

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 10, 2022**

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:03 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:** Janet made a motion, supported by Sue, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on October 11, 2022. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** None.

**REPORTS**

***ASSESSOR'S REPORT:*** Colleen Maki gave the assessor's report and a copy of the report will be kept on file. The Board of Review will be held on December 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Garden Township Hall.

***FIRE DEPARTMENT:*** Chief, Keith Farley, was not present to give his report.

***CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT:*** The November 8<sup>th</sup> election went well. Garden Township had a 62% turnout. Our official audit was received and there are some changes the township needs to do. Brenda submitted a corrective action plan to the Department of Treasury on October 31, 2022. She also suggested the township develop some new policies and procedures including a formal bid process and the implementation of a capitalization policy. There is an error in the minutes for the meeting held on August 10, 2022 where it stated the minutes for the regular meeting held on July 12, 2022 were approved but they were already approved at the special meeting held on July 28, 2022. Brenda will order a new recorder for the Planning Commission so that the audio may be shared with a member of the community who submitted a FOIA request for all audio for all meetings for the township. The cemetery will be officially closed on November 15, 2022 or earlier if snow comes.

***TREASURER:*** The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balance for October, 2022.

***TOWNSHIP HALL:*** Janet is working on the grant proposal for the township hall generator and is waiting for current bids from Kobas Electric, NLB Electric, and Superior Electric to be submitted. The township did receive a new quote for the gas hook up for the generator from Damon Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$500.00. Janet read a resolution to adopt the submission of a grant proposal with the Michigan Participating Plan. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, to adopt the resolution read by Janet to apply for a grant with the Michigan Participating Plan for a generator for the township hall. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Janet – yes, and Steve – yes. Motion carried. There are more repairs needed for the hall roof and Sue is working on getting a bid from Randy Myszkier. The chimney roof flashing has been repaired.

***TRANSFER STATION:*** Steve received the information to apply for the tire collection grant but he only had one day to submit it to them. They also required a \$10,000.00 bond for the program which would be returned to the township. No action will be made.

***PARKS AND RECREATION:*** Invoice was received from A-1 Septic to pump the tanks. The outhouses didn't get painted due to the fact the special paint needs to be ordered and there wasn't time before cold weather set in. The outhouses will be locked after Betty cleans them.

***SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:*** Delta County Building and Zoning will order 911 signs for all new requests in the amount of \$40.00. Property owners are responsible to install the sign per Delta County guidelines. Delta County's addressing committee is working on the numbering system for the fire numbers.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** The board received a temporary solar ordinance for the interim zoning ordinance and was tabled. The Planning Commission is checking into a reported violation on solar but no action has been taken at this time. Additional information will be provided when available.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER:** Not present.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **WIX Website and Domain Renewals:** A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Janet, to renew the WIX website and domain for 3 years at a price of \$470.85 using the Garden Township debit card. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Janet – yes, and Steve – yes. Motion carried.
- **Land Division Fees:** A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Craig, to adopt the Land Division Application Fees Schedule for Garden Township effective January 1, 2023 that was received by Eagle Assessment Services. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Janet – yes, and Steve – yes. Motion carried.
- **First Right of Refusal:** A letter was received by Sherry Godfrey, Delta County Treasurer, regarding the parcel within the Village of Garden that was up for tax sale. She stated that Delta County does not have to give a second right of refusal to Garden Township for parcels located in the Village of Garden. Steve will send a letter to the Delta County Treasurer explaining that village land owners also pay township tax; therefore, Garden Township should be given the chance as a second right of refusal.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Tri-Star:** Margaret Richard and Kathy Young were present representing Tri-Star regarding a complaint that was received for a call where they did not respond. Margaret explained that Tri-Star is an independent 501c3 and also told the board the procedure that is followed when they are paged out. Tri-Star is a volunteer organization and sometimes there are calls when they can't respond. Kathy explained the financial aspect of Tri-Star on how their program is funded. The board asked Kathy if there was anything Tri-Star needs that would help them to make their job easier. Kathy stated that a thumper for automated CPR or an automatic cot that can be raised or lowered by battery would be beneficial. Garden Township will check to see if it's legal to purchase items for Tri-Star, such as a thumper, and also mention it to Fairbanks and Nahma Townships to see if they would be able to do the same provided it's legal. Kathy will get some quotes on a thumper and the automatic cot. Steve will contact Fairbanks and Nahma townships to see if they could use some of their ARPA funds for Tri-Star. Financial reports have not been received from Tri-Star on an annual basis. Kathy stated she is sending Tri-Star's financial reports to the Bay de Noc Ambulance Authority so they'll need to be reminded to forward them to the townships.

Janet left the meeting at this point.

- **Purchase of Recorder for the Planning Commission:** A motion was made by Craig, seconded by Sue, to purchase a second recorder for the Planning Commission for under \$100.00. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, and Steve – yes. Motion carried.

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

**Lawsuit:** In the future, the Board will go into executive session with township attorney before any more decisions are made regarding pending litigation. Attorney will also be consulted on how the township can save attorney costs on negotiations.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Brenda made a motion, seconded by Craig, to adjourn. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lee Lester  
Garden Township Clerk