

## Secord Township Monthly Meeting

April 16, 2025

10:00 am

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Joel Vernier at 10:01 am with everyone standing reciting the Pledge of allegiance.

### Roll Call:

Supervisor Joel Vernier Present  
Treasurer Cheryl Stiehl Present  
Clerk Kristine Panetta Present  
Trustee Maria Alward Present  
Trustee Harold Day Present  
10 registered interested residents in attendance

**Minutes** of March 19, 2025 regular meeting minutes were reviewed

**Motion** to accept minutes from March 19, 2025 Kristine/Cheryl -All Ayes

**Consent Agenda/Changes to Agenda:** Joel/Maria accepted agenda. No changes.

### Guest:

**Public Comment:** None

**Mike Visnaw- County Commissioner:** Increased nurses pay at prison, Approved Replacement of Boiler at the courthouse, Ceiling repair at entry of courthouse, approved contract for city website, Issue surveys on land use to population and a separate one for public officials.

**Mike Houserman- Assessor:** Introduction of new Assessor. He has 10 years of experience. His wife is a Master Assessor. They are now current Assessors for 8 Townships including Secord. His employee, Kristi will be the main assessor for Secord with Mike overseeing.

### Treasurer's Report:

General Fund	\$440,321.48
12 Mo. CD #S50	\$ 56,543.79
12 Mo. CD #S51	\$ 56,271.81
Fire Fund	\$146,353.58
12 Mo. CD #S52	\$ 48,231.12
Garbage Fund	\$325,286.77
Weed Control Fund	\$842,728.01
12 Mo. Add On CD Reserve	\$257,065.61
Mosquito Fund	\$114,172.75
Road Fund	\$555,629.78
Total Funds	\$ 2,424,492.37

Motion By Kris and Maria to receive and file Treasurer's report - All Ayes

Discussion by Joel and Cheryl on CD's at the credit union and the current rate available. Per Cheryl 5% currently but rate is expected to change. Credit Union has offered the best rate to date.

**Bills To Be Paid:** Clerk Kristine Panetta presented bills: General Fund: \$ 36,839.74 Fire: \$15,889.36 General Payroll :\$9,367.74 Fire payroll: \$4003.72

Motion by Maria and Cheryl to pay the bills as presented - All Ayes

**Correspondence Received:** None to Report by Clerk Kristine Panetta

**Reports:**

**Planning & Zoning :** Trustee Harold Day reported. Change in personnel therefore April meeting was cancelled. Meeting to be rescheduled. Date to be determined.

**Fire Board:** reported 5 runs; 9 Medical Good training. Kristine Panetta reiterated that there are new employee packets

**Fire Chief:** Chief Fred Shavers reported. Discussed NO BURNING in ditches or fine issued; Fireworks approved only during specific dates (i.e.: Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup>) All other must get approval prior. Ordinance is available on the website. Discussed bids on building renovations. Bid accepted from Pole Buildings. Discussion on financing at Huntington Bank w/interest rate of 4.5%, first payment due 08/01/2026. Total loan \$40,000.00, also \$5000.00 for contingency for emergency funding that may be needed for the renovation. Joel mentioned that any remaining unused materials could be used for lean to over generator

Motion by Joel and Harold to proceed with Huntington Bank loan. Roll call taken: All Ayes.

**Road Committee:** Discussion on the four bids received for 2025, slightly higher than previous year. Discussed needed repairs . Costs are split 50/50 (Township share/GCRC share) \$259,391.68 is the Secord Township total responsibility per Road Committee

Motion by Joel and Harold to move forward with road repairs. Roll Call taken: All Ayes  
Work anticipated to begin in May, weather pending.

**Constable:** Maxine reported. All is Well at Eagles. Inspection passed.

**Zoning Administrator:** Harold Day reported: 3 new Zone Reports in March. (2 are property splits, 1 is a New Pole Barn) Trailer Park to start renovations as early as next week. Camp Ground will reopen as usual. Harold reiterated that any new build to be zoned must have a survey done before approval can be given.

**Blight Officer:** Tim reported. Wirtz Rd. house falling in. Addressed ordinance 344-345-346 (Blight-Junk-Inoperable motor vehicle) Property on Lakeshore and Ridge, letters sent. Discussion on Grass Ordinance for 2025 as well as fines in upward to \$500 per day for noncompliance.

**Well and Septic:** Nothing to Report

**Other Business:**

New Deputy Clerk: Christine Grace was welcomed

Township opportunities: (2) Zoning & Planning and (1) Fire Board (Positions open and available)

Apex software need to be purchase. Motion by Joel and Maria to purchase- All Ayes

APRA Budget Due 4/30/25: Update on this Monday 4/28/2025

**Other Business continued:**

Contract/Sheriff Dept-Noise Ordinance

Lawn Care Bids: Discussion on current contract (if any) and how to proceed in 2025. Special meeting will be called to determine per Joel and Kristine

Budget-Final June Meeting is scheduled for 06/18/2025: Announcement made

Equalization Dept Options: Current is Option 3. Per Joel and New Assessor, Mike Houserma recommends Option 2 going forward. New Assessor to take over equalization on 2025 winter tax bills.

Approve Election workers: List of workers still to be provided to Kristine: Special meeting to approve once list is received

**Treasurer other business:** Cheryl discussed removal of Trash/Garbage fee removal for 3 home owners who have requested this fee to be removed as they own multiple parcels and only 1 of their parcels have buildings, the other parcels they claim are vacant. Joel will do a site visit to verify this and we will revisit this request on the next meeting.

**Draft:** Absence & 90 day probationary period (Draft attached)

**Resolution:** Twp Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer salaries: Increase pay from \$375/Mo. To \$500/Mo.  
Motion by Joel and Harold to approve increase: Roll call taken: All Ayes

**Supervisor Comments:** Joel reported: LAKES ARE COMING BACK! No confirmed date as of yet. FLTF is meeting on 04/21/25 for all who would like to attend, possible more information will be available during the meeting. Joel informed all in attendance that a Special Assessment Bill is currently being sent to the Michigan House for implementing an assistance program for seniors 65+ to pay their special assessment taxes (Program is income based). Joel credited Bill Shuette and Mike Hogly for their instrumental roles in getting this to the House.

**Public Comment:**

A Leadership Skills Program is offer in the fall, ending in February. Anyone interested is to contact Joel for more information. He recommends this class as it is very informative.

Announcement made that an SLA meeting is 04/19/25 for all who are interested

**Email for Township Supervisor:** [supervisor@secordtwp.com](mailto:supervisor@secordtwp.com)

**Motion** to Adjourn by Joel and Kristine @ 11:15am All Ayes

Next Meeting May 21, 2025 @ 10:00 am

Kristine Panetta  
Clerk

*Minutes prepared by Christine Grace, Deputy Clerk*