

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**July 12, 2022**

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor, Steven Freeman.

**Present:** Brenda Lester, Janet Feenstra Daasch, Craig Potvin, Susan Rochefort, and Steven Freeman

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Added under Unfinished Business: Steven's Lake Road Repairs, Alger-Delta Franchise Agreement, and 18<sup>th</sup> Road. Added under New Business: Color copier for the township hall, foreclosed property, and Hiawatha Telephone Project.

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

**MINUTES:** Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, to approve the minutes as read for the regular meeting held on May 10, 2022 and special meeting held on June 27, 2022. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

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

**GENERAL FUND**

- **Legal, Contracted Services Exp.:** Increase from \$6,500.00 to \$15,500.00
- **Cemetery Contracted Services Exp:** Decrease from \$9,000.00 to \$-0-

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- **Communication Equipment Exp.:** Decrease from \$4,000.00 to \$3,800.00
- **Miscellaneous Exp.:** Increase from \$175.00 to \$375.00.

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

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

**REPORTS**

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT:** Assessor was not in attendance to present the assessor report. A copy was received and will be kept on file.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chief, Keith Farley, gave his report. The July 2nd fireworks were held on Craig and Nicole Potvin's property. It appears that MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) will go forward in Delta County. Keith thinks we may hear before the end of August. One of the trucks need AC repairs.

**CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT:** The new laptop to be paid from Help America Vote Act funds will arrive soon. Clerk's hours for the last weekend before the election will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. The second ARPA payment was received and all the ARPA money was transferred to its own account. The cemetery is still getting cleaned up from the storm damage. Steve received a complaint regarding the condition of the cemetery. Brenda has mailed out 108 absentee ballots so far. The elections budget may run short this year. No pricing has been received yet from U.P. Propane.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balance for the month of June, 2022.

**TOWNSHIP HALL:** Update on 18<sup>th</sup> Road was moved to Old Business. Sue will call around for bids from licensed and insured contractors to repair the hall roof and take out the old chimneys. Gary Sporer is supposed take care of the inside repairs to the drywall. Sue inquired about the Wi-Fi access for hall rentals. Brenda stated the board was advised in the past not to give out the password to anyone other than board members due to security reasons.

**TRANSFER STATION:** Janet made a motion, seconded by Craig, to approve the land transaction agreement with the DNR. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Janet updated the board regarding the recreation plan. It still needs to be decided what the Village of Garden and Fairbanks Township will pay toward the bill of \$5,500.00. Janet will contact Fairbanks and the Village to ask them what they are willing to pay toward the bill. The Village still hasn't approved the recreation plan.

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:** Garden Township received a notice from the County Treasurer giving the township the chance to obtain a foreclosed parcel. Motion was made by Janet, supported by Sue, to NOT act on foreclosed property, parcel number 010-181-004-00. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Brenda made a motion to reschedule the regular township board meeting scheduled on August 9, 2022 to August 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., supported by Janet. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Bylaws were passed for the Planning Commission. They are now considering an interim zoning ordinance. They are scheduled for another meeting on July 15, 2022. The township board needs to approve a budget for planning commission/zoning expenses. The township also needs to hire a zoning director and will need to have an appeals board if the zoning ordinance is passed. Joe Maki was the prior zoning director for the City of Gladstone so he will be contacted to ask him to meet with the township board.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER:** Not present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Fire Signs Update:** Steve updated the board on the fire signs project. There's a meeting scheduled with Jen Peterson and Jody Norman on July 28, 2022 and they will give Steve updates on the project.
- **Steven's Lake Road Repairs:** Tabled.
- **Alger Delta Franchise Agreement:** Still pending.
- **18th Road Repairs:** Sue will contact the Delta County Road Commission to see if there are any funds there from DTE or Heritage for repairs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Insurance Coverage for Zoning:** Brenda will call Mark Hannula to see if he will meet with the board for addition coverage.
- **Color Copier:** Brenda presented a quote from Cooper Office Supply for a new colored copier. Tabled.
- **Hiawatha Telephone Company:** The board was updated on a new project by Hiawatha Telephone to install underground cables for internet in the northern part of Garden Township.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public comment was received.

Janet made a motion, seconded by Craig, to adjourn. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester  
Garden Township Clerk