

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
September 14, 2021

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. by Gary Sporer.

Prayer was given by Gary Sporer.

Present: Brenda Lester, Craig Potvin, Janet Feenstra-Daasch, Sue Rochefort, and Gary Sporer

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

MINUTES: Janet made a motion, seconded by Craig, to approve the minutes for the regular and closed session meetings that were held on August 10, 2021. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR/DEPUTY SUPERVISOR: Gary made the announcement that due to information the board received; he cannot be Temporary Township Supervisor because Gerry Tatrow has not resigned. Gerry Tatrow will appoint him as the deputy supervisor but paperwork must be signed by him before the appointment is official.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Sue, to approve the bills as presented by the Clerk. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Janet – yes, and Sue – yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Joe or Colleen Maki were not present. The assessor report has been received and a copy of the report will be on file.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief, Keith Farley, was at chopper training so was not present. Brenda stated she did speak with Keith and was told the new brush truck from 1st Attack should be completed in about a week but a final invoice has not been received; therefore, a special meeting may need to be held to finalize the approval for payment. 1st Attack did complete the recall on the new truck so it will be road worthy when it's received. Volunteers will attend flash over training next week.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: Brenda spoke with Dan Edwards of Manistique Computers regarding downloading a type of security software to include a document back-up system for the township computers. Dan suggested the township purchase Norton 360, Premium Edition, for all the township computers which would cover everything. It must be ordered online and it would be automatically renewed yearly. This is a problem because the township does not have a credit or debit card. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Sue, to apply for a debit card for the General Fund to be used by the Clerk or the Treasurer for online and local purchases as long it has already been approved by the board or it is an expenditure that is listed on the Prepaids List that was approved by the board on January 12, 2021. A paper trail and a log will be kept for all those purchases. Roll Call Vote: Craig –

yes, Janet – yes, Sue – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried. Janet contacted First Bank and they will set up online inquiry use for herself, Township Treasurer, and Brenda, Township Clerk. Brenda stated there is an error on the bill sheet for the payment to Rapid River Mini Mart for charges on September 3, 2021. The total of the invoice needs to be corrected to \$166.82, not \$5.00. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, to approve payment to Rapid River Mini Mart for \$166.82. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Janet – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried.

TREASURER: The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balance for the month of August, 2021.

TOWNSHIP HALL: The hall is being used for exercising and line dancing.

TRANSFER STATION: Covered under Old and New Business.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Janet tried to get three gravel bids for the township park drive. Gembel's didn't get back to her. She did receive a quote from Fix My Gravel Road for \$2,108.00 but their offer expired on 9/8/2021 and they wouldn't extend it. DesJarden's also gave a quote for \$1,570.00 for 50 yards of gravel, bobcat work, and labor. A motion was made by Craig to accept the bid from DesJarden Excavating for the gravel project at the park in the amount of \$1,570.00. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Janet, to amend the budget as follows for the General Fund:

Other - 4th of July Fireworks Expense: Decrease from \$1,200.00 to \$0-
Culture and Recreation-Maintenance and Repair Expense: Increase from \$500.00 to \$1,700.00, an increase of \$1,200.00

Roll Call Vote: Brenda – yes, Janet – yes, Craig – yes, and Sue – yes. Motion carried.

CUPPAD will charge \$5,500.00 to work on the new recreation plan. A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Brenda, for Garden Township to sign the agreement with CUPPAD to write the new recreation plan with the knowledge that the Village of Garden and Fairbanks Township are going to be partners with Garden Township. Roll Call Vote: Janet – yes, Sue – yes, Brenda – yes, and Craig – yes. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Gary gave his report.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Fire Signs:** Gary has submitted the request for the second phase.
- **Purchase of State Land at Transfer Station:** Paperwork has been received from the State of Michigan. Craig said he spoke with Bob Burnham, State Forester, and the State already ordered a survey. Once that's complete, we can move on to the next step.
- **American Rescue Plan:** It is still pending approval. Gary stated the amount of funds will be \$54,218.00, rather than \$52,218.00 he stated previously. Hazard pay is not allowed for elected officials. Hazard pay may be considered for employees as long as they fit the definition of an essential worker and their duties were necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. The Department of Treasury has not ruled on whether election workers would qualify for hazard pay.
- **Road Repairs:** The work on 18th Road is now complete and dust control has been applied.
- **Van's Harbor Street Lights:** Gary said he will contact Cloverland for a list of street lights along with their locations that Garden Township is paying for. Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ***Transfer Station Fees:*** Some complaints were received regarding the change in the fees for bulk fees at the Transfer Station. It was decided to leave it as is and possibly revisit it in the future. The Transfer Station passed its inspection from the State of Michigan.
- ***CUPPAD-Recreation Plan Approval:*** Covered under Parks & Recreation.
- ***Letter of Support for Bay de Noc Great Lakes Sports Fishermen Initiative:*** Tabled.
- ***Floor Scrubber for Township Hall:*** Gary has started looking at some floor scrubbers and has some bids. They run between \$2,000.00 and \$5,500.00. Gary will be meeting with a representative from Karcher Company on September 17th and he will get in touch with Hiawatha Chef in Escanaba.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Sue made a motion, seconded by Janet, to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester
Garden Township Clerk