

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 8, 2022

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:04 p.m. by Deputy Supervisor, Gary Sporer.

Present: Janet Feenstra-Daasch, Sue Rochefort, Craig Potvin, Brenda Lester and Gary Sporer, Deputy Supervisor

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Added March Board of Review dates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

MINUTES: Sue made a motion, seconded by Craig, to approve the minutes as read for the regular meeting held on January 11, 2022; and budget meetings held on January 25, 2022, as amended; and February 1, 2022. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

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

General Fund:

- Contracted Assessor Expense: Increase from \$18,500.00 to \$19,026.00, an increase of \$526.00
- Equalization Services Expense: Increase from \$2,500.00 to \$2,582.07, an increase of \$82.07
- Elections Wages Expense: Decrease from \$2,200.00 to \$1,591.93, a decrease of \$608.07

Fire Department:

- Miscellaneous Revenue: Increase from \$2,328.18 to \$3,004.70, an increase of \$676.52
- Miscellaneous Expense: Increase from \$1,628.18 to \$2,304.70, an increase of \$676.52

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

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

REPORTS:

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Colleen Maki presented the assessor report. A copy of the report will be on file.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief, Keith Farley, presented his report. Keith received three estimates on turnout gear that will be paid from the DNR grant funds: The estimates were from Pomasl Fire Equipment for \$2,421.00, Dinges Fire Company for \$2300.00, \$2,380.00, and \$3,200.20. Keith recommended to purchase from Pomasl because the gear would match. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, to allow the Fire Chief to order two sets of turnout gear from Pomasl in the amount of \$2,421.00 plus shipping for each set. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, and Janet – yes. Six fire extinguishers were used and need to be filled. Keith will contact J.F. Ahern.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: Brenda is still working on the cemetery ordinance. The workman's compensation audit request from the Accident Fund has been received. Income tax reporting has been completed for 2021.

TREASURER: The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balance for the month of December, 2021. Janet will be in the office on February 14, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to collect taxes.

TOWNSHIP HALL: The new drop box for the township hall has been installed. The new scrubber has been received at Hiawatha Chef and they will have it delivered once they try it out. Sue is looking for new

paper towel and soap dispensers for the hall. Highline Internet will be at the Garden Township Hall on February 24, 2022 for a public meeting.

TRANSFER STATION: The tractor needed repairs and has been fixed. Discussion was held on whether the wood chipper should be sold but was tabled.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Recreation committee met on February 3, 2022. There was a presentation by Julia Cogger of CUPPAD with the results of the survey and she will work on some ideas for goals.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Gary gave his report. Gary and Dick Seibert will attend Board of Review training. The attic in the hall is partially done with the remaining repairs to be done in the spring after everything is thawed.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: John Malnar, District 1 Delta County Commissioner, was not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Fire Signs:** Signs have been printed and will be installed in the spring.
- **Purchase of State Land at Transfer Station:** Still pending.
- **American Rescue Plan:** Guidelines were updated that allows more flexibility with spending the money. Bonuses may be given to employees that needed to work through COVID.
- **Floor Scrubber for Township Hall:** This was covered in the Hall report.
- **Road Repairs:** Tabled. To be discussed during the upcoming Budget Workgroup meeting to be held on February 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m..
- **Cemetery Ordinance:** Still pending.
- **Posting of Hall Policy:** Sue is working on posting the hall rules sign in the hall.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor:** Gary Sporer is stepping down as the Garden Township Deputy Supervisor the end of March, 2022. The supervisor position may need to be on the ballot for the August Primary and November General Election in 2022 pending the status of the Township Supervisor.
- **2022 Election:** Transfer Station millage will end in December 2022. The board also discussed the possibility of a road millage. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Janet, to renew the Transfer Station Millage with two mills to be placed on the August 4, 2022 Primary Election ballot and give the Clerk the authority to contact the township attorney to draft the ballot language. Roll Call Vote: Janet – yes, and Sue – yes, Craig – yes, and Brenda - yes. Motion carried. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Janet, to run the Transfer Station millage for 10 years, through December, 2032. Roll Call Vote: Janet – yes, Sue – yes, Craig – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried.
- **Board of Review:** The organizational meeting for the March Board of Review will be held on March 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The Board of Review public appeal sessions will be on March 15, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and March 17, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Brenda made a motion, seconded by Craig, to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester
Garden Township Clerk