

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
June 11, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:07 p.m. by Supervisor, Katherine Young.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comments were received.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to approve the meeting agenda for June 11, 2024. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Sue made a motion, seconded by Jenna, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on May 14, 2024. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None.

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

BOARD COMMISSIONS AND APPOINTMENTS: Rosemarie DeVora’s term on the Planning Commission ends June 30, 2024, not June 30, 2025; therefore, her term is up and a new member must be appointed. Kathy made a motion, seconded by Sue, to appoint Tim O’Neill as the new Planning Commission member with his term ending June 30, 2027. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

ASSESSOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS: Nathan Olson presented the Assessor/Zoning Administrator reports. The Assessor approved a **Land Division for Parcel Number 21-010-062-112-00** on behalf of Mark Petrich. A copy of the reports will be kept on file.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief, Keith Farley, gave his report. The 2015 Polaris Ranger is ready to be sold. Advertisements will be published in The Advisor asking for sealed bids with a deadline date of July 9, 2024. The Hovercraft was picked up and the rapid response boat will be picked up soon in Manistique, both at no charge to Garden Township.

TRANSFER STATION: No report.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: Some of the clerk reports were revised due to year-end postings. Revised reports were presented March, 2024, and April, 2024. Reports may be revised again due to adjustments from the upcoming audit. The May, 2024, report was also submitted. Jenna made a motion, seconded by Sue, to accept the Clerk’s fiscal reports. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried. The Accident fund sent the township a large refund check but it was an error due to the fact they removed the Fire Department. The township received another invoice, when in fact, should be receiving a refund. Brenda called the Accident Fund again and it was verified on the phone call that Garden Township will receive a refund of \$1,333.00 and the invoice that was received should not be paid. Brenda will attend the monthly Clerk’s meeting on June 12, 2024, for early voting again. Early voting for all jurisdictions in Delta County will be held again at the Wells Township Hall from July 27, 2024 through August 4, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Garden Township needs to provide one election worker to work. Brenda will be attending Election Recertification training in Escanaba on June 20, 2024. Eight graves were sold on June 10, 2024. The letter of engagement has been received, signed, and returned to Anderston Tackman for the upcoming audit. There are three upcoming burials scheduled. Available graves to sell are getting low so the board needs to consider what should be planned.

TREASURER: The Clerk and Treasurer's balance of all funds for May, 2024, agree. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to accept the Treasurer's report. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried. A.R.P.A. fund has been spent in full.

TOWNSHIP HALL: The Pickle Ball Group asked that we put when they meet on the township's website. Location of the pickle ball net was discussed. It was the consensus of the Board that the Pickle Ball Group needs to take the net down when they are finished.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Jenna is still trying to schedule a meeting. Kathy is addressing the issue of having someone clean to pit toilets at the park.

PLANNING COMMISSION: They are going forward with the completion of the Master Plan. They will meet again on June 13, 2024.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: The Delta County Township's Association will be holding their picnic on July 25, 2024 at Pioneer Trail Park at 5:30. Some assessor information must be added to the township's website and the Assessor is working on it. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Jenna, to rescind the township's training fee reimbursement guidelines that states that training fees will not be paid by the township but must be paid by attendee and will only be reimbursed once that person actually attends the training and now be able to pay the fees in advance by the township. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Brenda – yes, Kathy – yes, and Jenna – yes. Motion carried. The saws that were denied reimbursement from the Fire Equipment Grant are not eligible so the township will not be receiving that money. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to approve and pay training fees for Kathy Young and a member of the Planning Commission to attend the second day training of the U.P. North Summit by the Michigan Township's Association to be held on July 24, 2024, at \$135.00 person along with payment of the bill. Roll Call Vote: Brenda – yes, Kathy – yes, Jenna – yes, and Sue – yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Hall Roof:** No updates.
- **Protective Cages for Security Cameras:** Only one security camera cage was purchased to see how it works out. If it works out, then the second one will be ordered.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Policy for Opening and Closing the Township Park:** A motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Brenda, to make a policy to open the Township Park the Friday preceding Memorial Day and close it for the season on October 31st every year. Roll Call Vote: Kathy – yes, Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried.
- **Renewal of Interim Zoning Ordinance:** Resolution to renew the interim zoning ordinance was read by Brenda. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to adopt the resolution to renew the interim zoning ordinance for a period of one-year, effective July 30, 2024. Roll Call Vote: Kathy – yes, Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried. It will be published in the Daily Press.
- **Gazebo Donation:** A member of the community wanted to donate a gazebo to the township. The gazebo was already promised to the Village of Garden so it's no longer available.
- **Road Commission Plan for Garden Township:** The project agreement was received from the Road Commission proposing gravel for 18th Road. The Hiawatha National Forest PILT money has not been received yet this year. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to table this until more clarification can be received from them concerning the amount of funds the township will be responsible for. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Kathy will attend a Road Commission meeting.
- **Chloride:** A motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Sue, to approve chloride treatment, spot applied except continuous feed along the golf course. Roll Call Vote: Brenda – yes, Kathy – yes, Jenna – yes, and Kathy -Yes. Motion carried.
- **Early Voting Agreement:** A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to approve the amended agreement for election services between Delta County and the townships and cities of Delta County for Early Voting. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.
- **Local Community Stabilization May Payment:** The May stabilization funds received do not have to be distributed per the millage rates but may be distributed at the township's discretion per

accountant from Anderson Tackman. The township just received \$25,232.75. Jenna made a motion, seconded by Brenda, to appropriate \$6,000.00 from the May distribution of the stabilization funds to the Fire Department with the remainder to be deposited into the General Fund. Roll Call Vote: Brenda – yes, Kathy – yes, Sue – yes, and Jenna – yes. Motion carried.

- **Tax Rate Request:** A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to request the maximum allowed for all the millage rates for Garden Township. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comments were received.

A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Jenna, to adjourn. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lee Lester
Garden Township Clerk