

**MACKINAW TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
10595 WALLICK RD, MACKINAW CITY, MI
JANUARY 21, 2025**

Supervisor Smydra called the meeting to order at 7 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Board members present: Brew, Closs, Falor, Smydra. Absent: Darrow
Also present: Jeff Ostman and Timothy MacArthur

The agenda was approved as presented.

Motion by Brew, supported by Falor to approve the November 19, 2024 minutes as presented.

Reports

Township Attorney Timothy MacArthur gave the board a report regarding the Tax Tribunal Case. MacArthur has spoken with the Village of Mackinaw City and Mackinaw City Area School's attorney. They are currently in the process of determining who to hire for the evaluation disclosure. MacArthur will follow up with their attorney next week to find out who they hire and their budget for this evaluation disclosure. The evaluation disclosures must be exchanged between both parties by the first week in June.

District 1 Cheboygan County Commissioner Jeff Ostman gave the board a report. They are getting a new law firm as Brain Graham is retiring. Cheboygan County is getting a new 75-foot floating dock at the City of Cheboygan Marina to assist with refueling watercrafts. The Cheboygan County Circuit Court building is currently being remodeled.

Supervisor Smydra gave the board a report. The Board of Review meet in December 2024 with one topic to discuss. This topic was a change in value which was the result of a \$4 difference in taxable income and took the Board of Review 7 minutes to resolve the topic. Smydra had asked our assessor Jason Borowicz if he could just take care of this matter himself without the board having to meet but due to the law the Board of Review must meet in December period. Smydra has decided to contact John Damoose, a member of the state senate to try to rewrite the law of a mandatory meeting for the Board of Review in December. Smydra would like the new law to state if there is a matter to dispute at or below \$100 to allow the assessor to be authorized to handle the situation by himself.

New Business

1. Motion by Smydra, supported by Brew to finance three of the Board of Review Members (Roxana Strieby, Donald Jones, and Diann Jones) to take training on February 13, 2025 in Gaylord. Smydra will sign the board up for their desired training. Motion carried.
2. Smydra moved to raise compensation rates for township officials and for the members of the Board of Review. The motions to raise the compensation rates were each offered as a separate motion for each office. In offering his motions, Smydra noted that compensation for members of the Board of Review have not been adjusted since 2021, and salaries for members of the township board have not been adjusted since 2022. During those years, the Consumer Price Index has listed the rates of inflation as: 4.7% in 2021; 8.0% in 2022; 4.1% in 2023; and, 2.9% in 2024. Effective April 1, 2025, the revised annual salaries for township board members will be: Supervisor -- \$10,200; Clerk and Treasurer -- \$17,000 each; Trustee -- \$2,000 each plus \$75 for each non-township board meeting that each might attend. Also, effective April 1, 2025, the revised compensation schedule for members of the Board of Review will be \$35 for the first hour and \$27 for each consecutive hour thereafter, with the Chairperson of the Board of Review receiving an additional \$5 per hour. In offering his motion, Smydra noted that even with these adjustments, the revised pay rates are still well below the rates of inflation for the past four years.

Motioned by Smydra, supported by Brew to approve the Supervisor's salary of \$10,200 per year.
Roll call: Ayes: Brew, Smydra, Falor, Closs. Absent: Darrow. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motioned by Smydra, supported by Brew to approve the Treasurer's salary of \$17,000 per year.
Roll call: Ayes: Smydra, Brew, Falor, Closs. Absent: Darrow. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motioned by Smydra, supported by Brew to approve the Clerk's salary of \$17,000 per year. Roll call:
Ayes: Brew, Smydra, Closs, Falor. Absent: Darrow. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motioned by Smydra, supported by Brew to approve the Trustee's salary of \$2,000 per year. As well as seventy-five dollars (\$75) per diem for each meeting, event, or function that said Trustee attends, as approved by the Township Board, above and beyond regular or special meetings of the Township Board. Roll call: Ayes: Brew, Smydra, Closs. Absent: Darrow. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Smydra, supported by Brew to approve the statement of wages for Board of Review. They will be paid \$35 for the first hour and \$27 for each consecutive hour thereafter, with the Chairperson of the Board of Review receiving an additional \$5 per hour. Roll call vote: Ayes: Smydra, Brew, Falor, Closs. Absent: Darrow.

3. Motion by Smydra, supported by Falor to nominate Mackinaw Township Trustee Brew to serve as the new Mackinaw Township representative on the Mackinaw City Fire Board. Motion carried.
4. 2025 Road Projects were discussed in depth. Motion by Brew, supported by Falor to request Smydra to contact the Cheboygan County Road Commission to give us the correct estimate for Stimpson Road. Motion carried.
5. The 2025/2026 Preliminary Budget Report was distributed and discussed in depth.
6. Motion by Brew, supported by Falor to adopt the 2025 Poverty Exemption Guideline Resolution as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Smydra, Brew, Falor, Closs. Absent: Darrow. Nays: None Motion carried.
7. Motion by Falor, supported by Brew to approve the following budget amendments:

Minus \$4900 101-265-970 Capital Outlay
Plus \$50 101-191-702 Election Inspector Wages
Plus \$500 101-191-860 Election Transportation
Plus \$200 101-191-956 Election Miscellaneous
Plus \$150 101-215-726 Office Supply Clerk
Plus \$4000 101-215-865 Clerk Computer Upgrade

Roll call vote: Ayes: Smydra, Brew, Falor, Closs. Absent: Darrow. Nays: None Motion carried.

Treasurers Report/ Bills/ Financial Report

1. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.
2. Motion by Brew, supported by Falor to approve the bills for December.
Roll call vote: Ayes: Smydra, Brew, Falor, Closs. Absent: Darrow. Nays: None. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Brew, supported by Falor to approve the bills for January.
Roll call vote: Ayes: Smydra, Brew, Falor, Closs. Absent: Darrow. Nays: None. Motion carried.
4. The Standard Budget Financial Report was accepted as presented.

Meeting was adjourned by call of the chair at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Darrow, Clerk

