

**WRIGHT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 12, 2016 – 7:30PM**

***The following minutes were taken at the OCTOBER 12, 2016, Regular Board Meeting and are currently unapproved.***

1. Josh Westgate called the meeting to order with a pledge, and a prayer at 7:30 P.M. Board members present: Josh Westgate, Theresa Frank, Tracy Worrell, Gary Karr, and Rick Schoenborn. No Parking in the reserved fire spots was announced.  
Public present at the meeting; Mary Alt, Linda Triick, Maureen Carmody, Mike and Judy Keefe, Barbara Saunier, Britni Steele, Deray Hallmark, Justin Seldon, Nick Mesman, Mike Burzsley. Phil and Jane Saruman, Adriane Schrauber.
2. One change to the agenda. Auditors from Hungerford Nichols CPAs will address the board under number seven (7) on the agenda. The rest of the agenda will move down one.
3. Schoenborn moved, and Karr supported the approval of the bills for September 2016, in the amount of \$96,207.83, and the Tax and Trust & Agency Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
  - b. Budget was reviewed.
  - c. Karr moved, and Schoenborn supported the approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from September 14, 2016, as written. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. There were no public comments on anything not on the agenda at this meeting.
5. Deray Hallmark was at the meeting for an update on how things were going at Serenity Point. He said they are working on issues such as loud music after 8pm. After finding out the loud music disturbed the neighbors, a policy to have no loud music after 8:00pm, was put into place. In trying to make sure no one goes into the woods, or in neighboring yards Serenity is trying to get the fencing around the whole property, but because of some wet land issues they have not been able to complete this yet. Mr. Hallmark also reported that they now use Life Ambulance for some Services for emergencies, instead of using the Township services. Also 50 new cameras have been installed to help keep a closer eye around the whole building. It was also mentioned that possibly they could have an open house to let the residents come in and see just how the facility is run.
6. The Cemetery discussion was continued from last month's meeting regarding the care of stones in the cemetery, and if, and how much the township should spend on repairs of the grave stones. Schoenborn said that he had looked up information from the Michigan Cemetery Association, and the Michigan Township Association. One of the subjects Schoenborn brought

up was that the families of the deceased were responsible for the care of the stones on the grave. Karr, and others commented that it isn't practical that the township would be able to collect from the families for repairs to stones on old graves. It was also under discussion on who owned the lots, the township or the families of the deceased. Maureen Carmody brought information that did not agree with some of the information that Schoenborn found regarding this subject, and the subject of what the Perpetual Care found could, or could not be used for. Worrell reminded the board that the township has money in the budget to use for mowing and other cemetery expenses. Mr. Looks, who does the mowing for the cemeteries in the township, shared his opinion on what kind of work should, or should not be done in the cemetery, as did Mr. Keefe who does the stone work at this time. Schoenborn reminded the board that he was happy with Mr. Keefe's work, but that he wanted a contract for the stone work being done in the cemeteries. Worrell asked the township auditors, present at this meeting, what their opinion was regarding what was spent on repairs in the cemeteries. They suggested that if the money was in the budget that it was fine to spend it on what the board saw fit. The subject of the townships cemetery ordinance being old, and out dated came up. Karr suggested that the board take the time to update it. Frank suggested that the board also work on a specific guide lines of what is wanted in the way of work done. How much can be spent on the repair of the stones, where does the money come from, do we have all stones repaired, if we know the family of the deceased, do we charge them for the repair, let flat stones lay, or have them lifted? Something specific to use for a guide. The board did decide that the ordinance has to be updated, and specifics need to be put into place.

7. Phil Saruman, Jane Saruman, and Adriane Schrauber, Wright Township auditors with Hungerford, Nichols CPAs, were at the meeting to give the annual Audit Report. Phil went through all the numbers and let the board, and public know that all the board members were very good stewards of the township funds. All funds are in a very good shape. The Clerk and Treasurer were complemented on what good order the accounts payable and receivable were in. Phil also complimented Treasurer Worrell on her work with the townships taxes, and investments.
8. No Fire report was available. Karr reported that the Planning Commission has been busy with meetings. For the first time in a long time the Commission had to decline a site plan. Steve Van Timmeren will be the new member of the Planning Commission. He is replacing Denise Ruwersma, because she has retired from the board.
9. The Supervisor reported that the contract with Consumers has been turned in, and will be taken care of at a future Township Board Meeting. Also it was reported that the Supervisor secured a good deal on some used filing cabinets that will come in very handy for files that have been kept in boxes for so long. The Supervisor also reported that the County MTA Meeting was very positive. Ottawa County State Reps. and all the Ottawa County Elected Officials were at the meeting with County updates. County Clerk spoke about new election equipment coming in the future.

**10.** Karr would like to invite the Pastors from the five (5) churches in Wright Township, to open our Township Board Meetings with prayer on different months. He will write something up for an approval to send out to the Pastors.

Frank let the board know that she would like to go an event class at the Ottawa County Building in West Olive. It's called Response to Active Shooters, and would like to be reimbursed for mileage. In response she was told that, that would be appropriate.

**11.** Supervisor Westgate adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Theresa Frank, Wright Township