

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2022**

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor, Steve Freeman.

Present: Craig Potvin, Sue Rochefort, Steve Freeman and Janet Feenstra Daasch
Absent: Brenda Lester

Supervisor Freeman started the meeting with an apology to Tyler Lucus for the error of siting him in violation of the solar moratorium.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Under cemetery, bring up purchase of a flag- pole for the old cemetery.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

MINUTES: Motion made by Janet to table the approval of Minutes for the regular meeting on November 10 and the special meeting on November 29 due to death in the Clerk's family. Sue seconded the motion. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Janet made a motion to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Sue. Roll call vote: Craig -yes, Sue -yes, Janet -yes, Steve - yes. Motion carried

REPORTS:

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Coleen Maki gave the assessor's report, and a copy will be on file. Collen stated that the State of Michigan is doing audits on Principal Resident Exemption. Most audits came from the family not filing a death certificate. The Estate can receive a bill for the current year and three previous years if the family does not reapply. The taxable values went up, this tax year it was up around 3% and for 2023 taxes it will go up 5%. The millage is levied on the taxable value by a 1994 Law. Parcels without the PRE will notice the increase.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief, Keith Farley discussed the Amended Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association agreement. The participation in this agreement is at no cost to the township. It will take about a year to get it up to working but Delta County wants it signed and sent to them. Janet made a motion that Garden Township sign the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association agreement. Craig seconded. Ayes: 4, Nays, 0. Motion carried. Fire Department will plow for First Bank. First Bank said they will send a donation in the amount of \$700.00 for the

Fire Department. There were many calls for October and November and Keith requested that money be taken out of the contingency fund to pay the fireman since there would not be enough in the budget. Keith reported that there is a problem with their radios and they are ordered to put them back the way they were and there will be a cost to the Fire Dept.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: No report with absence of clerk.

TREASURER: Tabled until report can be compared to the clerk's report.

TOWNSHIP HALL: Report on problem with the roof. Valentines Creek Construction & Maintenance suggested that they locate and replace the missing or damaged screws, seal up the roof with a sealant paint and look for any damaged joists and replace them. They will give us an estimated cost and can begin work in the Spring.

TRANSFER STATION: The Board of Directors of Delta solid Waste Management Authority voted at the November regular meeting to reduce the tipping fees by \$.25 per ton, instead of the previously discussed amount. This will become effective January 1, 2023. The change is due to many increased costs.

PARKS AND RECREATION: No activity since last regular meeting.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Steve stated that he will have Joy Brooks report on the FEMA flood study at our next meeting. Our township received the flood maps that were updated from the last ones done in 1999. The updated flood levels are only those along Lake Michigan, not inland lakes.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Janet presented the temporary solar zoning ordinance recommended by the Planning Commission for a vote. The board decided to vote on it when all board members are present. The October 24th meeting of the Planning Commission was a rezoning hearing and the Commission voted to not approve the requested change in zoning.

County commissioner: Not present

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was received.

Motion made by Janet to adjourn, seconded by Craig. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm

Respectfully submitted by Janet Daasch, Garden Township Treasurer in absence of Clerk.