

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**October 12, 2021**

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

**Present:** Brenda Lester, Craig Potvin, Janet Feenstra-Daasch, and Sue Rochefort.

**MODERATOR:** Brenda made a motion, seconded by Craig, to appoint Janet as the meeting moderator due to the absence of Gary. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Special meeting minutes for September 27, 2021 was added for approval.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**MINUTES:** Sue made a motion, seconded by Craig, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on September 14, 2021 and for the special meeting held on September 27, 2021. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** The following budget amendments were requested by the Township Clerk:

**General Fund**

- Deputy Supervisor Salary Expense: Increase from \$480.00 to \$4,279.00
- Hall Rental Revenue: Increase from \$-0- to \$625.00
- Contingency Fund: Increase from \$26,886.06 to \$28,060.06
- Township Office Capital Outlay Expense: Decrease from \$4,000.00 to \$2,000.00
- Deputy Clerk Salary Expense: Increase from \$1,600.00 to \$1,655.00
- Deputy Treasurer Salary Expense: Decrease from \$1,600.00 to \$1,545

**Fire Department**

- Travel Expense: Increase from \$100.00 to \$1,100.00
- Transfer From Fund Balance: Increase from \$108,819.00 to \$109,819.00

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

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

**REPORTS:**

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT:** The assessor report was given by Joe Maki, Assessor, and a copy of the report will be on file. Joe stated if a Headlee override is approved by voters, it would generate approximately an additional \$18,000.00 in tax revenue for Garden Township

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chief, Keith Farley, was present and gave his report. The new brush truck has been delivered. Brenda called Hannula and coverage has been added. A new license plate will need to be obtained. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Craig, to approve payment for new license plate if a fee will need to be paid. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, and Janet – yes. Motion approved. The old brush truck has been transferred to Thompson Township by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is now in their possession. Garden Township Fire Department will be receiving the \$1.00 payment from Thompson Township for the sale of the old skid unit. The Fire Department did receive the cascade unit from BELFOR and the plan is to allow other fire departments in the surrounding area to use it. They also received other equipment such as turnout gear, boots, and gloves. The cascade unit will need special electrical installed at the fire hall and Keith will contact an electrician for an estimate.

**CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT:** The request for the debit card for the general fund has been delivered to First Bank. The new weed whacker hasn't been received yet. There are some old graves/grave stones that the grass and weeds need to be cleared. Brenda will talk to Archie.

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

**TOWNSHIP HALL:** There's mold upstairs in the hall. The roof and chimney should be inspected first because there may need to be some repairs before the mold is taken care of. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Craig, to have a mold inspection and have the chimney and roof checked out. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Sue will contact Chad Damon first to see if the chimney is still needed and then get in touch with Tim Coble to inspect the roof and chimney.

**TRANSFER STATION:** No report

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** There's been two meetings for Parks and Recreation. Their next meeting will be held on October 19, 2021.

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:** Gary was absent but notes were left for the board with information. Department of Homeland Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) offers free scanning and testing services. Michigan Township Par Plan is accepting applications for Fall 2021 risk reduction grants. There is a full day Virtual 2021 Michigan Cyber Summit on October 21, 2021. Information to register was given to board members.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER:** Not present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Fire Signs:** Request was submitted and the township is waiting for delivery and installation of the second phase.
- **Purchase of State Land at Transfer Station:** Still pending.
- **American Rescue Plan:** Two corrections were submitted and approval is still pending.
- **Road Repairs:** Pending price estimates. Gary wants to have a road maintenance plan for the November 9, 2021 meeting to address funding for immediate road repairs and establish a 5 -year cycle plan to maintain roads.
- **Van's Harbor Street Lights:** Still pending.
- **Floor Scrubber for Township Hall:** No new information.
- **Township Park Gravel:** A motion was made by Craig, seconded by Janet, to hire DesJarden Excavating for the gravel project at the park which was estimated at \$1,570.00. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Deputy Supervisor Pay Rate:** Brenda made a motion, seconded by Craig, to increase the Deputy Supervisor salary to the same rate as the Supervisor salary of \$673.10 per month until Gerard Tatrow is able to assume his duties as Township Supervisor. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, and Janet – yes. Motion carried.
- **Letter of Support for Bay de Noc Great Lakes Sports Fisherman Initiative:** Tabled.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

Craig made a motion, seconded by Sue, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester  
Garden Township Clerk