

HAYES TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
April 8TH, 2025 6:00 PM
HAYES TOWNSHIP HALL
09195 MAJOR DOUGLAS SLOAN RD
CHARLEVOIX, MICHIGAN 49720
ZOOM 849 2451 3210

The April 8th, 2025, meeting of the Hayes Township Board was called to order by Supervisor William Conklin at 6:00 pm.

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

Audience Members signed in: Dan Thorpe, Dan Berg, Rick Golding, Jim McMahon, Diane McMahon, Jerry Mills, Mary Mills, Joshua Creguer, Kathy Simon, Christopher Mills, Tim Boyko, Ray Cunningham, John McDonald, David Zipp, Diane Conklin, Chelsea Mills, and Chris Kettel.

CALL TO ORDER

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

REVIEWED & APPROVED AGENDA

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

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

Nays: None Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS UNRELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

Public comment opened and closed at 6:01.

Public comments included:

- Glad the Board is holding this meeting tonight. Would like a recap of this meeting in the next Voice. Feel many residents are in need of help with removal of fallen trees and brush, due to many not having access to trailers or trucks to haul it away.
- Thanks the township for holding this meeting, they have reviewed Emmet and Charelvoix County plans and do not see a plan they appreciate. They plan to burn the fallen brush on their property and would not suggest the Township burn all the green wood for the amount of smelly smoke it produces. Agrees there are many overwhelmed residents.
- Stated themselves and many others have a large amount of downfall to the point where they can not haul or burn it themselves. What is available to residents within the State of Emergency.

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- Thanked Matt Cunningham and his crew for their volunteer time to clear roads.
- Stated they would like to see the township create a plan and assist the residents that need it. The damage around the township is extensive, would like the township to create an emergency action plan for the township to use in future disasters.
- Stated they were able to find someone come and haul there fallen trees away, suggest the township post information to help residence find resources to help them.

Closed at 6:11

HAYES TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY STORM CLEAN-UP:

Dakota Baker Senator Deputy Chief of Staff stated the Senators team has been active in the hard hit areas and their first action was to declare a State of Emergency for the area and send out Facebook post with resource information. Have seen amazing neighbors helping neighbors through the disaster. They are trying to explain the scope of the disaster state wide for recovering resources from downstate.

Mr. Conklin requested information regarding reimbursement for townships from the state.

Mr. Baker stated they are currently researching federal funds. At this time they are only including what the state has spent to generate a scope of the cost. Senator's priority is to express the scope of the disaster at the federal level.

Board of Trustees discussed several ways that residents can be assisted with 2025 ice storm clean up.

Curb side debris pick up (similar to spring clean up with similar cost- may mean no spring clean up for next year due to budget).

Supervisor proposed a plan for himself and volunteers to go along selected roadways and chip debris. Board members stressed concerns for the volunteers safety and volunteer numbers.

Concerned not every resident would receive service within the proposed time frame.

A free debris drop off point within the township and burning by the Charlevoix Fire Department is another possibility. Concerns of the smoke and residents not having the ability to move debris to the location. Clerk suggested the volunteer teams could pick up debris and bring it to the location for residents.

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Board Members reminded resident to be patient, The Charlevoix County Road Commission is responsible for all fall debris within the road right of way and to not add debris to the road right away for it is illegal.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Board of Trustees discussed an Emergency Assistance Committee and what role such a committee may assist in future emergency situations within Hayes Township. Clerk Baranski will talk with Richard Golding and Charlevoix County Emergency response for further research.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments opened at 7:33 pm.

Comments included:

- Suggested both ideas for volunteer and professionals chipping and perhaps alternating weekends between them both. Suggested the township compile a list of residence needing assistance. Also suggested reaching out to Reith Riley and request using the green pit for a debris drop off location.
- Stated the last time he remembers a board having to discuss an emergency plan was after 9-11. Feels the board is on the right track with the discussion tonight. Stated the supervisors plan may work in a perfect world, however agrees with the clerks point that peoples lives get busy and volunteer numbers may decrease over time. Concerned the Landscape Logic bid is low, believes the amount of work a contracted company would run into at each parcel would be well over the \$40,000 estimated bid. Appreciates the boards efforts.

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Public comments closed at 7:35 pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENT:

Mr. Kuebler asked the boards opinion of requesting donations from residents for the township to assist residents with storm clean up in their yards.

Ms. Collard stated the township has a donation policy and it is up to the township board discretion how donation funds are used. All donations collect for a specific project have to be kept in a separate fund.

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Mr. Conklin stated in the event of a wood chipper being available in a central location, some residence with large amounts of debris may not be able to haul their debris off their property.

Mr. Cunningham suggested for the residents with large amount of trees and fallen debris to contact a logger.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler to adjourn at 7:45 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