

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**December 10, 2019**

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

**Present:** Mary Ann LeBresh, Lisa Pichette, Brenda Lester, Tyler Lucas and Richard Pichette.

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Interviews for Transfer Station substitute driver was added.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Tyler, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on November 12, 2019, and special meeting held on November 25, 2019. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** There is not enough in the wages account for the Fire Department to pay the latest runs that were submitted. Keith was instructed to continue completing the run sheets and the board might consider payment of future stipends at the end of this fiscal year. Brenda requested the budget get amended to allow for the runs that were just submitted. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Lisa, to increase the Fire Department wages expense account to \$5,175.00 (an increase of \$175.00) and decrease their building maintenance expense account to \$9,825.00 (a decrease of \$175.00). Roll Call Vote: Tyler – yes, Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:** Moved to the last item under Old Business.

**REPORTS:**

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT:** Assessor, Joe Maki, was present and gave his report. A copy will be placed on file.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Farley gave his report. There were four runs since the last meeting. One Modine furnace is beyond repair at the fire hall. The G-12 saw has been repaired by Lund's service. Keith attended a meeting for Delta County regarding the problems the county is experiencing with the radios and it appears that everyone will be changing over to the 800 radios.

**Transfer Station Interviews:** (moved from New Business) Interviews were held with Mike Ansell and Tracy Jones for the Substitute Driver/Attendant position at the Transfer Station.

**CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT:** E-payments were set up in time to pay the federal tax payment that was due in November for October before the deadline date. Brenda's new Deputy Clerk is Lisa Pichette.

**TREASURER/TOWNSHIP HALL:** Financial reports by the Treasurer have not been completed yet. Mary Ann will get them completed and the board will receive copies in a few days. Both hall furnaces have been cleaned and checked.

**TRANSFER STATION:** The plumbing vent was repaired. Bill stated the locks need to be changed on the gate. Bill will get the new lock and have extra keys made. More covered under old and new business.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Steve Johnson is still working on the new sign. Grant money for \$27,000 has been approved for the hall mural. Some of the grant money may be used to prep the building. The township board approved to buy the fence topper for the Village Park's baseball field.

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:** Supervisor stated that Delta County wants to make Delta County a sanctuary county for the second amendment. He also updated the board regarding several various meetings he attended.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Fire Signs Update/Payment of \$5,000.00:** The township has not received the request to pay DCTA yet; therefore, it will remain on the bill sheet as approved until it's been paid.
- **Furnace for Fire Hall:** Three bids were received for the replacement of a Modine furnace at the hall; Damon Plumbing and Heating for \$2,875.00, Eagle HVAC for \$3,101.44, and Paul's Plumbing for \$2,651.00. Motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Brenda, to accept the bid from Damon Plumbing and Heating provided there is a warranty on the equipment and their workmanship. Roll Call Vote: Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried. Board was contacted by Chad Damon before the meeting ended stating the equipment has a manufacturer's warranty and they will warranty their workmanship.
- **Building Repair at Transfer Station:** The repair to the outside of the building may be completed in a week.
- **Mural/Painting of Hall:** Discussed under Parks and Recreation.
- **Propane Tank and Septic for Hall:** Will be completed in the spring.
- **Tri-Star/Vacant Space at Fire Hall:** Kathy Young represented Tri-Star. Margaret Richard and Keith Farley was present but had to leave for an ambulance run. Richard stated he spoke to Margaret and she feels that Tri-Star will be able to pay one third of the electric. Water and spider spraying were also discussed and Kathy said the township would have to talk to Margaret. Tri-Star will pay for their own propane. Tri-Star does carry insurance so their contents would be covered. Tyler made a motion, seconded by Lisa, to allow Tri-Star to use the remaining propane that was left by Heritage provided they leave the same amount in the tank if they ever vacate the premises. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Lisa made a motion, seconded by Tyler, that Garden Township allow Tri-Star to use the space in the fire hall that was vacated by Heritage with them paying one third of the electric, water, and spider spray fee and they pay for their own propane. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried. The township asked that Tri-Star doesn't leave the lights on provided there is a switch by the door.
- **Floor Repair at Transfer Station:** It is scheduled for December 19, 2019.
- **Update on Insurance:** Hannula was able to change the category for the new Transfer Station truck from a class 7 to a class 3; therefore, the premium only went up approximately \$1,800 for the whole year. Discussion was held regarding whether the township should shop elsewhere for another carrier but there isn't much time for the board to do that. Brenda stated Hannula is always willing to work with the township. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann, that the township stay with Hannula for general insurance for the policy period through January 1, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:** There is an additional bill to Delta County for election expenses for the November election in the amount of \$408.15. The invoice from Damon Plumbing and Heating to repair the vent should be moved to the Transfer Station. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Mary Ann, to approve the bills as presented by the clerk with the corrections and to include the additional bill from Delta County. Roll Call Vote: Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Mary Ann – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Maintenance Schedule:** The board agreed to accept the new maintenance schedule that Richard completed for the hall, Transfer Station, and the fire hall.
- **Drug Screen Policy for Transfer Station:** Drug Screen Plus will help the township set up a drug screening program. They would pool our employees along with about 4,000 other people and they only check about 1,000 every year. We can send the employee to either Escanaba or Manistique for collection. Each employee would be provided a signed receipt. Their one-time set-up fee is \$275.00 and the annual fee is \$159.00. They will provide the forms. Each drug screen is \$45.00 and the urine screens are \$20.00 to \$40.00. There is also an additional fee of \$8.00 per driver. Test results would be sent to supervisor by mail. Richard will be meeting with the Department of

Transportation representative for Delta County on December 12, 2019. Richard will continue to look into this and update the board at the January meeting.

- **Social Security Scam:** Richard shared a handout regarding current Social Security scams.
- **Insight Account for Fuel at Transfer Station:** Richard will look into whether the fuel tanks must be contained. Tabled until a future date.
- **Budget Meeting Schedule:** Richard reminded the board to bring their calendars to the January meeting so that the budget meetings may be scheduled.
- **Transfer Station Candidates:** The township may hire someone now with the provision they will not drive the truck until the township has approved the drug policy and they've been tested with clear results. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Tyler, that the township hire Michael Ansell for the part-time driver/substitute position at the Transfer Station provided he doesn't drive and that he passes his drug test. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. The starting wage is \$11.50 per hour.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Lisa made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann, to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester  
Garden Township Clerk