



## Leroy Township

### BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING March 20, 2025

**The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.**

**Present:** Supervisor Laveta Hardish, Treasurer Mark Christoff, Clerk Nicole Hardish, and Trustees Michael VanHouten and Jon Bolton.

A motion to approve meeting agenda was made by Trustee Bolton and supported by Trustee VanHouten. Motion carried unanimously.

**Guests:** 0

**Citizens:** 3

#### **Consent Agenda:**

A motion to approve as written, including the approval of the February 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter budget report, March financial report, post-approve payments of the February bills in the amount of \$53,812.19, and place all departmental reports on file was made by Clerk Hardish and supported by Treasurer Christoff. Motion carried unanimously.

**The regular board meeting was recessed by Supervisor Hardish at 10:05 a.m. and called to order the public budget hearing.**

**Supervisor Hardish mentioned that the bulk of the budget's revenues comes from the State Revenue Sharing Act (not from local taxes), franchise agreement fees, and then the voted millages. The general fund has been whittled down and shows a large sum in the contingency fund to save money for the 2026 6 Mile Road improvement project. The Fire Protection/Public Works millage fund reflects a small pool of money because the Township will need to buy a new fire truck in 2026 (est. to be \$500,000). Supervisor Hardish noted that the expenses and revenues for the two funds are balanced at \$1,057,869.14. Questions were addressed and the public hearing was closed at 10:19 a.m.**

**The regular board meeting was reconvened.**

#### **Open Business:**

Arbitration/Dispute Resolution update regarding Edgebrook Lift Station. The Township is still at the tax tribunal level with regard to the lift station improvement dispute. Supervisor Hardish plans to

*Speak with the Supervisor of Emmett Township to see if they will take on a larger percentage of the improvement costs to grant some relief to the residents of Leroy Township. See email communication from the city of Battle Creek for their opinion.*

**New Business:**

*A motion to post-approve the payment of the fire extinguisher maintenance invoice from Summit Fire Protection in the amount of \$1,111 made by Trustee Bolton and supported by Trustee VanHouten. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion to post-approve the payment of the first quarter service calls invoice from CCCDA in the amount of \$1,168.51 made by Trustee VanHouten and supported by Treasurer Christoff. The County has contracted with a company to go around and start updating all the radios in the fire stations, ours being done last week. These new radios will allow fire fighters and police officers to communicate over the same system, which hasn't been available in the past. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion to post-approve the payment of the February Street Light invoice from Consumers Energy in the amount of \$1,121.56 made by Trustee Bolton and supported by Trustee VanHouten. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion to post-approve the payment of the February BOR & meeting publication printing invoice from View Newspaper in the amount of \$1,122 made by Clerk Hardish and supported by Trustee Bolton. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion to accept the accepted proposed 2025 summer tax collection costs for/from CISD was made by Treasurer Christoff and supported by Trustee VanHouten. Clerk Hardish will prepare and mail out invoices to Harper Creek School District and CISD in June 2025. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion to post-approve the payment of the February snowplowing invoice from Linsley Excavating in the amount of \$1,410 made by Trustee VanHouten and supported by Trustee Bolton. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion to post-approve the payment of the SCBA face mask testing invoice from MacQueen in the amount of \$2,275.75 made by Treasurer Christoff and supported by Clerk Hardish. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion to post-approve the payment of the ordinance enforcement invoice from Kreis Enderle in the amount of \$2,914.50 made by Trustee Bolton and supported by Trustee VanHouten. Many of these costs are due to ongoing court filings by John Wagner (a resident) regarding his property. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion to post-approve the payment of the general township business invoice from Kreis Enderle in the amount of \$1,966.50 made by Trustee Bolton and supported by Clerk Hardish. Many of these costs are due to the ongoing litigation with the Edgebrook Lift Station improvement project (Caribbean Owners/Glenmoor Village) and the South Meadows neighborhood development. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion to adopt the General Appropriations Act Resolution 2025-03-01, to define the powers and duties of the Leroy Township officers in relation to the administration of the budget (Supervisor as the Chief Admin. Officer and Clerk as the Fiscal Officer); to provide remedies for refusal or neglect to*

*comply with the requirements of this resolution; to establish the Township general fund revenues for fiscal year 2025-26 to be \$1,057,869.14; to levy and collect general property tax on real and personal property upon the current tax roll in an amount equal to 2.2323 mills, made by Clerk Hardish and supported by Trustee Bolton. Unanimous roll call vote of all board members present. Motion carried.*

*A motion to adopt the Salary & Wages Resolution 2025-03-02, establishing the 2025-26 salary & wage amounts for Township officials and employees, made by Trustee VanHouten and supported by Trustee Bolton. Unanimous roll call vote of all board members present. Motion carried.*

*Discussion was held regarding the removal of a 3% penalty on unpaid summer and winter real and personal property taxes after February 14 and before March 1.*

**Citizen Comments:**

*Mr. Wightman, of 6901 M-66 South, asked for clarification on some department budget acronyms and for a detailed breakdown of the GT expenditures. He also asked if each official's department expenditure was just their salary.*

*Trustee Bolton explained that the Official's salary is only a portion of their expenditure line. He also pointed out that each official who works in the office earns \$23 per hour for the work they do.*

*Mrs. Wightman, of 6901 M-66 South, asked why the Township was paying for the Graham Lake Boat Ramp since it is in Harper Creek.*

*Clerk Hardish explained that Leroy Township has 3 school districts within our jurisdiction's borders, which includes Harper Creek, and that is why it is our responsibility.*

*Mr. Randy Lang, of 8271 5 Mile Road, asked if some of the funds within the Fire Protection & Public Works fund are going to be used for any updates or projects to the boat launch.*

*Supervisor Hardish said that the allocated funds are just to cover the costs of maintaining the grounds, dock maintenance, and weekly cleaning of the port-a-potty. No projects are in the works right now.*

**Board Comments:**

*Clerk Hardish shared that Deputy Clerk Jeannie Burchfield is completing her Michigan Municipal Clerk Certification this week. This certification is a three year long process and we are all proud of her accomplishment!*

***The next Board meeting is set for April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.***

***Respectfully,***

***Clerk Nicole Hardish***