

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
January 11, 2022

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:09 p.m. by Deputy Supervisor, Gary Sporer.

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

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Added FEMA Mitigation Plan and scheduling of budget work meetings under new business and deleted hall policy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

MINUTES: Janet made a motion, seconded by Sue, to approve the minutes as read for the regular meeting held on December 14, 2021. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: The following budget amendments were presented by the Township Clerk: Fire Department

Miscellaneous Revenue: Increase from \$900.00 to \$2,328.18, an increase of \$1,428.18
Miscellaneous Expense: Increase from \$200.00 to \$1,628.18 an increase of \$1,428.18
Insurance Expense: Increase from \$8,600.00 to \$9,100.00, an increase of \$500.00
Fire Prevention Expense: Decrease from \$500.00 to \$-0-, a decrease of \$500.00

A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Craig, to approve budget amendments as presented. Roll Call Vote: Brenda – yes, Craig – yes, Janet – yes, and Sue – yes. Budget amendments were approved.

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

REPORTS:

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: The assessor report was received and a copy of the report will be on file. Assessor was not present.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief, Keith Farley, presented his report. Eight 800 MHz radios were purchased from eBay by B.J. Ash so the Fire Department will reimburse B.J. Five of the radios will be paid with Besse Funds and the other three are for Nahma Township and will be sent a bill. A bill will be received from the Michigan State Police for activation of the radios for \$1,250.00. Approval was received for a matching grant with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for \$3,000.00 for turnout gear. Fire Fighter One classes have started and there are two people attending.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: Brenda is still working on the cemetery ordinance. The township now must pay for yearly maintenance on the voting equipment and also will be charged more by the county for election programming. Brenda received an email from the Delta County Clerk that stated the congressional district numbering has changed and that each township jurisdiction will need to send a letter to each voter if their number has changed to let them know their district number has changed. The drop box has arrived and needs to be installed.

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

TOWNSHIP HALL: Sue will pick up some plexiglass to post the Hall Rules. The floor scrubber has been ordered and it'll be about two months before it arrives. Some of the bad, moldy drywall has been cut out upstairs in the hall and some of it has been replaced. There is a leak so the rest of the drywall will have to wait until the leak is addressed and corrected.

TRANSFER STATION: No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION: The survey results for the recreation plan are being compiled by Julia Cogger of CUPPAD.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Gary gave his report. Gary and Dick Seibert will attend Board of Review training. There's a broadband meeting next month and will be held at the Garden Township Hall for Fairbanks and Garden Townships.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: John Malnar, District 1 Delta County Commissioner, was not present. Gary did pass on some information from him. The solar ordinance was presented to the Delta County Board of Commissioners. There were three in favor and two opposed to the solar ordinance but they decided to table it and send it back to the committee to rework the plan. Ed McBroom will be having a meeting on January 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Escanaba regarding short-term rentals and will discuss what's going on at the State level.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Fire Signs:** Signs have been printed and will be installed in the spring.
- **Purchase of State Land at Transfer Station:** Still pending.
- **American Rescue Plan:** New guidelines allow townships to use funds for township programs, services, and uses. No decision has been made whether election workers may receive hazard pay.
- **Floor Scrubber for Township Hall:** Covered under Township Hall Report.
- **Road Repairs:** Tabled. To be discussed during one of the upcoming budget workgroup meetings. Jody Norman of the Delta County Road Commission will attend one of the budget workgroup meetings to allow the board to ask questions regarding their funding.
- **Cemetery Ordinance:** Covered in Clerk report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Attorney:** An engagement letter has been received by Garden Township from the township attorney, Michael Homier, of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith regarding their new hourly rate of \$235.00 per hour, an additional \$10.00 per hour. A motion was made by Janet, seconded by Craig, to retain Michael Homier as the attorney for Garden Township and approve their rate of \$235.00 per hour. Roll Call Vote: Janet – yes, Sue – yes, Craig – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried.
- **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The new Hazard Mitigation plan is currently in draft and is available for review at the Delta County Clerk's office and on CUPPAD's website.
- **FY 2022/2023 Budget Meetings:** Budget meetings are scheduled for January 18, 2022; January 25, 2022; February 1, 2022; and February 10, 2022 - all at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Craig made a motion, seconded by Sue, to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester
Garden Township Clerk