

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
July 13, 2021

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

Prayer was given by Supervisor, Gary Sporer

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

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Added supervisor wages under New Business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

MINUTES: Sue made a motion, seconded by Janet, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on June 8, 2021. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None.

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

REPORTS:

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Joe Maki, Assessor, presented his report which included a land division for parcel number 010-005-006-10 for Steven Valeck, property owner. July Board of Review will be held on July 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Garden Township Hall. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Janet, to approve the new poverty exemption guidelines and asset level test for Garden Township that was received from the township assessor on July 9, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Janet – yes, and Gary – yes. Resolution passed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief, Keith Farley, gave his report. The ISO rating for Garden Township has been reduced from an 8 to a 6 which should reduce insurance rates for property owners. No new updates on the new brush truck. There are two new members for the fire department, Shiloh LaButte and Brandon Rutherford. They will be going to training when there is a class available. They will need turnout gear and Brandon is a very tall person so the gear will be expensive. Keith did apply for a matching grant for the gear so there may be some funding for it, \$3,000.00 by Garden Township and \$3,000.00 in grant funding. There was a recall on the new brush truck so Keith will contact 1st Attack to see if they will take care of it for us. A letter was received from Tri-County Fire Department requesting monetary assistance to help maintain their fire trucks. It was decided that Keith will talk to Tri-County and ask them to come to a meeting before the next budget was approved. A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Sue, to pay \$500.00 to Tri-County Fire Department and request they come to a Garden Township Board meeting in January, 2022. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Gary – yes, Janet – yes, and Sue – yes. Motion carried.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: Brenda requested the board address the problems with the cemetery regarding the unsightly trees and shrubs that need to be removed. Brenda asked Gary to talk to Archie about it. The township received an extensive freedom of information act request from Mark F. (Thor)

Hearne, II, of True North Law. Brenda requested the township consider allowing her to contact the township attorney when needed for guidance when these are received. A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Craig, to give the FOIA Coordinator the authority to contact the township attorney when guidance is needed for FOIA requests. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

TREASURER: The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balance for the month of June, 2021. Janet got a phone call from Tom Lang because his tax bill said that the postmark date would not be recognized for the due date for paying taxes. He wanted to know if we would recognize the postmark date. Janet said she would consider accepting the postmark date but needs to take into consideration the timeframe she needs to get the paperwork to the Delta County Treasurer. Janet will be checking into a locking drop box for the township.

TOWNSHIP HALL: Gary has an appointment on July 20th with Sine Tech regarding the installation of security cameras at the hall. Sue would like to take over giving out the key for the hall, instead of Vicky. Sue found a rolling table that might be able to be used for the new sound equipment. Sue will work on paperwork for public activities at the hall. The matter of allowing the public to use the hall for activities is tabled until a plan has been approved by the board.

TRANSFER STATION: Gary proposed three options for the board to consider regarding accepting bulk items at the Transfer Station: Vouchers for property owners, charge everyone, or discontinue taking these bulk items altogether. A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Craig, to charge everyone, including Garden Township Tax payers, for the bulk items (not regular trash items) accepted at the Transfer Station the same fee the township is charged by Delta Solid Waste according to the Delta County Landfill fee schedule effective July 19, 2021. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Janet put a notice in the Township newsletter asking for people to sit on the Recreation Committee. Betty Smithson has taken over cleaning the restrooms at the park and will clean them about twice a week.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Gary gave his report. Gary went with the Road Commission to look at Van's Harbor Road again. He received a request for a hidden driveway sign but the property owner will put up their own sign up because the Road Commission would charge a lot more than if they took care of it themselves. He attended the FEMA open house regarding the national flood insurance program. Just about everything along the coast is in a flood zone so there's a benefit being a part of the program, which Delta County is. Residents are guaranteed to be able to purchase flood insurance at a better rate because it's backed by NFIP. John Malnar, Delta County Commissioner was also present and gave an update regarding Delta County and the expansion of more solar farms. John hasn't heard anything yet regarding a solar farm expansion in Garden Township. Craig proposed the township send a letter to Gerard Tatrow, elected supervisor, asking him to voluntarily relinquish his salary until he is able to assume office again. Janet made a motion, seconded by, Craig, to call the township attorney asking if we may legally ask Gerry to relinquish his salary until he's back on the job. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Gary recused himself.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Fire Signs:** The township doesn't know when the second phase will start yet. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, to place an ad in The Advisor and a newspaper publication that would cover the residents in the northern part of Garden Township asking property owners to notify the township if they don't have a sign or their current sign is not correct. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Marq 6 Update:** No new updates
- **Purchase of State Land at Transfer Station:** Still pending.

- **American Rescue Plan:** The township already has a DUNS number and Gary is working on getting a SAM registration. The MTA will be having a webinar on July 15th at noon. The deadline for filing is July 27, 2021 and the deadline for spending the money is December 31, 2024.
- **Road Repairs:** Repairs were discussed again for 18th Road, Van's Harbor Road, and Steven's Lake Road. Decision on road repairs was tabled.
- **Tri County Fire Department:** Covered in the Fire Department Report.
- **String Trimmer:** Janet made a motion, seconded by Craig, to increase the price of the trimmer to \$500.00. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Chain Saw:** The township doesn't have a chain saw to remove and trim trees. Motion was made by Janet, seconded by Craig, to purchase an Echo chain saw for approximately \$500.00. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **DTE Solar Plans:** Supervisor covered this in his report.
- **Wages for Township Supervisors:** Covered in Supervisor's report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester
Garden Township Clerk