

Douglass Township Board Meeting  
3521 McBride Rd.  
Stanton, MI 48888  
February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - 7pm

**Call to order:** 7pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call** Tester, Shick, Laper, Huff. Bunting-absent

**Approval of minute's** October 4, 2023- Motion Laper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tester. Approved 4-0

**Approval of agenda Motion** Add Planning commission appointments and Broadband agreement.  
Motion Laper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tester. Approved 4-0.

**Public comments on agenda items** Elections.

**Reports** Central Montcalm Public School- Superintendent Marty James. Millage election on Non-Resident- renewal of operating 17.1 mills plus 1.5 mills increase. This in not connected to the bond attempt this past August. Questions asked by audience-1. difference between vacant land and farm land, answer –would be on your tax bill. 2. Will there be request in August for the Bond - Answer- possible yes, but these are not related.  
Mr. Simpson – School Board- importance of education. Why on ballot now- election costs to be split. 17.1 is a renewal.

**Treasure** Income-\$43,703.14 Expense January-\$9,186.37 Motion Tester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Huff.  
Approved 4-0

ARPA Report- Must be done by April . Request to have auditor do the report- no price given, Laper with get price and bring to board in March. Tax penalty of \$100.50. Motion Tester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shick. Approved 4-0.

**Clerk-** Expenses February -\$13,799.46 BOA refunds on cancelled reviews. \$1900 software update.

**Trustee-** PC report-Lawyer attended meeting to give advice- building on vacate property, height of barns, lake front side back side issue, steels siding on houses. Two extra meeting for the year one on March 13, 2024 and if need a second meeting later in year. To address the ordinance. PC would like to update Zoning Application to include more information on requested. Decrease zoning violation process- decrease from 45 days. Elected officers- Kathy Craig- secretary, Mike Swan- vice chair, Jon Bailey- Chair. Motion-Laper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Huff. Approved 4-0.

**Trustee-** Bunting- absent but reported fire board voted not to join Sheridan Authority.

**Zoning** - Kelsey out ill.

**Supervisor report**- Election testing. 1 citizen attended testing.

**Old business**- Budget hearing and work session – scheduled- March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Public hearing on March 20, 2024. Motion Tester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Laper. Roll call-Huff-y, Shick-y, Laper-y, Tester-y. Approved.

Lake Sewer System-Information from Fleis & Vandenbrink and Spicer Group. EGLE- contact made at MTA conference by Shick, will collect more info. Gabe- reached out to Fleis & Vandenabrink. Willing to address board, possibly at a special meeting. Spicer would require additional \$4500. Working with about 600 homes between all 3 lakes. Shick explained at sometime there will need petitions signed and cost analysis. \$1 million dollars for each mile to run. Contact attorney of state to gather information. Table till next month Motion Shick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tester. Laper-y, Tester-y, Huff-y, Shick-y. Approved.

**New business** PA 116 – Mains Farm-Nevins Rd. Motion Tester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Laper. Roll call – Tester-y, Huff-y, Shick-y, Laper-y. Approved. Resolution 2024-05.

Montcalm County Election Contract - County will handle 9 day early voting- townships will split the cost. Motion-Laper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tester,. Roll call- Shick-y, Tester-y, Laper-y, Huff-y. Approved.

Douglass Fire Millage Renewal- for August Election- .6 mills possibly .75 for 4 years. Wait till budget meeting to discuss. Table till budget workshop. Motion- Shick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tester. Roll call – Laper-y, Huff-y, Shick-y, Tester-y. Approved.

PC appointment- Matt Moreman -3 years term. Motion-Shick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tester. Roll call Tester-y, ` Huff-y, Laper-y, Shick-y. Approved.

Broadband Metro Agreement – Motion Laper 2<sup>nd</sup> Tester. Roll call- Shick, -y, Huff-y, Laper-y, Tester-y. Approved.

**Announcements** Next meeting March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 7pm. Budget Meeting March 13, 2024 at 7pm.

Public hearing for budget March 20, 2024 at 7pm.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY- April 27, 2024 9-1pm

**Public comments** Metal siding on homes, non-crawl space under homes, refund on variance pulled by owner, court hearing on Friday.

Concerns about cost of sewer systems around lakes. Large burdens to home owners- with other expenses crushing septic systems at owners cost.

Sewer system- Sidney county has part of Dickerson lake, will they have to cover cost also. New septic in place so why should they have to get sewer hookup.

Local control of government over wind and solar power. Collecting signatures on petitions to put on 2024 to return control to local townships.

Sewer systems concerns-inform citizens, prices were changed because of pumps replacement.  
Opening in farm fields to access system, land packed down in farm fields where pipes went through.

**Board comments-** Tester- Steel siding addressed hopeful in March. No movement of crawlspace at this point, waiting to get the other issues dealt with first.

Shick- Election concerns. If there are issues with your ballots, please inform our office, so we can address it promptly.

**Adjournment** Motion Laper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Huff. Approved 4-0