

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 7, 2023**

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: Under Fire Department add software application and for the Transfer station report, letter received from Delta Solid Waste.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

MINUTES: Janet made a motion, supported by Craig, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on January 10, 2023, special meetings held on January 17, 2023, January 26, 2023, and February 2, 2023. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Sue made a motion, seconded by Janet, to approve the closed session minutes from January 17, 2023. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to approve the following budget amendments presented by the Clerk:

Fire Department

- Local Community Stabilization Rev.: Increase from 8,000.00 to \$9,195.39, an increase of \$1,195.39
- CFR Settlements & Payback Revenue: Increase from \$25.00 to \$287.29, an increase of \$262.29
- Fire Department Wages: Increase from \$5,000.00 to \$7,300.00, an increase of \$2,300.00
- Miscellaneous Revenue: Increase from \$700.00 to \$1,933.96, an increase of \$1,233.96
- Fire Prevention Expense: Increase from \$500.00 to \$528.00, an increase of \$28.00
- Insurance Expense: Increase from \$9,100.00 to \$11,200.00, an increase of \$2,100.00
- Miscellaneous Expense: Increase from \$375.00 to \$975.00, an increase of \$600.00
- Building Maintenance Expense: Decrease from \$4,998.19 to \$2,661.83, a decrease of \$2,336.36

Transfer Station

- Gas & Oil Expense: Increase from \$7,000.00 to \$9,525.00, an increase of \$2,525.00
- Property Building Upgrades Expense: Decrease from \$3,000.00 to \$1,550.00, a decrease of \$1,450.00
- Miscellaneous Revenue: Increase from \$-0- to \$400.00, an increase of \$400.00
- Drug Screening Expense: Decrease from \$500.00 to \$350.00, a decrease of \$150.00
- CFR Distribution Revenue: Increase from \$50.00 to \$575.00, an increase of \$525.00

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Janet made a motion, seconded by Craig, to approve the bills. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Janet – yes, Sue – yes, and Steve – yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Joe Maki, Township Assessor, gave the assessor's report and a copy of the report will be kept on file. There will not be an assessor's report in March due to the Board of Review. They are working on the county sales and appraisal studies for 2023 assessment roll. The March Board of Review will be held on March 15, 2023 and March 17, 2023. The organizational meeting will be on March 7, 2023.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief, Keith Farley gave his report. The purchase of T-shirts and hats shouldn't be a problem. They are looking into a new application for their phones that gives them information on locations (GPS) and also has some other useful tools. The Fire Department will try the 60-day free trial and if it works well, they'd like to purchase it at a cost of \$325.00 per year. If Fairbanks Township purchases new air packs for the Fire Department, the department will need about 10 refurbished air bottles at approximately \$900.00 each. They are looking at getting a battery powered jaws combination tool for the new brush truck which is about \$10,000.00.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: Purchase of flag poles for the cemeteries was tabled.

TREASURER: The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balance for January, 2023.

TOWNSHIP HALL: The grant from the Michigan Participating Plan was approved for the hall generator in the amount of \$4,000.00 with the township being responsible for an additional \$7,685.00 plus the gas line installation of about \$500.00. Waiting on more information for the roof repair.

TRANSFER STATION: While enroute to Solid Waste, the semi had a spillage of trash occur in Escanaba. Delta Solid Waste assisted Bill with the clean-up and they waived the \$300.00 fee they would normally charge.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Nothing to report.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: The list of 911 signs that need to be made that were missed has been sent to Mike Lange. It is uncertain whether Garden Township will need to pay for these or if there are still funds available through the Delta County Townships Association after the 911 signs were first installed but we don't know when they will be ready. There may be upcoming grants available for any signs in the future.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Planning Commission is still working on the interim solar ordinance. The township received soil maps from USDA that shows where prime soils are located in Garden Township. Escanaba Township's solar ordinance has an overlay which disallows commercial solar farms in any areas where prime soil is located. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Craig, to provide the soil maps received from USDA to the Garden Township Planning Commission for them to review for their recommendation. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Not present.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Planning Commission Member Resignation:** Janet received a letter of resignation from Tracy Waeghe for the Planning Commission. Sue made a motion to accept Ms. Waeghe's resignation, seconded by Craig. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

- **Supervisor Resignation:** A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Janet, to accept the resignation of Steven Freeman as Garden Township Supervisor effective February 8, 2023. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Steve abstained. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **ARPA Funds – Enhanced Services from TriStar:** Tri-Star is in need of upgrading their equipment to provide enhanced services for the public. Supervisor will contact Fairbanks and Nahma Township to see if they would agree to pay their share of the cost, 1/3 from each township. Tabled.
- **Planning and Zoning Commission Member Appointment:** One application was received for Planning Commission Member, Rose DeVora. Motion was made by Sue, seconded by Brenda, to appoint Rosemary DeVora. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. This is for a term ending June 30, 2025.
- **Township Supervisor Appointment:** Two applications were received to fill the Supervisor's position, Mark Bullard and Kathy Young. Motion was made by Sue, seconded by Craig, to appoint Kathy Young as the Garden Township Supervisor. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, and Janet – yes. Steve abstained. Motion carried.

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 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lee Lester
Garden Township Clerk