

Helena Township Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 7:00pm
8751 Helena Road, Alden, Michigan 49612

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Butch Peeples at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: All in room stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Butch Peeples, Catherine Rice, Butch Bartz, David Peterson and Bonnie Robbins

Conflict of Interest: No Conflicts

Approval of Agenda: Motion by B. Robbins to approve; 2nd by B. Bartz. Agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes: October 18, 2024 Minutes; Motion by B. Robbins, 2nd by B. Bartz. Minutes approved.

Public Comment: Steve Dell and Jim Gurr offered comments.

Treasurer's Report:

October 2024

Beginning Balance:	\$440,055.85	
Total Receipts:	\$ 35,122.85	Total Disbursements: \$ 32,934.65
Ending Balance:	\$442,244.05	

Motion by B. Robbins to approve October 2024 Treasurer's report and 2nd by B. Bartz. Report approved.

Presentation of Bills: October 10 through November 13, 2024 is - \$38,216.60

Fire Chief / Sheriff Report: Reviewed the South Torch Lake Fire & Rescue report from Chief Paul Fabiano. November 23, 2024 there is CPR training at 10:00am at the fire station. There is a smoke detector program to install smoke detectors with 10 year sealed batteries. Community dinner Wednesday, November 27th from 5:00 to 6:00pm.

The Sheriff's October 2024 report was reviewed. The Public Safety Center did not pass.

Township Ambulance Authority (TAA) report: Reviewed the TAA report from Rick Teague.

- There were nine (9) ambulance runs and zero (0) mutual aid runs in October.
- There were 63 EMS response for the TAA service area reported.

Reports are linked with the minutes on the township website www.helenatownship.com

Committee Reports:

Zoning: Reviewed October Zoning report with Bob Logee. No questions.

Parks & Recreation: Steve Dell reported they are developing a policy for donations and contributions. Road signs for Coy Mountain need to be replaced. Meeting with Jan Loveland for choosing and purchasing toddler equipment at TC. Invasive species to be sprayed and trees cut down in the spring.

Planning Commission: Jim Gurr reported they are working on shoreline protection language. ZBA members and alternates require statutory training. Proposes increasing hourly rate for planning commissioners, ZBA members and alternatives.

Roads: Butch Peeples commented that there may be a way to set new speed limits in the Alden area in April 2025.

New Business: B. Robbins recommends the board replace and update the clerk's computer and the "brain" to the deputy clerk's computer. C. Rice made the motion to approve the replacement of the mini split which needed repairs, 2nd by B. Robbins and motion passed.

Old Business: Bid for community center exterior door replacement from Preferred Maintenance Services, Inc. for \$15,052.19 reviewed. Motion by B. Robbins to accept the bid, 2nd by B. Bartz, and motion carried.

Announcements:

- B. Robbins suggested the use of ground penetrating radar to determine if unsold lots are empty before being sold. Need a cemetery policing ordinance.
- November 30 from 3 to 7 a Christmas party in Alden. Santa Claus arrives at 5:30.

Public Comment:

- ~~Jerry Meyers~~ GARY MAYES commented on STRs (short term rentals) and that the township is consistent with the Master Plan and survey. and Master Plan/Survey alignment.
- Robbins commented on voting where the State of Michigan has converted permanent AV applications to permanent ballot absentee voting.
- Jim Gurr reported that the county canvas certification for the November 5th general election is complete (AND REPORTS ARE BEING PREPARED TO SEND TO STATE).
- ~~Laura Wilcox~~ The HTAG sent certified letter with concerns of short term rentals being put back on the agenda for the planning commission.
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Motion to pay bills: David Peterson motioned to pay bills, 2nd by B. Robbins; unanimously approved.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Butch Peeples. Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

Prepared by Helena Township Clerk – David Peterson.

Corrections to November 2024 Public Comment section by Fay M. Vandenberg

Respectfully Submitted, Fay M. Vandenberg, Helena Township Board Recording Secretary