

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 8, 2023**

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

**Present:** Kathy Young, Brenda Lester, Jenna Silkworth, Susan Rochefort, and Craig Potvin

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to add under New Business new meeting time for regular board meetings. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

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

**MINUTES:** Brenda made a motion, supported by Craig, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on July 11, 2023. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** The following budget amendments were presented to the board for consideration:

**General Fund**

- Treasurer Mileage Exp.: Increase from \$250.00 to \$550.00, an increase of \$300.00
- Treasurer Software & Support Exp.: Decrease from \$1,500.00 to \$600.00, a decrease of \$900.00
- Assessor Software & Support Exp: Increase from \$250.00 to \$975.00, an increase of \$725.00
- Cemetery Misc. Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$40.00, an increase of \$40.00
- Cemetery Ads & Notices Exp.: Increase from \$100.00 to \$300.00, an increase of \$200.00
- Township Office Books Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$60.00, an increase of \$60.00
- Treasurer Training Fees Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$90.00, an increase of \$90.00
- Clerk Training Fees Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$180.00, an increase of \$180.00
- Interest Revenue: Increase from \$800.00 to \$1,345.00, an increase of \$545.00

**Fire Department**

- Software & Support Exp.: Increase from \$350.00 to \$355.00, an increase of \$5.00.
- Local Community Stabilization Rev.: Increase from \$8,500.00 to \$8,505.00, an increase of \$5.00

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:** Jenna made a motion, seconded by Sue, to approve the bills as presented by the Clerk. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

***ASSESSOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:*** Joe Maki presented his assessor and zoning administrator reports. Copies will be kept on file. Included was a land split that was approved.

***CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT:*** Board agreed to ask Arnold if he would paint the lot markers at the cemetery if Betty isn't able to.

***FIRE DEPARTMENT:*** Keith Farley, Fire Chief, was not present. No report.

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

**TOWNSHIP HALL:** Waiting for Bittner to come and give an estimate for the hall roof. Sue will check with Arnold to see if he'll pressure wash the hall exterior. If he's not able to the Township will need to find someone else to do it.

**TRANSFER STATION:** Tipping fees will increase to \$70.00 per ton effective January 1, 2024. There's no news on the repair of the recycle bin. New dump trailer has not been received yet and probably won't be received until September.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Nothing to report. Playground equipment grant information was received. Jenna will look into it and update the board next month.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** They will meet on August 10, 2023. They plan on meeting monthly for a period of time. April minutes were not approved at the July meeting. Jenna will take on the responsibility of acquiring the minutes for the Clerk.

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:** Kathy, Brenda, and Jenna attended their trainings with the Michigan Townships Association. Kathy will attend the meeting on August 10, 2023, at the Road Commission regarding the emergency 911 signs.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Cemetery Signs:** Brenda contacted Steve Johnson. He believes he can do four signs for \$1,200.00 which includes the two new 4x4 posts needed for the additional sign along with its installation. Jurisdiction name could be included on the new signs. Jenna made a motion, seconded by Craig, to approve new cemetery signs in the amount of \$1,200.00. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried. The signs with the cemetery rules were recommended at the Cemetery Management training Brenda attended.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Anderson & Tackman Letter of Engagement:** Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to approve the letter of understanding with Anderson Tackman in order for them to complete the Township's F-65 report and do the year-end closing entries. Roll Call Vote: Brenda – yes, Craig – yes, Kathy – yes, Jenna – yes, and Sue – yes. Motion carried.
- **Road Commission Dust Control Invoice:** Invoice was received for the dust control from the Delta County Road Commission in the amount of \$10,896.00. It appears they did continuous coverage, rather than spot coverage, on some roads. The board approved spot coverage. Brenda contacted Jody Norman of the Road Commission asking why continuous was done. She was told that the driver went by what he was told by the Supervisor in the past. The gallons used almost doubled compared to last year's bill - Brenda said continuous was done once when Morgan Tatrow was Supervisor and it wasn't asked for since. Last year's bill reflected over 13,000 gallons and this year's bill was over 22,000 gallons. Brenda contacted prior supervisors Richard Pichette, Gary Sporer, and Steve Freeman who all stated they didn't recall ever requesting continuous. Motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Craig, to approve a smaller payment of \$6,336.00 for the spraying of chloride in compliance to what was paid last year for the same dollar amount for 13,200 gallons verses what they bill the township for this year for 22,700 gallons that was not approved by the township board. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Jenna – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes, motion carried.
- **Cemetery Worker Wages:** Worker requested an increase in his wages from \$16.50 to \$18.00 per hour. Motion by Sue, seconded by Brenda, to deny wage increase request for cemetery worker. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, Kathy – yes, Brenda – yes, and Craig - yes. Motion carried.
- **T-Mobile Home Town Grant:** The Grow our Garden Group requested a letter of support for their application for the T-Mobile Home Town Grant to complete improvements within the Village of Garden. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, that the Garden Township Board complete a letter of support for the Grow our Garden Group for grant application to improve the park. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Cemetery Ordinance:** Brenda will complete an amendment to the Cemetery Ordinance and present it to the board at the next monthly meeting.

- **Hall Rental Fees:** Sue stated the hall isn't being used very often and recommended a smaller fee for small parties that don't include alcohol use. Tabled. Sue and Brenda will work on a new fee schedule and review the hall rental agreements.
- **Facebook and Web Site:** Motion made by Brenda, seconded by Craig, to dissolve Garden Township's Facebook account. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Michigan Community Center Grant:** No action.
- **Insufficient Funds for Payment of Taxes:** Motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Craig, to write off the previous loss from a nonsufficient check that was issued on February 28, 2023, for the \$40.00 of charges incurred for that nonsufficient check. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Sue – yes, Brenda – yes, Jenna – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.
- **Land Split:** A land division was approved by the Township Assessor for parcel number 010-070-001-00 requested by George and Joyce Leckson.
- **New Regular Board Meeting Time:** Brenda will check with the Michigan Townships Association to see what the requirements are to change the regular monthly meeting times. Tabled.

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

Brenda made a motion, seconded by Jenna, to adjourn. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lee Lester  
Garden Township Clerk