

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

Supervisor Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Supervisor Schmitt, Clerk Tischler, Treasurer Mooney and Trustees Cook, Nelson, O'Reilly, and Scarcello

Others Present: Gail Beke, Franklin  
Charlie Carpenter, Beverly Hills  
Christine Allen, Beverly Hills

**Supervisor's Report**

Schmitt reported there were two (2) cases of commercial properties in Bingham Farms which are going to the Tax Tribunal. If they develop into anything out of the ordinary he would let the Board know.

Tomorrow will be the eighteen (18<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of September 11, 2001, a day we will never forget. Let's all take a moment tomorrow to give pause and reflect on all the ramifications and lives lost.

He wanted to be the first to welcome Gail Beke and asked Clerk Tischler to introduce her.

**Clerk's Report**

Tischler introduced Gail Beke, who will be taking the minutes of the Board Meetings. Tischler shared some of Beke's experiences, including taking minutes for all the Village of Franklin Council meetings, the other Village Commission meetings, and different Board meetings, as well as for the Birmingham Area Cable Board.

Tischler noted that 854 dog licenses have been issued this year compared to 884 last year and 42 cat licenses this year compared to 50 last year.

Preparations for the November elections have begun. E-Poll Book training sessions are scheduled for the end of October for Precinct Workers.

Tomorrow she and other Clerks from Bloomfield Township and Birmingham will be meeting with the Superintendent of Birmingham Schools to discuss the use of the schools as polling locations. The Clerks had been advised that they would be unable to use the schools for the 2020 elections which would include the Primary Election on March 10, 2020. In support of the Clerks' position Tischler read a portion of the Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954, Section 168.662 regarding usage of "...publicly owned or controlled buildings;..." such as, school buildings, fire stations, and police stations. Security was the main issue for the Superintendent's decision.

Tischler expressed her opinion about the situation and added some options to be considered as resolutions.

### **Treasurer's Report**

A little over 77% of the summer taxes have been collected with six (6) days remaining. Payments have been steady.

Earlier this year MTA Board sought the input of member boards allowing townships the option for township offices to be elected nonpartisan. This action was based on a legislator's intention to introduce a bill to make nonpartisan township offices **optional** to townships. The results were evenly split between partisan and nonpartisan elections. The MTA Board of Directors has decided to support the concept of nonpartisan elections as a **permissive option** for townships. However, MTA's support is conditional. MTA will keep members informed when this bill is introduced.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT CONTAINED ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA:**

Charlie Carpenter and Christine Allen, Beverly Hills residents, addressed the Board. Both have spent a lot of time working on the 2018 passage of Proposal 18-3 of the State of Michigan. Charlie acknowledged the additional work and challenges placed on Clerk Tischler and her team as the result of the vote and they were at this meeting to express their support for her.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion** by Mooney, supported by Scarcello/O'Reilly, the agenda be approved as presented.

**Motion** carried unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF JULY 9, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion** by Mooney, supported by Cook, the July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes be approved As presented.

**Motion** carried unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO INCREASE PRECINCT WORKER PAY:**

Tischler referred to her August 1, 2019 memo to the Board Re: Election Worker Training/Pay Scale. She gave a history of the Pay Scale for the Precinct Workers and included some back up information, as follows.

History on Precinct Workers Pay Scale

	May 9, 2000	April 1, 2004	June 1, 2016	Sept. 10, 2019 (Requested Increase)
Chairperson	\$ 130.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 185.00	\$185.00 plus
Rate per 15 Hrs.	\$ 8.67	\$ 9.33	\$ 12.33	\$10.00 per hour of
Rate per 19 Hrs.		\$ 7.37	\$ 9.74	training attended
Precinct Worker	\$ 110.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 165.00	\$165.00 plus
Rate per 15 Hrs.	\$ 7.33	\$ 8.00	\$ 11.00	\$10.00 per hour of
Rate per 19 Hrs.		\$ 6.32	\$ 8.68	training attended

Election Day the polls open at 7 a.m. which means Precinct Workers arrive by 6 a.m. at the polling location to get organized for the first voters. The polls close at 8 p.m. when clean up and finalizing election night documents begins. Also, the Precinct Chair and Co-Chair or a precinct worker must return to the Township Hall after the polls close in order to have all of their documents reviewed by our Receiving Board...the wait can be an hour or more.

Preparation for Election Day begins several weeks in advance with basic training on the election process which includes polling place set up, election forms, election tabulating equipment and the voting process. Additional training is now being required with the use of E-Poll Book (a laptop computer) which replaces the paper poll book.

Since this is a new process for our Precinct Workers it will require them to attend a couple of training sessions in order to become familiar with the operation of the computer and the software program. This training will become part of the required training so it will add to the number of sessions required to work an election.

Several Precinct Workers who have computer experience and have reviewed the instruction booklet on using the E-Poll Book software have offered to help train any of the other precinct workers who are interested in learning how to use E-Poll Book.

Another Township resident has offered to help with the process of preparing the E-Poll Books for use on Election Day with the downloading of information onto each laptop that will be used in each precinct. This resident will also be available during the Receiving Board process as the information contained on the E-Poll Book needs to be reduced to paper for delivery to the County Board of Canvassers.

A total day for a Precinct Chair and or Worker equates to at least 15 hours plus precinct training of 1 to 2 hours and now we are requiring at least two sessions of E-Poll Book training amounting to at least 2 hours.

Currently we only pay people for working the election and just require them to attend a precinct worker training session which is mandated by State Law.

Not all of our workers have agreed to be trained to use E-Poll Book but anyone who has expressed an interest in being trained will have that opportunity as there needs to be at least two people at each precinct who are trained. So, precinct chairs will not be required to be trained on E-Poll Book but everyone who is working the election will receive an E-Poll Book Instruction booklet.

In order to encourage residents to be poll workers consideration needs to be given to an incentive to attending all the Election training classes being offered including E-Poll Book training. The minimum hourly wage for 2019 is \$9.45 per hour. Therefore, it would be appropriate for us to consider \$10.00 per hour for training attended up to a maximum of a dollar amount. This would not preclude any of the workers who want to spend some additional time training to be able to do so.

Discussion ensued about the overall amount of compensation relative to other communities, establishing a time limit for the E-Poll Book training, how many workers were needed to work at the different locations, and if these expenses were in Tischler's budget.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT COMPENSATION FOR ELECTION TRAINING**

**Resolved by** Tischler, supported by Mooney, the following resolution be adopted as presented:

**WHEREAS**, precinct workers, E-Poll Book trainers and computer assistants are an integral part of the election process, and

**WHEREAS**, precinct workers have not been compensated for training, and

**WHEREAS**, several training sessions on E-Poll Book will be required as it is replacing the paper poll book, and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to provide adequate compensation based on the commitment required, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following adjustment to the pay scale for required E-Poll Book training, E-Poll Book trainers and computer assistants be adopted as follows \$ 10.00 per hour E-Poll Book training; \$ 10.00 per hour E-Poll Book trainers, and \$ 10.00 per hour Computer Assistants, up to a maximum of three (3) hours or \$30.00.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes:	Nelson, O'Reilly, Scarcello, Schmitt, Tischler, Mooney
Nays:	None
Absent:	None
Recuse:	Cook

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF JULY EXPENDITURES:**

**Motion** by Nelson, supported by O’Reilly to approve July expenditures as follows:

101 General Fund	\$ 39,441.44
703 Tax Fund	<u>\$ 3,207,217.46</u>
Total	\$ 3,246,658.90

Tischler and Mooney answered all questions.

**Motion** carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AUGUST EXPEDITURES:**

**Motion** by Nelson, supported by Cook to approve August expenditures as follows:

101 General Fund	\$ 44,122.49
703 Tax Fund	<u>\$ 7,956,344.50</u>
Total	\$ 8,000,466.99

**Motion** carried unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

No one wished to be heard.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:**

Nelson had questions about the Oakland County Clerks meetings.

Tischler thanked the Board for the compensation for the Precinct Workers.

The entire Board welcomed Beke.

~~The~~ Scarcello commented that the situation with the schools and election locations was very troubling.

Supervisor Schmitt adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Phillip Schmitt, Supervisor

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Sharon Tischler, Clerk