

Irving Township Board Meeting

3425 Wing Rd, Hastings, Michigan 49058

September 20, 2022, 6:30 pm

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Mike Buehler, Jamie Knight, Doug Sokolowski, Dean Bass, Sharon Olson.

Motion to approve Agenda made by Knight and seconded by Buehler. All in favor “Ayes.” “No” none. Motion passed.

Knight, reviewed Assessor Reports, attached. Hastings Fire Report total (103) runs – (6) in Irving Township, average response time (7) minutes, report attached. Thornapple Township – (22) runs, attached. Freeport (16) total runs, response time 11.5 minutes, report attached. Lani Forbes, the tanker is close to completion. Received an email from Senator Peters regarding Assistance Grant for Firefighters being awarded to Freeport Fire Department totaling \$142,387. This amount will allow the purchase of all self-contained breathing apparatus for Freeport Fire Department. Bush review of Cemetery Report, no activity.

Friends of Barry County Parks and Trails, Doug Kline, presented flier regarding the Millage Renewal for Charlton Park. Rollback and Mills in same proposal. Asking for .25 mills for (9) years. Also asking to roll back the Headlee tax to .2. It is the same amount that has been assessed since Ronald Reagan was president. The tax has not increased since 1987. This Millage Proposal is strictly for Charlton Parks, attached.

Public Input

Dave Wilson, Hastings Township, I have very little investment here except for I am a Michigan citizen. Every once in a while, a condition will rise that you find a local hero. I heard of the situation in regard to wonderings of our last election. I fully support a society that says we are about integrity. There should be more questions about our process and practices to assure that integrity. Thank you for the work you have done. In my eyes you are a hero.

Shelly Lake, Irving Township citizen, same thing. I am pretty much neck deep into election integrity. First, I am fighting to get rid of the machines for November and go back to the Amish style, hand counts. It is our clerk’s job to keep integrity in our elections and to do whatever it takes and that is why these clerks are voted in. None of the other clerks will stand up and do it. It is a huge disappointment. I really hope this Board supports the work of the clerk and deputy clerk because it is important work.

Eldon Shellenbarger, Carlton Township, it also borders your Irving township. This is not the first time that we have ever had issues with voting machines. The old voting machines had issues too. Remember the voting machines that you pulled the lever and the curtain closed. I remember years ago that they had problems with those, and they were not even electronic. I would like to thank the clerk for standing up and doing her constitutional duties under the constitution. I wish more people would take their constitutional OATH more seriously and for its citizens.

Gary Munnison, Prairieville Township. I have been in Barry County for the last 40 plus years. The issue has always been of the Dominion Voting Machines. From Day 1, I have been opposed to these machines. There have been many issues that have been made unclear whether these machines are accurate or not. My research shows that they are not on

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target. Ms. Olson is right on target, and she needs to remain on target. I believe that others should follow. It is her duty that this job gets done. She was elected to do it, and the same for the sheriff.

Doug Sokoloski, question ... I see that a lot of the public are here for the same topic; however, I thought they were here for my Treasurer Report. Is there an assumption that the Board does NOT support Sharon already? Knight, it has not been discussed as a Board. During public comment, we do not need to respond to any comments. We can discuss during Board Member comments, but we have not discussed this topic as a Board.

Vicki Betit, proud to be from Irving Township the last 26 years. I just want to commend our clerk for being courageous. We must do what it is right. We must stand up for the constitution. When we all believe that something is good, we all need to gather and say "NO". We are saying "NO" to Dominion Machines and "NO" for the use of these machines in November. That's what we want and that's why we are here tonight.

Scott Aughney, first, I would like to thank the Board for allowing me to speak. Some of you may know me, I am the loudmouth who spoke 5 to 6 weeks ago in front of the Barry County Board of Commissioners meeting and lent my affections to the prosecutor, Julie, Julie Pratt. I will be singing very soon, "Julie, Julie do you love me". I have been investigating the 2020 general election and the process for almost (2) years. I went to Sheriff Leaf on my own and supplied evidence to him. I have a data technology background, in addition to my dry wall work and musician. I can tell you this process is garbage, and it should not happen in this country. This is a third world election process. What we have uncovered, what we have uncovered in the last couple days, and today, with the assistance of others it should not happen in this country. I have been in tears (5) times and almost quit the fight because of the lack of public officials who took an oath of office and fail to stand up. Most public officials are nothing but lip service who say the Pledge of Allegiance because I do not believe they are loyal to that flag. But I went to bed (5) times in tears and each time I woke more determined to stick with this investigation because of the men and women who gave up their lives fighting overseas against communism and fascism. The least I could do is keep the fight up here. This clerk is doing what she is lawfully told to do according to her oath of office. You guys should get behind her. This county should get behind her and Sheriff Leaf. I am not going to quit. I am investigating Julie on several things right now. Madam Supervisor, I have a PowerPoint presentation that is totally different from others, my evidence is on the process. I am more than happy to supply the information to the clerk to be posted to the website. If the Board could see the evidence that I have, you would see that this system must be shut down. I intend to work toward it being shut down. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Knight, Clerk Minutes of August 16, meeting. Knight, motion to approve Clerk's as presented, seconded by Buehler. All in favor," Yes", "No," none. Motion passed.

Treasurer report, Sokolowski. (A detailed summary of Treasurer comments attached.) Sokolowski, you can see our balance sheet, it will change next month as we close out our Fifth Third Bank and transfer the money to Consumer's Credit Union. We went from making 1/100th percent to 1.25 %. By switching up the banks and negotiating with our current bank partners, we have managed to increase our yearly interest nearly 10 times. Knight, thank you Doug for your work on this.

As you know the **audit** is due to the State of Michigan. Sharon and I worked with SeigfriedCrandall to get these done. They did provide their draft reports. We provided feedback to SeigfriedCrandall on Sunday. They will get back to us before the week is out.

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The **Spam and Archive** filters are already in place, hence why you see a different name on your email. Both are up and running now.

Skip the land swap and talk about the **Technology Study**. This building is dated. We need to invest money into our electrical system, \$4,000. Once the electrical is complete we would proceed into two-phases which can be split over multiple fiscal years. Each phase is approximately \$6,000 each. We are looking at a total of this project \$16,000 to bring us up to speed. I have asked the Board to look at these quotes over the next month. I will then have Pixelvine come in and discuss benefits, and we can decide how to proceed.

Knight, can you provide what this is going for. Sokolowski, we would start in the basement creating an IT office. We would install a network server there. This will enable us to talk to one another. Right now, everything is stored on PC. If Wanda has laptop, I do not have access and vice versa. We do not have any backups per say. Installing a network is something that Pixelvine has done for other townships already, (Charlton), and bring us into the 21st century. Once we get high fiber internet, it will be easy to plug into and enable us to open our telecommunications, a true PBX option, for example, press (1) for clerk, press (2) for treasurer, etc. It gives us a lot more flexibility. In the end it may seem expensive; however, it is essential. We are running against the deadline to use the ARPA Funds. We can use those funds to upgrade our township offices. The results will be to be able to better serve our community. Knight, it is not updating computers, printers, or anything? Sokolowski - correct. We will be ordering one PC for the Treasurer because right now the Treasurer shares a PC. It will require a PC downstairs for the control room. Pixelvine are happy to come to our next Board meeting to answer any questions. We should have time to review the Pixelvine material given to you.

Sokolowski – Ask to table the Community Advisory Council until October meeting. Tax collections as of September 9, we are at 65%; however, we have received a lot of payments since. We are getting close to wrapping up.

Bill Pay List, attached. Knight motion to pay the bills \$14,236.15, seconded by Bass. Roll call, “Yes” Sokolowski, Bass, Buehler, Knight, Olson. “No” none.

Board Member Comments – Knight - Dead Tree on the corner of the township property, it will be removed by Barry Country Road Commission at no charge.

Olson, I will say thank you to the people here who had the kind words for the situation that I am in the middle of. It was presented to me to join this federal lawsuit. I had a few hours to read it, digest the material and respond. I drive a school bus and leave for work at 2:30 pm. I felt that the OATH I took I needed to say yes and pursue this, to ask the courts to make a ruling on what are we supposed to do. Are we supposed to follow Federal Law, that I have read, saying that we are to retain certain records or are we to follow the Bureau of Elections and destroy certain records. They have put us clerks in a bind. When we are handling a Federal Election, we follow different guidelines and there are different ramifications than what we do at the state level. That is my explanation for the short amount of time that I had to digest the information. I appreciate very much the support showing here. It confirms to me that it was the right decision to make on such short notice. *(Standing ovation applause.)*

Knight, we have a township attorney that has worked with us since the raid on April 29. I have forwarded him the lawsuit and have given him the information. This is his response,

“Our latest concern is that the lawsuit is filed with Sharon acting in her official capacity as Irving Township Clerk.”

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Knight, according to our attorney, he is recommending/asking if the Board wants to take any action. He is recommending that while circumstances acting as her official capacity means she is speaking on behalf of the entire township, and not just the Board, but every citizen in the township. It was never brought to the Board's attention that this was happening. I am not saying that I am for the lawsuit or against the lawsuit. I am following the recommendation of the attorney guiding us to do. There are things that we can do as a township.

- We can ignore the lawsuit altogether.
- We can adopt a resolution that the Board is not taking a position on the lawsuit.
- We can file an action in court that the township seeks formal recognition that the township is not a part of the lawsuit, and it should not be held accountable for any claims arising from the lawsuit.

I am stating what our attorney is saying. I am not saying I am for it or against it. I am trying to do the legal thing that the Irving Township Board has used the attorney since the beginning, and this is what they recommend.

Sokolowski, one thing I did not hear was an option that the Board could support the lawsuit. I mentioned this in the past, our clerk would not be in this situation if she did not feel the need to exercise her constitutional duties. Any of us could find ourselves in the same situation as the clerk. Our responsibility as a board is to show that we have faith and confidence in the person that we have as the clerk. If we do anything other, we then state publicly that we do not support the clerk and I cannot support that.

Bass, this is the first that I have heard of this. **Buehler**, this is the same for me. Knight, we will table to our next meeting.

Unfinished business - Land Swap, Sokolowski. Presented PowerPoint. Documentation, attached. This swap will create a geographical center for the township. The total acreage is 4.4. We could lease the land back to the seller. We could add a parking lot, average cost of \$15,000. That would make it township use and tax free. These are just a few options we can discuss later. Now, we need to agree to the land swap. I have supplied new updated contracts in your stack. I have prepared this with the Supervisor and Treasurer signatures as the Clerk has declined due to personal involvement. Knight read the entire Resolution allowed, 2022-11, attached. Also, it is understood that Olson Farms and Irving Township cannot sell land to developers for seven years. Sokolowski make a motion to adopt the Resolution 2022-11 Knight seconds. Roll Call "Yes" Buehler, Knight, Bass, Sokolowski, Olson. "No" none. Resolution 2022-11 is adopted.

911 Tower. I reached out to the Stephanie Lehman. They have had to apply for a FAA Determination of Hazard. It takes 4 – 6 weeks. We are just waiting on the results. **Sokolowski**, are we committed to put the tower there? **Knight**, no we are not committed.

Internet Report, attached. **Sokolowski**, last month Lynette Wingeier our past Treasurer of 16 years, volunteered to spearhead the efforts of the progress of the internet. We finally got an update from MEI who are running the fiber optics down Woodschool Road presently. They have given us a quote which is less than we anticipated to hook up with them at approximately \$12,800. We will have to wait until they are finished with their phase 1's, end of November. Not sure if they will fit us in between phase 1 and phase 2. We should have more information at the October 18 meeting.

New Business, Knight, we received notification from Michael Brown looking for candidates to fill the Barry County Easement Board. The term is one year. They meet on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. Knight has application if anyone is interested.

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Snowplow Contract, attached, for Skyline Gutter Systems. Billed monthly. Knight motion to approve contract for Skyline Gutters 2022-2023 Snowplowing and seconded by Bass. Roll call, “Yes” Buehler, Bass, Sokolowski, Knight, Olson. “No” none.

Public comment – Scott Aughney, I noticed Madam Supervisor about the statement you made and the township attorney. I listened to it because it parallels your efforts of the dutiful Township Clerk. You said the township attorney gave three (3) recommendations. The treasurer pointed to a 4th which was get behind the Township Clerk. I find it very compelling that the township attorney would not give you that option. It is because he/she does not want you to look at that option. After having to deal with Dana Nessel, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, the prosecutor here, the prosecutor in Jackson, prosecutor in Leelanau County there are plenty of attorneys that are quacks. Public officials in this country today, most of them don’t give a damn about law. I tell you what, that is a huge issue. I love that flag and I love what it stands for. I love your township clerk. Your attorney is NOT serving the best interest of this township. I recommend, as an outsider, you ought to consider getting different legal counsel. I also recommend that you educate yourselves on the laws that apply here. I am sure that Sheriff Leaf is more than happy to talk about some of the laws. You can call me. I will leave my business card with the township clerk. I will be more than happy to discuss the laws that have been broken by Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State, Dana Nessel, Attorney General and the prosecutor of this county, Julie Praff. You have a courageous woman. You have two who basically didn’t want to say any comment. To me, this not a question of tabling this is about get behind your constitution, get behind your flag and get behind your courageous Township Clerk. If we had more public officials like her right now, maybe our country wouldn’t be falling apart.

Dar Leaf, she is also a witness in my case. She has protections there too. What we are facing, the Dominion Kabul, ES&S has 1,000 attorneys at \$1,000 a hour. Where is that money coming from? That is a lot of money paying attorneys. I got involved in this first in January 2020. I had two (2) attorneys’ from out of state to meet with me. What they told me is what happened here November 3rd and 4th. I think everyone here witnessed it. The minute they called Florida the winner, all these other states started shutting down their counts. The next morning my phone was ringing off the hook. That is the first of had heard of Dominion and others. Late October is received a notice that Barry County was 100% of its qualified voter file and the State of Michigan was at 105%, one of the worst in the country. Sharon called, not sure when - late October, she contacted me about what happened here at the township. She contacted MSP and others. She has a duty to report. What I have been asking a lot of these experts from around the nation is about these ballots. We just had a report that three of our Supreme Court Justices were entered incorrectly. We have three ballot proposals that I am worried about, two out of the three have gone too far. I don’t know where you stand on right to life; however, the proposal on the ballot gives the government and schools the power to take your child without your knowledge to get an abortion or treatment for transgender and that is my fear. If we don’t get more and more of this under control, more will continue to come up the pipe and these are constitutional amendments.

Maria, Baltimore Township, I would like to emphasize the paragraph that Sharon got from her lawyers – *Sharon Olson has been entrusted with the most sacred right that the citizens of Irving Township have a democracy or republican form of government and that is the voting franchise. This is the very freedom our soldiers, sailors and marines have fought and died to protect. If the township board or their attorney are concerned that the lawsuit may somehow cost them some potential money when the more risky failure to ask for guidance will likely result in the use of tabulators in violation of the law then they should take a moral inventory and be prepared to answer in a roll call vote.* Thank you, Miss Sharon, for what you are doing. We are very proud of you. Thank you for taking a stand for those soldiers, sailors and marines and for all of those before us that have died for. Thank you. It has been an honor to meet you. I hope all of you support

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her and get behind her. Like what Doug said earlier, that is the only way we are going to keep these freedoms that the men and women died for in the past. Thank you.

Shelly Lake, Point #1, when the 911 tower started, I was not coming to meetings. I would like to know if there is a spot that I can go and get up to date on the information. Point #2, I had asked previous about fixing up our cemetery and want to know any updates. Point #3, I noticed on the complaint form that Jack Ward did on February 7, about falling down roof barn, John & Margaret Loftus and if this is the same John & Margaret Loftus that was so supportive of the Barry County Fair. I was wondering if there is anything that we could do to help since John passed away and Margaret being a widow. Is there anything that the citizens can do to help. Last point, I and requesting a hand count of the upcoming election before the township certifies that election. I can help get workers. I think that it would set a lot of minds at ease if we could just get a hand count.

Eldon Shellenbarger, Charlton Township, I would like to thank Sharon for her courage and her restraint to do what she has done. If every Clerk in her position in all the other townships across Michigan had the same fortitude to do what she has done, we would not be where we are at. Things would be settled. If the township board would back their clerk in situations like this, our townships and our state would be in a whole lot of different state than it is now as far as making sure that there is no corruption in our election system. Thank you.

Charles Betit, each one of you have taken an oath for the county, state, and constitution. If any one of you were in her chair, would you want her to back you? I guess that is all I am going to say about it. We have an obligation to do the right thing. The right thing is to get our country back, and not just let lawyers and everything gobble it up and go this WOKE and whatever is going on. It is time to straighten it up. I think she has put a foot forward to do that.

R VanPolen, recommends having upcoming dates posted on website and not just on door and bottom of agenda.

There is an Election Commission Meeting right after this meeting.

Knight, motion to adjourn meeting at 7:29 pm seconded by Buehler.

Upcoming dates:

Freeport Fire Meetings, 3rd Wednesday of the month, Freeport Fire Station at 7:30 pm.

Next board meeting, October 18, at 6:30 pm

Election Equipment – Accuracy Test, October 26, 2022

Respectfully prepared for the Clerk,

Lorraine Bush, Deputy Clerk

September 29, 2022