

HAYES TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
November 25TH, 2024 7:00 PM
HAYES TOWNSHIP HALL
09195 MAJOR DOUGLAS SLOAN RD
CHARLEVOIX, MICHIGAN 49720
ZOOM 849 2451 3210

The November 25th, 2024, special meeting of the Hayes Township Board was called to order by Supervisor William Conklin at 7:00 pm.

Board members present were Matt Cunningham (Trustee), Julie Collard (Treasurer), Doug Kuebler (Trustee), William Conklin (Supervisor) and Kristin Baranski (Clerk)

Audience Members signed in: Kathy Simon, Paul Zardus, David Zipp, Steve Crandall, Kathy Martinchek, Victor Martinchek, LuAnne Kozma, Deb Narten, Diane Conklin, Ellis Boal, Lisa Kuebler, Kevin Willis, Diane McMahon, Laura Ford, Jim McMahon, Jerry Simpson, Jim Schulmann, CT Martin, Betty Henne, Sherry Baker-McCary, Winnie Boal, Tim Boyko, Roy Griffiths, Chris Narten, Regina Crandall, Dan Berg, Janet Simon, Scott Church, Kyra Allen, Ray Cunningham, Jen Cunningham, Catherine Phelps, Daren Phelps, Shelly VanWart, Cyndi Todd, Rick Todd, Julie Wheat, Cody Wheat, Michael Wood, Annie Doyle, Matt Berg, Carter Williams, Sandy Pritchard, Sarah Ruhlma and Carol Umlor.

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor William Conklin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comment opened and closed at 7:0.

- Stated they wish the board luck in their new election term.
- Stated they hope the board will support the new supervisor William Conklins request in his lawsuit. In their opinion the board was wrong to approve the resolution of Planning Commissioners at the last Board Meeting. Stated they believe the Planning Commission needs to be more diverse.
- Stated they spoke at the board through the year and remember it being a contentious election. However, Bill Conklin won as supervisor and feels the bitterness needs to be done, and feels it starts with the board re-sending their decision at the last board meeting and let the new supervisor make the decisions he wants.
- Stated she ran as clerk for Hayes Township and stated no one board member has complete control and Hayes township elected Bill Conklin to lead the township. Thanked Kristin Baranski for a respectful campaign. Would like to see Hayes Township stay rural.

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- Stated they only know one person on the board, however does not understand how someone can file a lawsuit on the first day they are in office. Do not agree with this course of action.
 - Stated they agree with the previous statement, they do not agree with the lawsuit, they feel Bill Conklin has filled a lawsuit against the taxpayers of Hayes Township. Along with causing more animosity.
 - Stated Bill Conklin did not win by 2 to 1 if you look at the official numbers. Would like Hayes Township residence to remember they elected all five board members into office again not just William Conklin. However Hayes Township needs to move forward in a positive manor.
- Closed at 7:13.

DISCUSSION OF DEFENSE OF LITIGATION FILE NO 2024-0740-28-CZ (WILLIAM CONKLIN V HAYES TOWNSHIP) WITH TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY (TODD MILLAR):

William Conklin recused himself and exited the building.

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler, to appoint Julie Collard as Hayes Township Treasurer to conduct the meeting.

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

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

Ms. Collard made a motion, supported by Ms. Baranski for the board of trustees to go into a closed session to discuss on going legislation.

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

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

Ms. Collard made a motion, supported by Ms. Baranski to end the closed section of the Hayes Township Board.

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

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler to approve Todd Millar to defend the township on December 10th 2024 contingent on hearing back from the townships insurance company.

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

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Cunningham, to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

Yeas: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, William Conklin, Doug Kuebler and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

April Hilton

Hayes Township Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary



clerk hayestownshipmi <clerkhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>

Comment for the Hayes Township Board of Trustees Special Meeting 11/25/2024

1 message

wlboal@gmail.com <wlboal@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 25, 2024 at 3:55 PM

To: supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov, treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov, clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov,
trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov, hayestrustee5@gmail.com

To the Hayes Township Board of Trustees:

I am urging the Board to vote today to rescind the resolution adopted on November 11, 2024, changing the terms of the planning commissioners.

I'm not in the legal profession, so I can't say if this action was illegal, but I've read Bill's lawsuit, and it sounded very strong and correct to me. Regardless of the legality, I think this action was unethical. We all know this year's supervisor race was primarily based on the difference in philosophy of environmental protection between Ron and Bill, as it is implemented by the zoning ordinance, which in turn is drafted by the planning commissioners. Bill won overwhelmingly, indicating the voters of Hayes Township would like him and his philosophy to prevail on the planning commission. In addition, it would be a total waste of taxpayer's money, and go against the wishes of the majority of voters, to defend against this lawsuit. Hayes Township has a very strong zoning ordinance that protects the environment, including our shorelines. I say "our" because property owners are not the only ones affected by development. All of us in the Charlevoix area benefit from high water quality whether or not we live in the township or own lakefront property. The north shore of Lake Charlevoix used to be prized for its natural beauty, but now it is increasingly being developed, as is much of the rest of the lake. Surveys shows most of the Lake Charlevoix shoreline is not in its optimum natural state. Similarly, changes to lot sizes and other changes in the interior of the township would ruin the natural beauty we all enjoy. Instead of weakening the zoning ordinance, it should remain the gold standard or even be strengthened, and the newly elected supervisor needs to appoint planning commissioners as their previous terms expire. Thank you.

Winnie Boal

231-547-6859

wlboal@gmail.com



clerk hayestownshipmi <clerkhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>

Message for tomorrow's special meeting

2 messages

tim boyko <tim@timboyko.com>

Sun, Nov 24, 2024 at 1:24 PM

To: Bill Conklin <supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov>, clerk hayestownshipmi <clerkhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>, Hayes Treasurer <treasurerhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>, Doug Kuebler <hayestrustee5@gmail.com>, Matt Cunningham <trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov>

Dear Board of Trustees,

Tomorrow night I ask the BoT to act as statesmen and not politicians. The former decide based on what is fair and just; the latter on what they can get away with.

Bill Conklin was right in bringing a lawsuit to halt the action taken at the November Board of Trustees meeting. He campaigned on a vision of planning that was different then the direction that the former Supervisor/Zoning Administrator has taken in the last eight years.

The most egregious action of this resolution is extending the Chair's remaining term from 5 months to 2 years 7 months. The Chair has been most closely aligned, and has promoted, the planning philosophy of the former Supervisor/Zoning Administrator.

It was clear that the Chair and Supervisor were on a path to weaken the Zoning Ordinance to allow removing the shoreline protection strip. This change would allow a favored benefactor his inland boat harbor. This benefactor donated thousands of dollars to re-elect the Supervisor/Zoning Administrator therefore tainting him and his appointees in any decision dealing with our highly regarded shoreline protection ordinance.

It is the new Supervisor's right and duty to populate the planning commission as he sees fit, with an eye not only to diversify (which is lacking) but with members that are not aligned with the former Supervisor's philosophy.

The electors clearly voted for a new direction for our Township and allowing a lame duck politician to undermine that 9 days before leaving office is not fair or just.

I suggest at the earliest opportunity the Board moves and passes a motion to rescind the offending resolution of November 11, 2024.

Respectfully,

Tim Boyko

11/25/24, 7:43 PM

Gmail - Message for tomorrow's special meeting

Sun, Nov 24, 2024 at 2:25 PM

Bill Henne <wm.henne@gmail.com>

To: tim boyko <tim@timboyko.com>

Cc: Bill Conklin <supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov>, clerk hayestownshipmi <clerkhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>, Hayes Treasurer <treasurerhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>, Doug Kuebler <hayestrustee5@gmail.com>, Matt Cunningham <trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov>

Perfect, Tim!

[Quoted text hidden]