

LaGrange Township Regular Meeting
January 15, 2024

Supervisor Wright called the meeting of the LaGrange Township Board to order at 7:00pm. The meeting was held at the Twp Hall. Pledge of allegiance was given in unison. Roll Call found Supervisor Rob Wright, Treasurer Naomi J. Criswell, Clerk Tasha E. McCoy, Trustee John Juroff, and Trustee Paul File present.

Public Comment opened at 7:02pm. Cass County Commissioner Mary Howie greeted the Board and provided a 2024 Election Update handout from the Cass County Clerk. Public Comment closed at 7:03pm.

Supervisor Wright made a motion to approve previous meeting minutes of December 18, 2023, seconded by Trustee File, motion approved at 7:03pm.

Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board.

Communications were read by Supervisor Wright. Supervisor Wright signed the MEC Agreement.

Trustee File made a motion to approve the Current Month Warrant Report totaling \$21,759.63, seconded by Trustee Juroff, motion carried at 7:05pm.

Fire/Ambulance Report: The Central Cass Fire Department Chief, Jeff Locke, informed the Board that there were 202 runs in 2023. Beth Pompey updated the Board of an upcoming contract (approximately March 2024) to add a second ALS ambulance to our coverage area, so that one ambulance would be in Jefferson Township at the Ambulance barn and the second ambulance would be at the City of Dowagiac Ambulance Barn. Beth Pompey provided the Board with a cost share (9 municipalities) spreadsheet, which showed an estimate of \$106,414.18 annually for LaGrange Township's portion. Supervisor Wright made a motion to approve the Ambulance increase due to adding a second ALS ambulance to our coverage area, seconded by Clerk McCoy and approved by roll call vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent at 7:18pm. The next Central Cass Ambulance Authority meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2024. Supervisor Wright made a motion to appoint Trustee Juroff as Ambulance Authority Alternate, seconded by Treasurer Criswell, motion carried at 7:19pm.

Supervisor Wright made a motion to move "July 2024 Diamond Lake Fireworks" up on the Agenda, seconded by Treasurer Criswell, motion carried at 7:20pm. Diamond Lake Association Member Kelly Ball greeted the Board with the details of the 2024 Diamond Lake Fireworks.

Treasurer Criswell made a motion to approve Diamond Lake Fireworks for Saturday, July 6, 2024 and an alternate date of Saturday, July 13, 2024, seconded by Trustee Juroff, motion carried at 7:22pm.

Zoning Administrator Report: Beth Pompey informed the Board that the Public Hearing Notice for a new church was mailed out to residents and several inquiries have followed.

ZBA/Planning Commission Reports: The Planning Commission met Thursday, January 11, 2024. Beth Pompey informed the Board of the next court date (January 22, 2024) with James Vandyken concerning a house fire in 2023 that has not been demolished. The LaGrange Twp. Building Inspector is planning to be present at Court.

Electrical/Mechanical/Plumbing Reports were provided to the Board.

Clerk McCoy made a motion to approve Resolution #1-2024 Mileage Reimbursement, seconded by Treasurer Criswell and approved by roll call vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent at 7:30pm.

Supervisor Wright made a motion to approve Resolution #2-2024 Property Tax Poverty Exemption Guidelines, seconded by Trustee Juroff and approved by roll call vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent at 7:32pm.

Additions: Supervisor Wright informed the Board of a possible property tax exemption for wounded Police Officers and he will be researching this further at the State level. Trustee File reported to the Board that he plans to go out with the Road Commission in February 2024 to assess roads within LaGrange Twp.

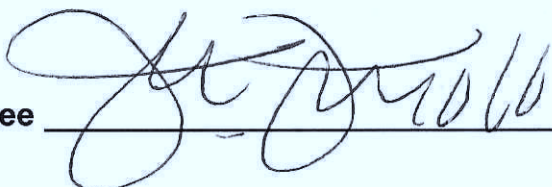
With there being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Supervisor Wright made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Treasurer Criswell, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Tasha E. McCoy Tasha E. McCoy, LaGrange Twp. Clerk

**LaGrange Township General Fund
Current Month Warrant Report
As of January 15, 2024**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
000-001 · Cash Checking				
01/15/2024	EFT	Intuit Quickbooks	Intuit QB Payroll A...	-550.00
01/15/2024	EFT	Internal Revenue S...	January '24 941	-1,812.47
01/12/2024	17681	US Postal Service	Stamps for AV apps	-330.00
01/15/2024	17682	William J. Kays	Assessor Monthly ...	-1,948.61
01/15/2024	17683	Zoning Solutions, LLC	Zoning Administra...	-550.00
01/15/2024	17684	Robert K Wright	Supervisor Salary/...	-1,368.58
01/15/2024	17685	Naomi J Criswell	Treasurer Payroll	-1,206.50
01/15/2024	17686	Tasha E. McCoy	Clerk Salary/Office	-1,550.74
01/15/2024	17687	Paul D File	Trustee Payroll	-423.87
01/15/2024	17688	John A. Juroff	Trustee Salary	-328.87
01/15/2024	17689	Robert K Wright	Supervisor Expense	-85.00
01/15/2024	17690	Naomi J Criswell	Treasurer Expense	-597.80
01/15/2024	17691	Tasha E. McCoy	Clerk Expense	-98.89
01/15/2024	17692	Ron Bellaire	Jan. '24 Invoice	-245.65
01/15/2024	17693	Dobberteen Inspecti...	Plumbing/Mechani...	-644.00
01/15/2024	17694	Rich Drews	Building Inspector ...	-315.00
01/15/2024	17695	Roger Outlaw II	Planning Commis...	-57.39
01/15/2024	17696	William C. Loux	Planning Commis...	-39.72
01/15/2024	17697	Jason Roberts	Planning Commis...	-39.72
01/15/2024	17698	Stanley Przybysz	Planning Commis...	-39.72
01/15/2024	17699	Bauckham, Thall	Invoices #12050	-746.00
01/15/2024	17700	Kerry Collins	Invoice #202401470	-300.00
01/15/2024	17701	CASS COUNTY	Invoice No. PP 24...	-32.40
01/15/2024	17702	Indiana Michigan Po...	Acct. #042-987-85...	-186.26
01/15/2024	17703	Election Source	Invoice #23-4591 (...)	-615.00
01/15/2024	17704	Zoning Solutions, LLC	ZBA/PC Secretary...	-281.96
01/15/2024	17705	Midwest Energy & C...	Acct. #7438700 (T...	-140.00
01/15/2024	17706	William J. Kays	Land Split Fee x 4	-500.00
01/15/2024	17707	John Hancock Life I...	ID 0097045-9A C...	-1,416.67
01/15/2024	17708	Dominion Voting Sy...	ICP2 Kit with ICP2...	-5,000.00
01/15/2024	17709	Roger Outlaw II	Re-Issue of PC Pe...	-39.65
01/15/2024	17710	Amy J. Juroff	Deputy Clerk	-103.10
01/15/2024	17711	Indiana Michigan Po...	Township Hall - A...	-110.00
01/15/2024	17712	Amy J. Juroff	Treasurer Assistant	-56.06
Total 000-001 · Cash Checking				-21,759.63
TOTAL				-21,759.63

Trustee



Trustee



OK
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LaGrange Township Resolution #1-2024
Mileage Reimbursement

WHEREAS, the LaGrange Township Board agrees to follow the Federal Guidelines regarding the reimbursement of mileage for the Township Business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LaGrange Township Board approves 67 cents per mile, effective January 1, 2024, to coincide with the attached 2024 Standard Mileage Rates made by the Internal Revenue Service as the reimbursable amount for mileage as appropriate when conducting Township business.

Motion by: Clerk Tasha E. McCoy

Support by: Treasurer Naomi J. Criswell

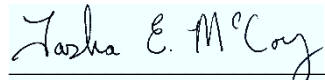
Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Rob Wright	<u>Y</u>
Treasurer Naomi Criswell	<u>Y</u>
Clerk Tasha E. McCoy	<u>Y</u>
Trustee Paul File	<u>Y</u>
Trustee John Juroff	<u>Y</u>

Resolution adopted 5 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution agreement adopted by the LaGrange Township Board at a meeting held the 15th day of January, 2024 and that notice of said meeting was made and given in accordance with the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act.



Tasha E. McCoy, LaGrange Twp. Clerk

January 15, 2024

Date

LaGrange Township Resolution #2-2024
RESOLUTION FOR PROPERTY TAX POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, the LaGrange Township Board agrees to the following:

LAGRANGE TOWNSHIP
PROPERTY TAX POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES

(Pursuant to Public Act 390 of 1994) Adopted by the LaGrange Township Board on January 15, 2024
Adjusted to Federal Poverty Standards of 12-31-23 for 2024 assessments.

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the LaGrange Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgement of the Supervisor and the Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under public act 390, 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Act 390, 1994, LaGrange Township, Cass County, adopts the following guidelines and application form for the Supervisor and the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year:

Filing Requirements

In order to file and qualify for the property tax poverty exemption, the claimant must do all of the following and meet each of the following requirements annually:

1. Own and occupy the homestead property for which the exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the supervisor or board of review after January 1st but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review on a form provided by the local assessing unit. (Note: The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the March board of review for the purpose of preserving the right to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.)
3. Provide federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead including any property tax credit returns. These income tax returns may be those filed in the current year or in the immediate receding year.
4. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested by the supervisor or board of review.
5. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is being requested if required by the supervisor or board of review.
6. Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget which will be discussed later in this bulletin under the heading "Federal Poverty Income Standards".
7. Report divestment of assets on the required application form.
8. Meet the asset levels set by the LaGrange Township Board
9. Meet any other tests that may be set by the LaGrange Township Board.

INCOME STANDARDS

The following are current poverty threshold Income Standards provided by the United States Office of Management and Budget and issued to Michigan assessors by the Michigan State Tax Commission in Bulletin No. 5 of 1995.

1. In order to meet the requirement of the Income Standards the claimant's annual gross household income cannot exceed the amounts stated below.
2. Qualification under these Income standards provided the claimant is qualified in all other respects.

Number of Persons
Residing in Household

Poverty Threshold
Maximum Household Income

2	\$ 19,720.00
3	\$ 24,860.00
4	\$ 30,000.00
5	\$ 35,140.00
6	\$ 40,280.00
7	\$ 45,420.00
8	\$ 50,560.00

For each Additional,

Person Add \$ 5,140.00

Ordinary income includes the following:

1. Money wages and salaries before any deductions.
2. Net receipts from non-farm self-employment. These are receipts from a person's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after deductions for business expenses.
3. Net receipts from farm self-employment. These are receipts from a farm which one operates as an owner, renter, or share cropper, after deductions for farm operating expenses.
4. Regular payments from Social Security, Railroad Retirement, unemployment compensation, strike benefits from union funds, workers compensation, veterans' payments, public assistance.
5. Alimony, child support, and military family allotments or other regular support from an absent family member for someone not living in the household.
6. Private pensions, government employee pensions (including military retirement pay), and regular insurance or annuity payments.
7. College or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, and assistant ships.
8. Dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts, and net gambling or lottery winnings.

Ordinary income does not include the following, except as provided in number 6 above:

1. Money received from the sale of property, such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car, unless the claimant is in the business of selling such property.
2. Withdrawals of bank deposits and borrowed money.
3. Income tax refunds and one-time insurance payments.
4. Food or housing received in lieu of wages and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms.
5. Federal non-cash benefit programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps and school lunches.
6. Gifts and lump-sum inheritance are not considered as ordinary income; however, dividends, interest, rental proceeds, royalties, inheritances, and other similar receipts received on a period basis, which may be in the form of a gift or other form, including receipts resulting from divestment of assets, and which may have the appearance of income, shall be considered as unearned income and shall be included in the determination of income eligibility.

Asset Eligibility Limitations

ASSET STANDARDS

In order to meet the requirements for assets, the total current fair market value of the claimant household assets cannot exceed \$4,500.00.

Definition of Assets (Non-Inclusive)

Assets include, but are not limited to the cash value of savings accounts and shares, certificates of deposit, investments such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, deferred compensation accounts, equity in real estate other than the homestead for which the exemption is claimed, motor vehicles other than one primary transportation vehicle, jewelry, coins and other collectibles, precious metals, and other similar possessions which are not essential to the subsistence or health and well-being of the claimant. Gifts, lump-sum inheritances, dividends, interest, rental proceeds, royalties, and other receipts received in the form of a gift, or as a result of asset divestment, shall be considered an asset if received on a one-time lump-sum basis and shall be included in the determination of asset eligibility.

Divestment of Assets

Divestment means a transfer of a resource. Transfer of a resource means giving up all or partial ownership in (or rights to) a resource. Examples include, but are not limited to, selling an asset, giving an asset away, refusing an inheritance, giving up the right to receive income, and other similar divestment actions.

If an application for property tax exemption has divested any assets during the period of 36 months preceding the date of the application, then such divestment shall be considered in the determination of eligibility.

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS

Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit

In calculating the applicant property tax liability and possible reduction thereof, any refunds received or due to be received from a Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim (MI-1040CR) shall be reported by the applicant and taken into account in regard to the granting of any property tax exemption.

Partial Poverty Exemption

Act No 390 of Public Acts of 1994 authorizes partial poverty exemptions. A partial poverty exemption is an exemption of only part of the taxable value of the property for which an exemption is claimed, rather than the entire taxable value.

Appeal

A property owner may appeal the March board of review's decision on a poverty exemption claim to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by June 30. An appeal of a July or December board of review poverty exemption decision may be made to the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days of the decision. Appeals are to be made in writing to Michigan Tax Tribunal, P.O. Box 30232, Lansing, MI 48909.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member
Second by Board Member

Robert Wright

John Juraf

7:32pm

Aye:

5

Nay:

0

Upon the result of the roll call vote, the Supervisor declared the Resolution 2-2024 duly adopted.

Tasha E. McCoy

Tasha E. McCoy, Clerk
LaGrange Township

1-15-2024

Date

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly elected Clerk of LaGrange Township, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the LaGrange Township Board at a public hearing held on January 15, 2024 at which meeting a quorum Was present; that the members of said Board voted upon the foresaid Resolution as shown; and that said was conducted in accordance of the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan.

Tasha E. McCoy

Tasha E. McCoy, Clerk
LaGrange Township

1-15-2024

Date

Attest:

Robert Wright

Township Supervisor

1-15-24

Date