

ROLLIN TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT
1835- 1900

The first Rollin Township meeting was held on April 6, 1835, two years before Michigan became a state. The meeting was organized based on the New England township government model. At the annual meeting, qualified voters of the township elected township officers and voted on other matters. Most of the old township records such as Justice of the peace records, clerks minutes and treasurers' books have been preserved through the years. Here are some of the highlights during this time period arraigned in a time line. All annual meetings took place in April of the year.

1835

See appendix for copy of original minutes

1836

The electors voted \$14 to Daniel Rhoads for the care of a "certain sick man".

1840

Voted that "The money now remaining in the hands of the treasurer be expended in sustaining primary schools". "Horses, meat cattle & hogs, steeds & boars excepted, are free commoners for the ensuing year of 1840."

1843

The Justice of the Peace book recorded the marriage of John Kane age 24 and Sophia Marlatt at the house of John Marlatt in the presence of J. S. Baker, Nicholas A. Page, and E. Kealy on February 27.

1848

It was voted a \$5 fine for loose running boar hogs. It was also voted For \$200 to construct a town hall at the center of the township.

1849

\$75 voted to finish interior of new hall and purchase a stove.

1851

The \$5 fine for loose boar hogs was extended to include bulls with the additional forfeiture of the bull.

1859

Two hundred Dollars raised for township expenses.

1861

Agreement to cooperate with Hudson Township in digging a ditch to lower the outlet level at Posey Lake was passed.

1864

Election results: Lincoln-220, McClellan-90. It was also voted to raise a \$100 bounty payable to all township men who enlist in the Union Army.

1869

Special election to bid for Detroit, Ypsilanti and Hillsdale Railroad in township failed. Yes-140 No-213

1871

Results on vote to raise tax to build new county courthouse: yes 55, no 150

1872

Two hundred dollars voted to repair Town House. J. Wallace Page elected clerk.

1873

Fifty dollars voted to repair road east of Rollin (now Forrister Road) through "Tamarack swamp"

1878

Tally of votes for building of County Asylum for the Insane yes-107 no-52

1881

A motion passed to pay the Fitts Bros. \$40 for damages sustained in the collapse of the Rollin Bridge

1883

The Board of Health recommended \$20 be paid to Addison towards a cemetery and \$40 to buy land from Orson Green next to Devil's Lake for a cemetery. A 20 cent bounty was enacted for every woodchuck scalp to be paid by the township.

1886

Vote to spend \$1200 to build new town house yes-129 no-105 Notices were placed at Geo Rice's Store, door of Post Office at Geneva, Loens Corner board, the town house, and Morley's Blacksmith shop at Rollin prior to vote.

1887

The old town hall was sold to highest bidder. Also a \$940 bid from James Wood to construct new hall was awarded.

1888

An extra \$100 was awarded for extra work on upper floor of hall and \$17 for railing and platform for lower floor. At a board meeting, it was voted to take action to remove or force to be moved the Manitou Beach railroad station being built by the Cincinnati Northern Railroad off the road rightaway.

1889

A motion passed to build a bridge over the canal cut by William Rexford between Devils and Round Lakes with restrictions and specifications included. It was also voted to allow the Patrons of Husbandry and Patrons of Industry to rent the new hall when not in use for \$8 per year each.

1890

Voted to raise the bounty on moles from 5 cents to 10 cents per head. Also John Jenkins received 55 votes for the office of Constable.

1892

The township board decided to require a \$6000 bond to start a saloon in Rollin Township effectively

barring any saloons in the township. That would be about \$150,000 of today's dollars. Former Rollin Township Supervisor Selah Raymond was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives receiving 212 votes in Rollin Township.

1893

At the annual meeting a proposal to enact a mole tax was carried by a vote of 88 for and 79 against. "Some competent person" to be paid \$10 to oversee and sell lots at the Lakeview Cemetery and one dollar per day for work done there.

1900

The electors of the township voted \$500 less 10% to purchase a Hudson Michigan made Abbott Voting Machine. That would be the equivalent of about \$13,000 today. The township road commission was paying about \$270 for steel span bridges at that time.