

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
May 10, 2022

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

Present: Brenda Lester, Janet Feenstra Daasch, Craig Potvin, Susan Rochefort, and Steven Freeman

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

MINUTES: Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, to approve the minutes as read for the regular meeting held on April 12, 2022, special meetings held on April 15, 2022 and April 20, 2022, and closed session held on April 15, 2022. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

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

- Supervisor Deputy Salary Exp.: Increase from \$480.00 to \$719.03, an increase of \$239.03
- BOR Misc. Exp.: Decrease from \$150.00 to \$-0-, a decrease of \$150.00
- BOR Travel Exp.: Decrease from \$150.00 to \$60.94, a decrease of \$89.03
- Cemetery Contracted Services Exp.: Decrease from \$12,000.00 to \$10,000.00, a decrease of \$2,000.00
- Planning Commission Ads/Notices Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$2,000.00, and increase of \$2,000.00

A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Janet, to approve the budget amendments presented by the Clerk. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Janet – yes, Sue – yes, Brenda – yes, and Steve – yes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Sue, to approve the bills which included a 3-month contract and invoice for Zoning Services by Delta County. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Janet – yes, Sue – yes, and Steve – yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Colleen Maki, presented the assessor's report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief, Keith Farley, presented his report. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Sue, to approve payment to the Delta Fire Chief's Association in the amount of \$35.00 for annual dues. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Janet – yes, and Steve – yes. Motion carried. Road construction will begin on May 16, 2022 near Garden Corners on M-183 but there will not be any lane closures. Tier 3 funding by the Federal Forest Service will be about \$25,672.25 which is available now and more will be added on June 1, 2022, possibly will have a total of \$35,000.00 to \$40,000.00. The Fire Department would like to replace the side by side with a North Star Edition machine. They already have the tracks and a skid unit and those could be transferred to the new machine. They also want a full cab with heat and air conditioning. The old machine could be sold and the money from the sale could be used for other equipment they need. Janet made a motion, seconded by Brenda, to allow Keith to move forward in applying for Tier III funds to purchase a new side by side with a cab and all other accessories needed. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Janet – yes, and Steve – yes. Motion carried.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Janet, to move the remaining ARPA funds to its own savings account for the General Fund at First Bank. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Janet – yes, Sue – yes, and Steve – yes. Motion carried. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, that Garden Township applies for a grant with the State of Michigan for elections to purchase a new electronic poll book, laptop computer. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Brenda called insurance about insurance. She was told we only have \$100,000.00 coverage for zoning. Mark Hannula would come down and meet with the board to discuss coverage for zoning if the board desires. Cemetery will not be cleaned up by Memorial Day due to the extreme damage from the storm. Brenda is still waiting to hear from the insurance company regarding claim for the storm clean-up. Spring burials will start on 6/13/22.

TREASURER: The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balance for the month of April, 2022.

TOWNSHIP HALL: There's still a problem with the roof. Sue talked to Chad Damon who said we can eliminate the chimney that comes out of the roof. There will be a training in the hall on May 14, 2022 for the Fire Department. Sue made a motion to purchase and reimburse Terese Tuman for flowers to be planted at the hall up to \$100.00, seconded by Brenda. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Janet – yes, Sue – yes, and Steve – yes. Brenda will reimburse Terese when a receipt is submitted as long as it's not over \$100.00. Sue will check with licensed contractors to inspect the hall roof.

TRANSFER STATION: Tractor is in for repairs.

PARKS AND RECREATION: The Garden Peninsula Recreation Committee will hold the public hearing at the township hall to accept comments on the draft for the Recreation Plan on May 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. There will be ads in the paper and it will be posted at the hall. Once it's complete, Garden and Fairbanks Townships along with the Village of Garden will have to approve the plan.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Steve gave his report which included Delta County Planning Commission notes. The total of the Steven's Lake Road Project has increased to \$84,847.55 and was tabled.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: John Malnar, District 1 Delta County Commissioner, was present and updated the board on county issues which included the zoning repeal and the pending solar ordinance. John Denholm of the Delta County Planning Commission was also present and talked about the pending Delta County Solar Ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Delta County Zoning Repeal:** Supervisor covered in his report.
- **Solar Ordinance:** Supervisor covered in his report.
- **Cemetery Clean-Up:** Covered in the Cemetery Report.
- **Fire Signs for Residents That Missed the Deadline:** Steve is working on finding out where to refer property owners to if they have missed the deadline for the fire sign project.
- **Township Office Purchases:** Janet made a motion, seconded by Craig, to purchase a new laptop computer for the Clerk up to \$1,500.00. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Brenda will look into getting a humidifier for the township office. The township will not purchase a chair for the Treasurer at this time.
- **Emergency Generator for Township Hall:** A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Sue, to apply for a \$5,000.00 grant from the Michigan Participating Plan for an emergency generator for the township hall. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Purchase of State Land at Transfer Station:** Still pending. Survey was completed by the DNR.
- **Burial of Montgomery Ward:** Brenda was approached by the family wanting to bury Mr. Ward's remains in the Kates Bay Cemetery. The cemetery has been closed to new burials for several years. A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Craig, to deny the Montgomery Ward family's request to bury his remains in the Kates Bay Cemetery due to the fact the cemetery has been closed for several years. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **ARPA Bank Account:** Covered in the Clerk's report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was received.

Janet made a motion, seconded by Sue, to adjourn. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester
Garden Township Clerk