

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
January 12, 2021

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:06 p.m. by Township Supervisor, Gerry Tatrow. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

Prayer was given by Supervisor, Gerry Tatrow.

Present: Craig Potvin, Brenda Lester, Janet Feenstra-Daasch, Susan Rochefort, and Gerry Tatrow.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

MINUTES: Janet made a motion, seconded by Sue, to approve minutes for the regular meeting held on December 8, 2020. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: The following budget amendments were presented by the Clerk for the General Fund:

- **Miscellaneous Expense Account:** Increase from \$100.00 to \$1,600.00, an additional \$1,500.00
- **Miscellaneous Revenue:** Increase from \$200.00 to \$1,700.00, an increase of \$1,500.00
- **Assessor Contracted Services Expense Account:** Increase from \$0.00 to \$5,452.50
- **Assessor Salary Expense Account:** Decrease from \$19,200.00 to \$13,747.50, a decrease of \$5,452.50

Janet made a motion, seconded by Craig, to approve the budget amendments submitted by the clerk. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Janet – yes, Sue – yes, and Gerry – yes. Motion carried.

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

REPORTS:

ASSESSOR’S REPORT: Assessor Report was given by Colleen Maki.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Farley was not present. Gerry stated the only thing for an update is that the chassis is being built for the new brush truck. An invoice will be sent by the company, First Attack.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: The audit was received by Anderson Tackman and a copy was given to each board member. The mileage rate has been decreased to 56 cents per mile per the IRS rate for 2021. The Fire Department volunteers are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines and Keith was notified. Motion was made by Janet, seconded by Craig, to approve the new “Prepaid Expenses” list. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Janet – yes, Sue – yes, and Gerry -yes. Motion carried. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, to delay the Transfer Station millage renewal election until the August Primary in 2022. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Janet - yes, and Gerry – yes, motion carried. A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Janet, to renew and pay for the increased bond coverage for the clerk and the treasurer in the amount of \$182.00. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Janet – yes, Sue – yes, and Gerry – yes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Gerry, to increase the insurance coverage for the township hall to \$955,000.00 (a 2% increase) for an additional cost of \$21.00. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Gerry – yes, Brenda -yes, Janet – yes, and Sue – yes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Janet, to pay for the increased coverage on the township building for an additional \$21.00. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Janet – yes, Sue – yes, and Gerry – yes. Motion was approved. The board declined terrorism coverage that was offered. Sue made a motion, seconded by Brenda, to pay for the cyber security coverage for \$672.00. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda -yes, Sue – yes, Janet – yes, and Gerry – yes. Motion carried. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Sue, to increase the budget for the General Insurance Expense Account to \$4,725.00

(an increase of \$425.00) and to decrease the Supervisor Travel Expense Account to \$1,075.00 (a decrease of \$425.00). Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Janet – yes, and Gerry – yes, motion carried.

TREASURER/TOWNSHIP HALL: The Treasurer and Clerk balances agree for all funds. The new deputy treasurer is Ilana Cooper. Sue will pick up some rock salt for the hall and will check with Vicky to see if she can give the kitchen a good cleaning.

TRANSFER STATION: Bill is ordering two trail cameras that will report directly to his phone or computer and will set them up as a trial at the Transfer Station. If it works well, the township may consider getting three cameras for use at the Transfer Station.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Janet said a recreation plan will need to be done, probably in the next year, in order to get any grants.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Gerry gave his report to the board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Fire Signs:** Nothing will be done until the spring.
- **PILT Money Update:** Garden Township received the PILT money.
- **Part-Time Employee:** We are still looking for a part-time employee for the Transfer Station and the Cemetery.
- **Non-Statutory Board Assignments:** Craig will handle the newsletter and the website. Sue will handle the hall, Brenda will oversee the cemetery, Gerry will handle the Transfer Station and Fire Department, and Janet will take care of Parks and Recreation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **MARQ-6 Internet:** Dan, the network engineer for MARQ-6, attended the meeting by phone. MARQ-6 is now state funded and would like to expand their service in the area. They want to use the fire tower at the Fire Department garage so they would be able to service customers within the Village of Garden. They offered free internet for the fire department and the township hall for use of the tower. Gerry asked how they would compensate the township. Dan said they would offer free internet to the fire hall and the township hall but he would talk to the company about monetary compensation and get back to us.
- **Budget Meeting Dates:** Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, to change the dates of the budget meetings to January 20, 2021; January 27, 2021; February 3, 2021; and February 17, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Brenda made a motion, seconded by Gerry, to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester
Garden Township Clerk