

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
May 9, 2023**

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

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

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

MINUTES: Brenda made a motion, supported by Craig, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on April 11, 2023. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORTS

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Joe Maki presented his assessor's report. He also gave a report as Zoning Administrator. Michigan State University education trainings will be taken by the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals members, along with himself and the supervisor to help the members with as well as to help with creating the Master Plan for Garden Township. Joe and/or Colleen Maki will have special meetings with the Planning Commission members in order to work on the commercial solar ordinance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report.

TREASURER: Jenna was absent but Brenda stated the Treasurer and Clerk accounts balance for all funds for the month of March, 2023.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: A Freedom of Information Act request was received from Michigan Ops for documents concerning the November, 2020 General Election. The fire protection money was received from Fairbanks Township. Cemetery clean-up is continuing.

TOWNSHIP HALL: Sue received an estimate from Valentine's Creek Construction for the township hall roof repair. They told Sue they will have workman's compensation coverage. Craig will make some calls to see if he can get someone to inspect the roof to find out more information regarding what should be done with it. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Craig, to approve the installation of 5 outside electrical outlets by Roemer Electric with an estimate of \$1,675.00 and Damon Plumbing and Heating to install a frost-free water faucet for \$325.00 for the township hall. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried. There is a rental on May 20, 2023 for a graduation party.

TRANSFER STATION: There's a problem again with metal being stolen at the Transfer Station. Bill may have some cameras given to him for the township to set up some type of security system. The recycle bin is getting in bad shape so the township may need to have repairs done or replace the bin in the future.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Outhouses are unlocked at the township park. The solar lights were stolen again for the pit toilets. No action by the board for replacement of the lights.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Their next quarterly meeting will be the first Thursday in July at 7:00. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to place an ad in The Advisor stating the current moratorium does not apply for residential solar. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Delta County Road Commission and the 911 Authority are working on the address issues within the county.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Enhanced Services for Tri-Star (Bay de Noc Ambulance Authority):** Tabled.
- **Speed Study:** Resolution was read by Kathy. Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to adopt the resolution requesting a speed study for U.S. Highway 2 by Garden Corners. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes.
- **Flag Poles for Cemeteries:** The volunteer plans on placing the two flag poles and solar lights at the Old Garden and Kate's Bay Cemeteries.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Flowers for Hall:** A motion was made by Sue, supported by Craig, to approve the purchase of flowers and supplies for the township hall up to \$150.00 to be reimbursed to Terese Tuman. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Brenda – yes and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.
- **Cemetery Deed for Robert & Patsy Haas:** Motion was made by Sue, seconded by Craig, to add Patsy Haas's name to the cemetery deed with Robert Haas for graves in the New Garden Cemetery. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Brenda – yes, Craig – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.
- **Michigan Townships Association Training Subscription:** A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to not renew the training subscription offered by the Michigan Township's Association. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Request for Parcel Number 21-010-440-002-00:** At the April 11 2023 meeting a zoning variance was approved but lacked information; therefore, Brenda requested the minutes reflect that and a new motion be made with more information. A motion was made by Brenda, supported by Craig, to approve the Zoning Variance request received by Patrick Kelly for parcel No. 21-010-440-002-00. The variance requested is in the minimum side lot-line setback requirements in a Resource Production zoning district from ordinance requirement of thirty (30) feet to five (5) feet to construct a proposed detached garage. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.
- **Dust Control Contract:** A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to approve the dust control contract, spot applied of 48 cents per gallon with the Delta County Road Commission. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.
- **Township Hall Parking Lot:** A discussion was held as to whether or not the hall parking lot should have gravel to be made into a formal parking lot. The board decided to revisit the parking lot next fiscal year.
- **Part-Time Position:** Archie Gleason gave a verbal two-week notice to resign as groundskeeper for the cemeteries, township hall, and the parks. Motion was made by Craig, seconded by Sue, have the starting wage for this position of \$16.50 per hour. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried. Motion was made by Sue, seconded by Craig, to place an ad in The Advisor to fill the position with a deadline date of June 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried. Kathy has requested that Archie submit a written resignation with an effective date.
- **Planning and Zoning Trainings:** Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to approve the training fees through the Michigan State University Extension for members of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, Supervisor, and Zoning Administrator.

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

Fire Department

- Charges for Services Rev.: Increase from \$7,722.00 to 24,702.00, an increase of \$16,980.00
- Capital Outlay Expense: Increase from \$20,000.00 to \$36,980.00, an increase of \$16,980.00

General Fund

- Planning Commission Books Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$108.00, an increase of \$108.00
- Planning Commission Training Fees Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$1,225.00, an increase of \$1,225.00
- Planning Commission Wages for Training Exp: Increase from \$-0- to \$420.00, an increase of \$420.00
- ZBA Training Fees Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$1,375.00, an increase of \$1,375.00
- ZBA Wages for Training Exp.: Increase from \$-0- to \$420.00, an increase of \$420.00

- Supervisor Training Fees Exp.: Increase from \$200.00 to \$325.00, an increase of \$125.00
- Twp. Hall Capital Outlay Exp.: Increase from \$8,000.00 to \$12,164.00, an increase of \$4,164.00
- Nongovernmental Grant Rev.: Increase from \$4,000.00 to \$5,125.00, an increase of \$1,125.00
- Contingency Fund Rev.: Increase from \$11,021.14 to \$17,733.14, an increase of \$6,712.00

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was received.

Kathy made a motion, seconded by Sue, to adjourn. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lee Lester
Garden Township Clerk