

Douglass Township Board

February 19, 2025

Regular Board Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Douglass Township Hall

Minutes

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- **Call to Order 7 p.m.**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Roll Call**
  - Present: Sowles, Huff, Shick, Bunting, Tester
  - Absent: -
- **Approval of Minutes: Jan. 15, 2025**
  - Motion: To approve minutes
  - By: Sowles
  - Support: Tester
  - Voice vote: Motion carried
- **Approval of Agenda**
  - Motion: Add Auditor pricing to New Business
  - By: Tester
  - Support: Bunting
  - Voice vote: Motion carried
- **Public Comment on Agenda Items -**
- **Reports**
  - **Becky Sowles - Treasurer Report**
    - Income \$62015.64
    - Expense \$ 2591.44
    - Balance \$59424.20
    - Move \$68000.00 to new CD
    - Motion: To accept Treasure report
    - By: Tester
    - Support: Huff
    - Voice vote: Motion carried
  - **Holly Huff - Clerk Report**
    - Expenses \$2591.44 January \$12080.09 February
    - Motion: To accept clerk report
    - By: Tester
    - Support: Bunting
    - Voice vote: Motion carried
  - **Eric Tester - Township Trustee - PC Liaison**
    - Informational – PC. Public hearing height houses on lake, Flat river, marihuana.
    - Jon Bailey-Chairperson, Mike Swan-Co-Chair, Kathy Rassmussen-Secretary, Melissa Banning-ZBA rep.
    - Next Meeting April 30, 2025
  - **Ken Bunting - Township Trustee - Fire Board**
    - Informational – No fire meeting
  - **Dave Kelsey - Administrator Report**
    - Informational – 3 permits, 5 violations, 1 complaint

- Motion: To accept zoning report
    - By: Sowles
    - Support: Huff
    - Voice vote: Motion carried
  - **Cindy Shick- Supervisor Report**
    - Informational- MMTA Meeting Tue-2-18-2925. Drain commission information from Todd Settler-offered to answer questions from citizens. Rick Outman –Minimum wage and sick days, road funding and revenue sharing, Sheriff Williams-blight issues, county ordinance will not be enforced as of now. Township Supervisors will meet and discuss how this can be handled by townships.
- **Old Business**
  - PA116
    - Motion To approve Main farm PA116
    - By: Tester
    - Support: Huff
    - Voice vote: Motion carried
  - Zoning Board of Appeals appointments
    - Motion: Appoint Melissa Bannen and John Crooks to the ZBA for 3 years
    - By: Tester
    - Support: Shick
    - Voice vote: Motion carried
  - ZBA extra meeting
    - Motion: To approve payment for extra meeting for ZBA to transfer leadership from Sarah Beechy to the new members
    - By: Eric
    - Support: Shick
    - Voice vote: Motion carried
- **New Business**
  - Auditor pricing-change to monthly payment
    - Motion: Go with Bronze Package with Boge, Wybenga& Bradley, PC for next 31 months.
    - By: Shick
    - Support: Tester
    - Roll call: Sowles, Tester, Bunting, Huff, Cindy
    - Motion carried
  - Arpa report
    - Motion: Arpa report tabled to March Meeting
    - By: Sowles
    - Support: Shick
    - Voice vote: Motion carried
  - Budget workshop and Public Hearing Meeting Dates.
    - Motion: March 6, 2025 -6pm for budget workshop Public Hearing March 19, 2025 at 6:30pm.
    - By: Shick
    - Support: Huff
    - Voice vote: Motion carried
  - Public Hearing
    - Motion: Public Hearing March 19, 2025 at 6:30pm
    - By: Shick

- Support: Sowles
  - Voice vote: Motion carried
- Road Work
  - Motion: Contracts for all roads including Kendaville for paving and limestone
  - By: Sowles
  - Support: Huff
  - Voice vote: Motion carried
- Zoning amendments
  - Motion: 2025-01 Flat river
  - By: Tester
  - Support: Bunting
  - Roll call: Shick, Huff, Tester, Sowles, Bunting Motion carried
- Zoning amendments
  - Motion: 2025-02 Lake house height
  - By: Bunting
  - Support: Sowles
  - Roll call: Huff, Bunting, Tester, Shick, Sowles
  - Motion carried
- Codify Zoning Ordinance 2025
  - Motion: adopt This ordinance as a whole to publish in a manner as prescribed by law
  - By: Tester
  - Support: Huff
  - Roll Call: Sowles, Bunting, Huff, Shick, Tester
  - Motion carried
- Cemetery refund reversal
  - Motion: Reverse refund to Sheri Fenton and she will maintain cemetery plots
  - By: Shick
  - Support: Bunting
  - Voice vote: Motion carried
- RFP - Lake Sewer Feasibility
  - Motion: Leave feasibility study in the hands of the lake residents for funding.
  - By: Sowles
  - Support: Huff
  - Roll call: Bunting, Tester, Huff, Sowles, Shick.
  - Motion carried
- Board of review training for Deputy Supervisor
  - Motion: table till later
  - By: Shick
  - Support: Bunting
  - Voice vote: Motion carried
- Clifford Lake Geese population
  - Motion: 2025-2029 geese egg destruction
  - By: Sowles
  - Support: Huff
  - Voice vote: Motion carried
- Planning Commission
  - Motion: Except Rick Baldwin resignation from Planning Commission

- By: Bunting
    - Support: Tester
    - Voice vote: Motion carried
  - Planning Commission appointment
    - Motion: to appoint Fletcher Wernholm to the Planning Commission
    - By: Shick
    - Support: Huff
    - Voice vote: Motion carried
- **Announcements:**
  - **ZBA to be determined**
  - **Budget workshop- March 6, 2025 6pm**
  - **Public Hearing for Budget- March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 6:30pm**
  - **Board meeting 7:00 p.m., March 19, 2025, Douglass Township Hall**
  - **Planning Commission March 30, 2025 at 7pm**
  - **Board of Review March 11, 9am-3pm -- March 13, 3pm -9pm**
  - **Spring Clean-up May 3, 2025 9am-1pm**
- **Public comment:** ADU Auxiliary dwelling units, Clifford lake thank you for the effort, thanks for working on the ordinance. Thank you to Kathy for the work she did on the Planning Commissions.
- **Board Comment:**
  - Huff- Thank you to Sara and Kathy for the commitment. Thanks to Gabe for work on Lake Sewer, Thank you to Fletcher, ADU support
  - Sowles- ADU support
  - Tester- ADU support
  - Bunting-ADU concerns about them
  - Shick- Vet small homes. Thank you to Gabe for work on Lake Sewers.
- **Adjournment** – Motion by Tester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sowles 9:23pm

**Respectively submitted by**

**Holly Huff**

**Douglass Twp. Clerk**

**On February 19, 2024**