

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 14, 2023**

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:14 p.m. by Supervisor, Katherine Young.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Sue, seconded by Jenna to approve the agenda. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Jenna made a motion, supported by Sue, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on October 10, 2023. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public was present and comments were received.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF BILLS: An invoice was received from Pomp's but it may be for the Village so it wasn't added to the bill sheet so Brenda will verify charges and will add it to the bill sheet for next month's meeting if appropriate. A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Craig, to approve payment of the bills. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

ASSESSOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS: Assessor/Zoning Administrator, Joe Maki, presented his reports. Assessor noted there was a land division approved for parcel number 010-142-014-00 for Thomas Spaulding. The Board of Review meeting for December will be scheduled.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: Arnold started painting the white building at the cemetery and did some fall cleanup at the cemetery.

TREASURER: The Clerk and Treasurer's balances of all funds for September and October agree.

TOWNSHIP HALL: The main doors on the east side of the building need to be replaced. Craig is trying to get in touch with Bittner Engineering to get an estimate. Sue received an estimate to have the floors stripped and waxed. Sue will try to get more estimates from other companies. The Fire Department will plow at the hall again but we need to find someone to shovel. Kathy will check with Arnold to see if he'll do the shoveling.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Equipment list that was submitted for the Fire Equipment Grant was rejected so a new list was presented for purchase approval. A motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Craig, to approve the new list along with payment as long as total of all invoices do not go over \$10,000.00. MIOSHA requirements need to be considered; therefore, the department will need to make some changes and purchase some items to be compliant. They are looking at installing the internet in order to have trainings and for them to do their reports along with the purchase of a laptop. Norway Fire Department has not responded to the Garden Fire Department after several attempts by the crew about the sale of the 2015 Polaris Ranger. Jenna made a motion, seconded by Sue, to put the 2015 Polaris Ranger up for sale with a minimum bid of \$15,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Sue – yes, Brenda – yes, Jenna – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

TRANSFER STATION: No updates.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Park is closed for the season and the snow fencing is up.

PLANNING COMMISSION: The commission is continuing work on the interim solar ordinance but they now need to consider the new legislation on renewable energy that was approved. The township's solar ordinance must be compatible with the new legislation or local control will be lost. Once it's complete it will be referred to the township attorney for his review. A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Craig, to grant authority to

Planning Commission members, Jenna Silkworth and Frank Williams, to contact the attorney to review the interim solar ordinance. The commission is working on their Citizen Planner course through MSUE. They will work on a survey to send with the assessment notices to get citizen feedback for the master plan.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Speed study for U.S. Highway 2 at Garden Corners was 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 called Delta Solid Waste to find out if there were any turbine blades disposed of at their facility and was told no, there weren't any. Brenda spoke to Jim Olsik of DTE and was told the blade was brought to Zellar Sanitation and a copy of the report was sent to E.G.L.E. Brenda will contact E.G.L.E. to ask for a copy of the report. Arnold pressure washed part of the township hall.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Transfer Station Weight Scale:** Tabled.
- **Credit Card:** A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to have the township apply for a business municipality credit card through First Bank on their website with a \$2,000.00 credit limit to be used by the clerk and the treasurer. Roll Call Vote: Kathy – yes, Jenna – yes, Sue – yes, Brenda – yes, and Craig – yes. Sue made a motion, seconded by Craig, to add the credit card bill to the prepaids list with reconciliations done by the supervisor and the clerk. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Kathy – yes, Jenna – yes, and Sue – yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Voting Agreement for Election Services with Delta County for Early Voting:** Early voting must be offered for all State and Federal Elections now. Brenda made a motion to approve the Agreement for Election Services between Delta County and the townships and cities in Delta County as well as the plan included in the agreement for early voting for elections, seconded by Jenna. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Kathy – yes, Craig – yes, Jenna – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried.
- **Alternate Payment Types Option for Property Taxes:** A taxpayer wanted the board to consider alternate payment options for property taxes. The options were credit card payments, through BS&A online, ACH, and wire transfers with an exception to allow business owners. No action was taken; therefore, it was declined.
- **Collection of Fees at the Transfer Station:** A policy was presented regarding the receipting process for the collection of fees at the Transfer Station. Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to approve the Transfer Station Receiving/Receipting policy with the addition of adding the Clerk/Deputy Clerk effective January 1, 2024. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Sue – yes, Brenda – yes, Kathy – yes, and Jenna – yes. Motion carried
- **Purchase of Fuel for Transfer Station:** For now, Manistique Oil will keep the diesel tank filled with off road diesel for the truck. The board will verify if the truck should use off road fuel. Kathy will review the guidelines for a fleet card through Circle K. Tabled until more clarification is received.
- **Planning/Zoning Training Salary Reimbursement:** Brenda made a motion to pay each Planning Commission member that is participating in the Citizen Planner Course through M.S.U.E. a salary for two and a half days of training in the amount of \$150.00 per person upon completion of their course and presentation of their certificate, seconded by Jenna. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public was present but no comments were received.

A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna to adjourn. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lee Lester
Garden Township Clerk