



# Milton Township

32097 Bertrand St., Niles, MI 49120 Phone (269)684-7262 Fax (269)684-1742  
Email: [milton@miltontwp.org](mailto:milton@miltontwp.org) Website: [www.miltontwp.org](http://www.miltontwp.org)

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**Minutes for Milton Township Board of Trustees  
Regular Board Meeting  
Milton Township Hall - 32097 Bertrand St., Niles, MI  
Tuesday, August 18, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and the pledge was recited.

Board Members Present: Supervisor Benjamin, Treasurer Susan Flowers, Clerk Steve Sante, Trustee Eric Renken, Trustee Kelly Sweeney

## Community Reports:

### **Planning Commission Ex Officio Member:**

Renken reported that the PC is working on improving the wording in some areas of the new zoning ordinance. The Board of Trustees had a lengthy discussion on the Right to Farm Act as well as the new zoning ordinance.

### **Robert Ziliak-Cass County Commissioner-District 5:**

Mr. Ziliak reported there will be an opening on the Cass County Road Commission at the end of 2015. It is his feeling that someone from one of the southern townships needs to fill that position.

From SMCAS reported that they are presently considering obtaining a line of credit to carry them through the middle of October to the end of December. Financially difficulty is a result of changes in bill practice which was mandated by the federal government.

They are also considering asking the townships to advance tax revenues earlier than typical.

Benjamin indicated the upgrades to Surges Road , 21<sup>st</sup> Street, and Worrell Road should be completed by the end of the month.

Phase one of the multi-use path is completed. Mr. Benjamin reports that the CCRC has only approved the path from the Stateline to Redfield Road. IT has always been the position of the board that the path should extend all the way to the township hall and park. If it does not it is of little benefit to the township.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Member Comments:**

Renken indicated that the audit report was received for the Edwardsburg Fire Department. Benjamin indicated there is need for better contracts between the townships and the fire department. This view was expressed by the auditor as well.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Benjamin made a motion to add agenda item #6 "Water Services in Milton Township"

Second: Renken

Discussion: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

Motion: Sweeney made a motion to approve the July 21st minutes as presented

Second: Flowers

Discussion: None

Motion Passed Unanimously

**New Business:**

**Milton Township Fire Services:**

The Township Attorney reported that a millage has to be charged at the same rate across the entire township. Since the fire districts may be charged different rates in the future a millage is not a reasonable option to fund fire services. It was indicated the better way to do this is through a special assessment. The attorney reviewed the requirements for issuing a special assessment.

Motion: Renken made a motion to create a special assessment district

Second: Sweeney

Discussion: None

Roll Call: Renken Y, Flowers y R Sante Y, Sweeney Y, Benjamin Y

Motion Carried

**Milton Township Law Enforcement**

The same laws regarding the funding of fire services apply to law enforcement. A lengthy discussion occurred regarding the best route fund police protection.

Motion: Benjamin made a motion authorizing the drafting of ballot language for the funding of additional law enforcement in the township.

Second: Renken

Discussion: None

Roll Call: Renken Y, Flowers y R Sante Y, Sweeney Y, Benjamin Y

Motion Carried

### **Outstanding Building Issues-**

A list was presented in the board packet of outstanding building issues. A lengthy discussion took place. Following are the motions that were made:

Motion: Benjamin made a motion authorizing Flowers to purchase additional security cameras at a cost not to exceed \$2,400.

Second: Sweeney

Discussion: None

Roll Call: Renken Y, Flowers y R Sante Y, Sweeney Y, Benjamin Y

Motion Carried

### **New Business:**

#### **Landscape Authority**

Motion: Benjamin made a motion authorizing Flowers to make decisions regarding the building landscaping without board action.

Second: Renken

Discussion: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

#### **Supply Ordering Authority**

Motion: Benjamin made a motion authorizing Flowers to order office supplies and choose vendors/suppliers.

Second: Sweeney

Discussion: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

#### **OCR Project Tabled**

#### **Tax Bills Tabled**

The newsletter is on hold until the zoning ordinance is completed.

#### **Rental Updates**

Sante reported there have been two parties with interest in the township hall since it was listed for lease. One party has no further interest and the other is still considering it.

Flowers reported that the year-to-date rental of the great hall is at \$2,350.00.

#### **Water Services in Milton Township**

The township need to enter into an agreement with the City of Niles so that those properties in the township that have municipal water are protected from exorbitant rate hikes. Running water lines to additional properties would still require board approval. No action taken.

**Budget Review**

Motion: Benjamin made a budget resolution 2015-15R to increase the following budget items:

Consultant Board	+\$1,950.00
Election Machine Maintenance	+35.60
Zoning-Legal	+490.00

These items are to be offset by the general fund.

Second: Sante

Discussion: None

Roll Call: Renken Y, Flowers Y, Sante Y, Benjamin Y

Motion Passed Unanimously

Flowers reports the following

Total in checking, savings, cash boxes, & CD's \$544,830.23

Total In Fire Fund \$31,612.75

**Approval of Checks**

Motion: Sante made a motion to approve the checks as written.

Second: Sweeney

Discussion: None

Roll Call: Renken Y, Flowers Y, Sante Y, Benjamin Y

Motion Passed Unanimously

**Adjournment:**

Motion: Flowers made a motion to adjourn at 9:15PM

Second: Sweeney

Discussion: None

Motion Carried Unanimously