

**HAYES TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
April 14TH, 2025 7:00 PM
HAYES TOWNSHIP HALL
09195 MAJOR DOUGLAS SLOAN RD
CHARLEVOIX, MICHIGAN 49720
ZOOM 849 2451 3210**

The April 14th, 2025, 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), April Hilton (Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary), William Conklin (Supervisor) and Kristin Baranski (Clerk).

Audience Members signed in: Kari Powell, Diane Conklin, Mary Mills, Jerry Mills, Dan Berg, Kevin Willis, Joni Hostler, Ray Cunningham, Paul Zardus, Sherry Baker-McCary, Jim McMahon, Bob Jess, Edwin Bellaire, Tim Boyko, Kyra Allen, Kathy Simon and Janet McGarey.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 7:02.

Public comments included:

- Stated they have been married to the Supervisor for over 40 years. Bill has always volunteered his time to help those in need including ministry's in other countries and helping in disaster areas after hurricanes.
- Thanked the board members for all they do. Praised Carey Cuddeback and the steering committee for producing a great survey.
- Stated she is here tonight because she feels she is being harassed by the Supervisor Bill Conklin. Bill Conklin has visited her house 4 times without an invite or appointment. She refused Bill Conklin's request to put a shade or move the outside lighting at her home. The Zoning department had already been out to her house a year ago, and the outside lighting at her house was in compliance with the Hayes Township Zoning Ordinance after their appointed visit. Requested to know why Bill

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requested the Zoning department to investigate the matter further a couple weeks ago. Bill has told her the names of the two neighbors that are complaining about her outside lighting and they live a quarter of a mile down the road from her. She has reached out to the sheriffs department and plans to make a complaint with the state for Bill Conklin's harassment. She has a no trespassing sign on her property and request Bill does not set foot on her property again and would like to know why Bill decided to harass her about her light instead of looking in her file to she was in compliance over a year ago.

- Mr. Conklin responded the first time he had visited Kari at her home was during campaigning and he felt they had a nice talk. During October he had mentioned the light still during campaign time and he recalls her telling him the light was in compliance. The third time was in February after Mr. Boris had spoke with Mr. Conklin about bringing litigation against the township regarding Kari's outdoor lighting. Therefore, Bill Conklin felt had would offer to change or shade Kari's outdoor lighting.
- Kari stated she does not feel it needs to change anything since she has been compliant and the Zoning Department handled the complaint over a year ago. Does not appreciate Bill Conklin showing up to her house unannounced without making an appointment first. She feels, he is wasting township resources and the Zoning Department's time by sending them out to her house again to gather more information on her outdoor lighting to prove to him she is in compliance. Feels Conklin should have explained to the complaining neighbors she was in compliance instead of harassing her.

Closed at 7:17

APPROVAL OF MARCH 10TH 2025 BOT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler, to approve the March 10th, 2025, Board of Trustees regular meeting minutes as corrected.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

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APPROVAL OF APRIL 8TH 2025 BOT SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Ms. Collard made a motion, supported by Mr. Cunningham to approve the April 8th, 2025, Board of Trustees regular meeting minutes as corrected.

Yeas: Julie Collard, William Conklin, 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

Ms. Collard made a motion, supported by Mr. Cunningham, to adopt the 24-25 Budget as amended. A roll call was taken.

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

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

Clerk, Ms. Baranski, presented the warrants in the amount of \$57,650.13.

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Ms. Collard, to approve Township warrants in the amount of \$57,650.13. A roll call was taken.

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

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Ms. Collard 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, William Conklin, Doug Kuebler, and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

Bob Jess presented an oral County Commissioners Report.

PARKS AND REC. REPORT

Julie Collard presented an oral Parks and Rec report. Next Parks and Rec meeting is scheduled for May 5th 2025 at 4:00pm.

Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler to approve Julie Collard to sign the contract for the discussed projects.

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

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Cunningham presented the Planning Commission Report. The next regular Planning Commission meeting is April 29th, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mr. Kuebler reported the ZBA met on March 26th, 2025, at 7 pm. The ZBA approved a variance request for a parcel located at 07115 Birdland Dr. Charlevoix MI 49720. The ZBA denied a variance request for a parcel located at 6995 Birdland Dr. Charlevoix MI 49720. The ZBA does not have any scheduled meetings at this time.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

April Hilton presented a Zoning Administrator report.
Report available at the Hayes Township Hall.

TRUSTEES:

Mr. Cunningham stated the bubblers have been removed from Hayes Township Park, requested if the Parks and Rec committee has a plan for Storm clean-up at the park. Paul Zardus answered he has already removed the large fallen debris at the Hayes Township Park.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: William Conklin presented a supervisor report.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION ENGINEERS ESTIMATE (BURNETT RD):

Ms. Baranski stated the Loan application time through the County for roads is closed.

Mr. Kuebler stated the bids for Burnett is double the cost compared to the cost of Maple Grove last year.

Ms. Baranski asked if there are any roads the Township could use the Tar and Chip on this year.

Ms. Collard stated that would mean putting Burnett road on hold in order to do the Tar and Chip on other roads.

Mr. Kuebler stated the County sub-contracts the Tar and Chip out, therefore next years Beaver Island work will not hold up work.

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Ms. Baranski suggested rolling the money over for another year to earn a bigger savings for payment.

Mr. Kuebler stated between last year and this year the bid has jumped 250k in cost.

Mr. Cunningham stated he feels bad for the residents on Burnett road; the road definitely needs repair.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion, supported by Ms. Baranski to send Burnett Road Commission Engineers Estimate out for bid.

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

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

TEXTMYGOV PROPOSAL:

Ms. Baranski stated TextMyGov is a program that allows the Township to send out text messages regarding emergency information, meeting information and any other Township information to residents that sign up.

Ms. Collard stated the cost is very high and does not feel it is a need in Hayes Township.

Mr. Cunningham suggested the it is similar to the same email notifications the Township already sends out through its website. Suggested mentioning in the Voice newsletter how to sign up for the emails.

Mr. Collard will research for alternative services that are more affordable and present options at the next regular Board meeting.

DEPUTY SUPERVISOR:

Mr. Conklin stated he reached out to the Township Attorney and Insurance Agency and clarified appointed deputy's are all covered under the Townships insurance policy. Mr. Conklin stated he believes the Deputy Supervisor would be a resource for the budget and for any other accounting services the township may need.

Mr. Cunningham asked if Bill plans to still work with Kristin and Julie to create a budget or does he plan to create one himself.

Mr. Conklin stated he does not know anything about a budget, does not even balance his personal bank accounts. Kayla has a background in accounting and Kayla would be the one working with Julie and Kristin. The budget they create will then be presented to the board at a meeting for the board to discuss.

Mr. Cunningham requested why the township would not pay her.

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Mr. Conklin stated he was hyper sensitive to Kristin and Julies offer to help and thought it would help if he paid Kayla himself.

Ms. Baranski stated it is important for the Township to pay Kayla.

Mr. Conklin made a motion, supported by Ms. Baranski, to approve Kayla Pennington as Deputy Supervisor to assist the Supervisor with the budget to not exceed \$1500. The \$1500 will be pulled from Fire Services and added to the salary and wages under deputy supervisor in the budget. A roll call was taken.

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

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

HAYES TOWNSHIP PARK DRAINAGE BID PROPOSALS:

Board discussed when the best time of year to have the work completed at the Hayes Township Park.

Estimate of \$65,000 was received for erosion control and Drainage bids at the Hayes Township Park.

Mr. Zardus stated this is only a bid to fix one of the many issues with the parking lot.

Mr. VanZee clarified all the proposed work can be done without ripping up the pavement.

Board decided fall would be the best time of year for the construction to be completed.

The Board came to a consensus to allow Performance Engineers to place the project out for bid and Wayne at Performance Engineers and Bill Conklin will be supervising the project.

2025 ICE STORM DEBRIS CLEAN-UP:

The board discussed and reviewed the proposed bids and options to assist residents with the 2025 Ice Storm Debris Clean-up.

Mr. Conklin proposed the board approve hiring a landscaping company cover the large areas within the township and a volunteer group clean-up subdivisions with a wood chipper.

Ms. Baranski stated that is not offering all residents within the township the same service.

Mr. Conklin stated all his volunteers are experienced, and includes a vehicle to pull the chipper and a vehicle behind with construction sign.

Mr. Kuebler stated it is already a month past the ice storm and a majority of the township have already cleaned up their yards. At this point does not feel the township is responsible, and suggested Bill spearhead a volunteer group and offer assistance without involving the township.

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Ms. Baranski would like to see something created with volunteers and not spending township money towards this project.

Mr. Conklin stated he spoke to 15 people that would want the wood chips blown back into their yards.

Ms. Baranski stated she is firm that a Township funded service has to be offered equally to all residents. Perhaps an all volunteer and donation system would be best.

Mr. Cunningham stated we are a rural community and residents are responsible for the maintenance on their parcels. He feels the chipper is a huge liability for the Township.

Ms. Baranski stated the County will clean up the fallen debris within the road right away; however, will not do anything with debris hauled to the road right away.

Mr. Cunningham stated the Township contracting with a landscaping company to cover the clean-up through the Township, may be taking money away from other local businesses the residents would hire themselves.

Mr. Conklin stated he has already told 18 plus residents who are not able to and can not afford to clean up debris themselves, that the Township would be coming along and chipping the debris. If the board decides to not approve his proposal Bill himself will be coming along to chip the debris.

The board is concerned if they hire a contractor and the work ends up talking more cost than proposed, than the township agree to begin this project they are held to completing it. Ms. Baranski made a motion, supported by Ms. Collard, for the Township to post a notice for volunteers to sign up and for residence to reach out to the township if they need assistance with ice storm clean-up.

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

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

The Township will continue to post options for debris clean-up for residents on the Hayes Township Website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments opened at 10:01 pm.

Comments included:

- Stated they feel the volunteer idea is nice, however not realistic.
- Stated the tribe tried to have their tribe recognized about 4 years ago, however not all counties were open to it. If the tribe would have been recognized, the tribe would

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have had access to resources that could have assisted in a project like the ice storm clean-up.

Public comments closed at 10:06 p.m.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENT:

Ms. Baranski stressed all zoning matters need to be directed through the Zoning department.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Kuebler made a motion, supported by Ms. Baranski to adjourn at 10:08p.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