

**NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
APRIL 20, 2009  
REGULAR MEETING**

Supervisor Kidwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 320 Bell Road. Noble led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell, Noble, Ringler.

**Public Hearing:** A public hearing, to receive input on granting an Industrial Facility Tax Exemption (IFT) Certificate for R&M Manufacturing located at 2424 North Fifth Street, was held. Shelly Klug, from Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Inc., presented information on the IFT. Timothy Mead, the owner of R&M, was present to answer questions. Cooper motioned to close the public hearing, Durm-Hiatt supported.

All voting in favor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Agenda:** Kidwell motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of the Election Commission report, Goodwin supported.

All voting in favor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Minutes:** Ringler motioned to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2009, regular meeting. Noble supported. All voting in favor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Correspondence and Announcements:** Durm-Hiatt announced: that a copy of the Berrien County Sheriff Annual Report is available for review. Kidwell reminded the public of the Firefighter Cancer Support Group is having a Hacienda fund raiser April 22, 2009 at all area Haciendas. Twenty percent (20%) of your bill will go to the group. Kidwell also announced his personal website for the township. [nileschartertpw.com](http://nileschartertpw.com)

**Clerk's Report:** General O&M \$254,184.42, Fire O&M \$62,511.05, Sewer O&M \$13,790.27, Water O&M \$1,881.17, Fire Capital Improvement \$1,834.54, Special Assessment \$5,000.00, Retirement \$7,115.58, Health Benefit \$(1,731.39). **Grand Total \$344,585.64.** Cooper motioned to approve the clerk's report. Noble supported the motion.

ROLL CALL AYES: Bailey, Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell, Noble, Ringler.

NAYS: None.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Comments from the Public:** Mr. Baldwin was thankful for the Berrien County Road Commission grading the roads in his area (Congress, Madison, and Brick). John LaMore reported from the county on a lead poisoning conference he attended, as well as, an emergency planning program at the county on April 28, 2009, and encouraged participation in Fort St. Joseph events.

Randy Miller presented the police report for February and the ticket activity for March. Sheriff Bailey reported on the jail population.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Four Day Work Week:** Kidwell reported on information he collected stating a 20% savings by closing for three day weekend. Goodwin and Cooper question if the possible savings justifies the reduction of service to the residents. Following discussion, Cooper motioned to amend our current policy, of daylight savings, work day hour changes, and adopt a 9:00 am to 5:00 pm schedule year round. Noble supported.

ROLL CALL AYES: Cooper, Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Noble.

NAYS: Ringler, Kidwell, Bailey.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Resolution 09-04 Brownfield (Lowe's):** The resolution was tabled at the April 6, 2009, regular meeting. Kidwell had asked attorney Lynch to look into the matter and Lynch advised that no action be taken until further research is completed.

**New Business:**

**Resolution 09-04 R & M Manufacturing I.F.T.:** Ringler motioned to adopt Resolution 09-04 granting R & M Manufacturing an I.F.T. Noble supported.

ROLL CALL AYES: Durm-Hiatt, Goodwin, Kidwell, Noble, Ringler, Bailey, Cooper.

NAYS: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Election Commission: Durm-Hiatt presented the list of election inspectors for the May 5, 2009, schools election as approved by the Election Commission. Durm-Hiatt motioned, supported by Cooper, to accept the Election Commission's report.

All voting in favor

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Comments from the Public: Roger Tibbs expressed concern about Higgins Street. He will be at the May 18, 2009 meeting to discuss it further. Sheriff Bailey reported that the dynamite (found in Niles City) has been defused, and roads should be opened soon.

**Committee Reports:**

Bailey: reported on the DNR grant application. Our application is one of 162 submitted.

Goodwin: SMCAS report.

Ringler: None.

Kidwell: None.

Durm-Hiatt: reported that ballots are out for the May 5, 2009 school elections.

Noble: reported on missing sign at Higgins and a street light out on Florence.

Bailey motioned to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Goodwin supported the motion.

All voting in favor

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Durm-Hiatt, Clerk

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL