

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 13, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:11 p.m. by Supervisor, Katherine Young.

Present: Kathy Young, Brenda Lester, Craig Potvin, and Sue Rochefort. Jenna Silkworth was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public was present but there were no public comments.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: The budget amendments were presented at the February 8, 2024, budget meeting but there was no motion to approve. The Clerk presented a new budget amendment request to include the requests from the February 8, 2024, meeting with some changes as follows:

General Fund:

- Other-Miscellaneous, Other Exp.: Increase from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00, an increase of \$500.00
- General Insurance Exp.: Increase from \$5,500 to \$6,000.00, an increase of \$500.00
- Treasurer Mileage Exp.: Increase from \$550.00 to \$750.00, an increase of \$200.00
- Assessor/Equalization Contracted Equalization Services Exp.: Increase from \$2,700.00 to \$3,000.00, an increase of \$300.00
- Elections Mileage Exp.: Increase from \$400.00 to \$800.00, an increase of \$400.00
- Elections Wages for Training Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$300.00
- Election Wages Exp.: Increase from \$1,300.00 to \$1,500.00, an increase of \$200.00
- Zoning Fees Rev.: Increase from \$1,150.00 to \$1,650.00, an increase of \$500.00
- Cemetery Wages Exp.: Decrease from \$7,000.00 to \$5,000.00, a decrease of \$2,000.00
- Contracted Services Legal Exp.: Decrease from \$33,375.00 to \$32,675.00, a decrease of \$700.00
- Township Office Furniture & Equipment: Increase from \$3,700.00 to \$4,500.00, an increase of \$800.00

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to approve the meeting agenda for February 13, 2024. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Brenda made a motion, supported by Sue, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on January 9, 2024; and budget workgroup session meetings held on January 5, 2024, February 1, 2024, and February 8, 2024. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Craig, to approve payment of the bills including the addition for Manistique Oil for the Fire Department. Roll Call Vote: Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Craig – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

ASSESSOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS: Assessor/Zoning Administrator was not present; however, his report was received and a copy will be kept on file.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: The Fire Department needs more batteries for their tools so they will be purchasing four or five so they have back-ups. Delta County approached the Fire Department to take on a hovercraft boat. Everything comes with the boat and the Fire Department would need to be trained. The cost of gear for each person would be about \$800.00 per person for possibly four people. Keith will get more information and get back to the board. Keith had Rick Laux go to the Fire Department to provide estimates on replacing the window and to take measurements for a new floor. They also requested more chairs. The Fire Department would now like to have some cabinets installed with a counter top. They may be able to ping off the hall's Starlink internet.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: Public Accuracy testing for the Presidential Primary will take place on February 15, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Brenda will attend Early Voting training on February 14, 2024.

TREASURER: No report.

TOWNSHIP HALL: There are two rentals scheduled for graduation parties on May 18, 2024, and June 9, 2024. Sue called D & L for an estimate to have the floor stripped and waxed. D & L said it would be 65 cents a square foot. The board discussed painting, cleaning the ceiling fans, and replacing two ceiling tiles before the floors are done.

TRANSFER STATION: Bill had a special bracket made to help against people stealing gas from the tank at the Transfer Station. It was also discussed to install a chain link fence around the gas tank but no action was taken. Bill will put up another camera. Brenda requested that Kathy get a copy of the report from the Sheriff for the gas theft that was reported. The fence needs some repairs and the wooden pole barn needs to be stained. The company where the township purchased the ram is now out of business.

PARKS AND RECREATION: No report.

PLANNING COMMISSION: No report.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Since the last meeting, Kathy called the Sheriff Department and had asked Bill to call them regarding the gas theft. Kathy will check with the Road Commission to find out what roads need repair.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Hall Roof:** A bid sheet was received from Bittner that may be considered to be used by vendors regarding the repair of the hall roof. Craig made a motion, seconded by Brenda, to put an advertisement in the Daily Press for roof replacement for the Garden Township Hall with sealed bids. Roll Call Vote: Kathy – yes, Sue – yes, Craig – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried.
- **Side by Side:** The Fire Department is working on the repair of the old side by side so it can be put up for sale.

NEW BUSINESS

- **New Zoning Ordinance:** A zoning ordinance was received to be considered for the Planning Commission for renewable energy. A telephone meeting will be set up with the Township Attorney, members of the Planning Commission, and Kathy.
- **Citizens for Local Control:** Kathy presented the information that this group will be circulating petitions to have local control for renewable energy placed on the ballot.
- **Michigan Township Participating Plan Board of Directors Election:** Nominations are being accepted for their board of directors.
- **Transfer Station Gas Theft:** Covered in the Transfer Station report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comments were received.

A motion was made by Craig, seconded by Sue to adjourn. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lee Lester
Garden Township Clerk