wanted a receipt. When I arrived at the hall, the door was locked, but Kristin and April were there. I knocked on the door, and eventually, April came to the door and told me I could not come in because they were having an MTA training on line and that I was to meet Julie in the parking lot. I told her it was cold outside, and could I wait in the entryway? She agreed. While I stood in the entryway waiting for Julie, I could not help thinking how disrespectfully an elderly resident was being treated. I was expected to exchange money in the PARKING LOT, even though I had an appointment. I could not even enter the Township Hall. The irony was not lost upon me: I was paying taxes to a township that barred me from entering our township hall. It made me wonder how many other people have been locked out.
Betty Henne

Please attach to the Feb.12 minutes and place on the table near the sign-in sheet.

Resident Tax Payment

1 message

Hayes Township Treasurer <treasurerhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>
To: Kristin Baranski Clerk <clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov>

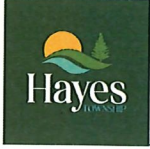
Mon, Feb 12, 2024 at 4:28 PM

Kristin-

Apologies for any interruption that was caused on Friday during your Zoom training. I had made arrangements to meet the resident in the parking lot so she would not even have to leave the warmth of her car to make her tax payment.

Thank you for interrupting your training.

Julie



Julie Collard--Hayes Township Treasurer

*All the greatest things in life are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.-
Winston Churchill*