

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 10, 2023**

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:09 p.m. by Supervisor, Katherine Young.

Present: Kathy Young, Brenda Lester, Craig Potvin, and Sue Rochefort. Jenna Silkworth was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Sue, seconded by Craig to approve the agenda. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Sue made a motion, supported by Craig, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on September 12, 2023. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public was present. No public comments were received.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Sue made a motion to move the Budget Amendments after new business, supported by Craig, to first item after new business. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Craig, to approve payment of the bills. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

ASSESSOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS: Motion by Brenda, seconded by Craig, to move the Assessor Report before Budget Amendments after New Business. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: The annual Fiscal Report (F-65) has been filed with the Michigan Department of Treasury for Fiscal Year 22/23. The new cemetery signs have been put up. Starlink internet has been installed. There are two burials scheduled.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Keith Farley, Fire Chief, was not present to give his report.

TREASURER: The Treasurer was absent so there was no Treasurer's report but will be reviewed at the November meeting.

TOWNSHIP HALL: There is a rental on November 3, 2023 for Feather Bingo. Rentals will now put up and take down all the tables themselves. No updates on the hall roof. Kathy will check with Arnold to pressure wash the hall.

TRANSFER STATION: The new dump trailer has been picked up and the new safety gate has been installed.

PARKS AND RECREATION: No report.

PLANNING COMMISSION: No report. The meeting schedule through March 2024 has been decided and posted.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Speed study for U.S. Highway 2 at Garden Corners and has been received. The report stated that a change of the speed limit is not warranted at this time. Kathy updated the board about the 911 sign project. Kathy is researching the location of where an old turbine blade was disposed of. Kathy discussed her new agenda format.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Credit Card:** Still pending.
- **Security Cameras:** The new cameras have been installed at the township hall.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Concrete for Ballot Box:** Gembel and Jake Rivard were contacted to provide estimates for a concrete slab and stanchion bollards for the new ballot box. Gembel wasn't able to provide service due to the season ending soon. Jake Rivard was going to send an estimate to the board but it was never received. An estimate was provided by Garden Creek Handyman Services. A motion was made by Craig, seconded by Sue, to approve the bid for the concrete work needed for the ballot box with Garden Creek Handyman Services in the amount of \$1,358.00. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Kathy – yes, and Craig – yes. Brenda abstained. Motion carried.
- **Fine for Traffic Violation:** Brenda made a motion, seconded by Craig, to reimburse Transfer Station employee the cost of his fine for an overweight load in the amount of \$324.00 due to the fact he has no idea how much the truck weighs. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Kathy – yes, Brenda – yes, and Craig – yes. Motion carried.
- **Transfer Station Weight Scale:** Tabled.
- **Posting Agenda on Web Page:** A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Brenda, to not post the board meeting agendas on the township's website. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Hall Doors:** The main doors on the east end of the building are rusting through. An estimate was received from Benoit's to replace the doors for the amount of \$9,895.00. Tabled for more quotes.
- **Park Closure:** Brenda made a motion, seconded by Sue, to lock the pit toilets at the township park on October 31, 2023. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Diesel for Transfer Station Truck:** Rapid River Mini Mart currently allows the Transfer Station to charge its diesel and miscellaneous supplies for the truck. They are selling their business to Circle K; therefore, charging will not be allowed after October 23, 2023. Bill will work with the Pantry to see if they will set up an account for the Transfer Station.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: The following budget amendment recommendations were presented by the Clerk:

General Fund

- Cemetery Wages for Burials Exp.: Increase from \$1,200.00 to \$2,500.00, an increase of \$1,300.00
- Cemetery Ads & Notices Exp.: Increase from \$300.00 to \$400.00, an increase of \$100.00
- Cemetery Maintenance & Repair Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$1,200.00, an increase of \$1,200.00
- Elections Contracted Services Exp.: Increase from \$2,000.00 to \$3,600.00, an increase of \$1,600.00
- Elections Supplies Exp.: Increase from \$300.00 to \$500.00, an increase of \$200.00
- Township Hall Furniture & Equipment Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$4,000.00, an increase of \$4,000.00
- Township Hall Capital Outlay Exp.: Increase from \$12,164.00 to \$22,164.00, an increase of \$10,000.00
- Township Office Furniture & Equipment Exp.: Increase from \$1,500.00 to \$3,700.00, an increase of \$1,200.00
- Legal Exp.: Decrease from \$50,000.00 to \$35,200.00, a decrease of \$14,800.00
- Interest Rev.: Increase from \$1,345.00 to \$4,345.00, an increase of \$3,000.00
- Cemetery Lot Sales Rev.: Increase from \$800.00 to \$1,800.00, an increase of \$1,000.00
- Cemetery Burial Fees Rev.: Increase from \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00, an increase of \$500.00
- Zoning Fees Rev.: Increase from \$500.00 to \$800.00, an increase of \$300.00

Fire Department

- Grants Rev.: Increase from \$-0- to \$44,000.00, an increase of \$44,000.00.

- Capital Outlay Exp.: Increase from \$36,980.00 to \$79,980.00, an increase of \$43,000.00
- Building Maintenance Exp.: Increase from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00, an increase of \$1,000.00

A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Craig to approve the budget amendments as presented by the township clerk. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Kathy – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS (continued):

ASSESSOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Joe Maki was not present but his report was received and will be kept on file. A boundary line adjustment was approved by the Township Assessor for parcel number 010-400-015-00 for Robert Morrow and Mary Livingston.

A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to adjourn. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lee Lester
Garden Township Clerk