

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 9, 2024**

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:06 p.m. by Clerk, Brenda Lester.

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

**FACILITATOR:** A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Jenna, to appoint Brenda to chair the meeting in the absence of the township supervisor. Ayes: 3, Nays: 1. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public were present but no comments were received.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Sue, to approve the meeting agenda for July 9, 2024. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Jenna made a motion, seconded by Sue, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on June 11, 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: Craig – yes, Jenna – yes, Brenda – yes, and Sue – yes. Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

***ASSESSOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:*** Assessor/Zoning Administrator reports were presented to the Board. A motion was made by Brenda, supported by Jenna, to accept the Assessor and Zoning Administrator Reports. A copy of the reports will be kept on file.

***FIRE DEPARTMENT:*** Fire Chief, Keith Farley, was not present. No bids were received for the 2015 Polaris by the deadline. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna; to advertise the sale of the 2015 Polaris again but it will be placed in the U.P. Action Paper with a starting bid of \$13,750. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

***TRANSFER STATION:*** Bill requested the Township order a Hazmat book for his use at the Transfer Station.

***CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT:*** The auditors from Anderson Tackman were at the Township office on July 2, 2024, to perform the audit. Early voting starts on July 27, 2024, for Delta County voters and will be held at the Wells Township Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through August 4, 2024. A motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Sue, to accept the Clerk's financial report for the Month of June 2024.

***TREASURER:*** There is no Treasurer's report for June but it will be provided to the board at the regular meeting to be held on August 13, 2024. Hiawatha National Forrest P.I.L.T. money was received.

***TOWNSHIP HALL:*** Craig is still working on the exterior doors at the township hall.

***PARKS AND RECREATION:*** Jenna gave her report.

***PLANNING COMMISSION:*** They are going forward with the completion of the Master Plan with the assistance of C.U.P.P.A.D. Frank Williams will attend the MTA Training on Meeting Disrupters. There has been mention of repeated concerns at several of the Planning Commission meetings with a particular parcel that has multiple campers on it and is being used as a full-time residence. Jack Smith, the Delta County Building administrator was contacted. Per Jenna, he assured them there are no violations because they are not building. The Delta County Health Department has also been contacted due to concerns with their waste water but there were no concerns there, either. Some members of the Planning Commission want to develop an ordinance limiting the number of days someone may live in a camper and how many campers a person can have on their property. The Township Board would have to be the authority to develop an ordinance. It went to a vote with the Planning Commission but it did not pass.

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:** Deputy Supervisor, Janet Feenstra Daasch, gave the Supervisor's report in Kathy's absence. Delta County Township's Association Picnic is July 25, 2024. Kathy and Janet attended the Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital's Meet and Greet at The Grove. Kathy and Janet attempted to attend the Delta County Road Commission meeting on June 25, 2024, but when they got there it was canceled. The Par Plan Risk Assessment was on June 13, 2024. A list was sent to the township with recommendations. Kathy requested free water/temperature sensors from them which have already been received and are installed next to each furnace in the township hall. Sue will need to get the app for the sensors so that she receives the alerts. Kathy is the designated contact person for the Delta County Materials Management Notifications. Delta County Commissioners will submit a notice of intent to prepare a Materials Management Plan to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy in the next few weeks. This notice of intent will be submitted jointly to prepare a multi-county Materials Management Plan for Alger, Delta, Dickenson, Marquette, Menominee and Schoolcraft Counties. C.U.P.P.A.D. will act as the designated planning agency regarding the plan and for the coordination of the committee.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Hall Roof:** No updates.
- **Protective Cages for Security Cameras:** Still working on adapting the protective cage to accommodate the camera.
- **Project Material Agreement with the Road Commission:** Brenda made a motion to table the Project Material agreement for 18<sup>th</sup> Road, also known as N-14 Road, supported by Jenna. Motion carried. The Garden Township Board will attend the next meeting for the Road Commission.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Pickle Ball Net:** It was the consensus of the board to allow the pickle ball net to stay up and be placed on the east wall of the township hall when not in use but it will need to be taken down before any events. Sue will contact the group and let them know.
- **Radiator Replacement for the Tractor:** The radiator needs to be replaced for the tractor.
- **Participating Plan Recommendation for Fuel Tanks at the Transfer Station:** A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to have the Supervisor check into the fuel tanks and work on other items suggested by the Par Plan Risk Assessment report.
- **Community Service Participant Request:** Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to allow a person to do community service for Garden Township recommended by District Court. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **General Fund Millage:** A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Craig, to place on the November ballot a proposal to increase the operating millage back to one mill for the General Fund. Roll Call Vote: Jenna – No, Sue – yes, Craig – yes, and Brenda – no. Motion failed.
- **Revision of Capitalization Policy:** Resolution to revise Garden Township's Capitalization Policy was read by Brenda. A motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Brenda, to adopt the resolution to revise the Capitalization Policy for Garden Township. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried.
- **Local Community Stabilization Funds Overpayment to the Fire Department:** Local Community Stabilization Funds were overpaid to the Fire Department for prior years, per Brandy Olson of Anderson Tackman. A motion was made by Jenna, supported by Sue, to have the Fire Department write checks to the General Fund in the amount of \$2,874.68 and the Transfer Station in the amount of \$14,232.29 for overpayment of stabilization funds from the Fire Department. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Brenda – yes, Jenna – yes, and Craig – yes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public comments were received.

A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Craig, to adjourn. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lee Lester  
Garden Township Clerk