

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 8, 2019**

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

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

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

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

**MINUTES:** Motion was made by Mary Ann, seconded by Lisa to approve minutes for regular meeting held on December 11, 2019, as presented by the Clerk. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:** Mary Ann made a motion, seconded by Lisa, to approve payment of the bills as presented by the clerk. Roll Call Vote: Brenda – yes, Tyler – yes, Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

***ASSESSOR’S REPORT:*** The assessor’s report was presented to the board and a copy will be placed on file.

***FIRE DEPARTMENT:*** Chief Farley presented his report. Motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Tyler to approve the application of a 2% grant through the Sault Tribe in the amount of \$6,500.00 to be used for new lighting at the firehall and approval for the township to install a motion light per the estimate from Kobas Electric in the amount of \$232.00. Roll call vote: Brenda – yes, Tyler – yes, Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried. Keith will do the paperwork for the grant application and the board should have an answer by the middle of March.

***CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT:*** Brenda stated the Township received another letter from the Michigan Department of Treasury regarding the issue with the September, 2017, quarter ending report indicating the township owes a penalty in the amount of \$38.11. Another letter was sent and hopefully it will now be resolved.

***TREASURER/TOWNSHIP HALL:*** The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balanced and a copy of the reports will be placed on file. Mary Ann will work on a list for people to sign when they want to use the hall. The list would indicate who is responsible if there is any damage done. Mary Ann still is working on getting a lock on the door knob for the office storage upstairs. Kitchen door knob needs to be worked on.

***TRANSFER STATION:*** The Township received a call from Coplan Iron and Metal stating they would now have to charge the township \$500 per trip to pick up the metal. Bill Harris is working with A & L for the metal recycling. The Village of Garden said that A & L were going to charge the Village \$100 per ton to pick up their metal but the township was not told that. Bill will call A & L and get clarification from them that the township will not be charged to pick up the metal. When Bill was out on leave the township needed someone to bring the garbage to Solid Waste. Gary Plante, the township’s substitute driver, no longer has a CDL so he wasn’t able to take the solid waste to the landfill but his son, Kevin, helped the township out and was able to take it. Brenda stated the township will need to go through the hiring process for a new substitute driver. Bill will talk to the other substitutes first to see if they want to get their CDL.

***PARKS AND RECREATION:*** Lisa is working on closing out the Placemaking mini grant.

Richard stated he will add “supervisor comments” under reports on the agenda. The board had no objection.

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:** Richard informed the board what was discussed at the Delta County Commissioners meeting. Richard received a letter regarding the farmland preservation program and has brochures with information if anyone is interested. There will be an open house on the new jail and updated the board regarding changes in the Delta County Planning Commission.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Motion Lights & Lighting for Township Hall:** Bids were received from Kobas Electric and Billie Electric for the motion lights and hall lighting. Billie Electric's estimate for the hall motion lights was \$1,100 and the quote from Kobas Electric was \$710. The township hall interior lighting estimates were \$3,100 from Billie Electric and \$3,500 from Kobas Electric. Kobas Electric's estimate includes more light fixtures than Billie Electric. Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Lisa, to hire Kobas Electric to install motion lights at the township hall and hold off on the interior lights until questions are answered.
- **Hall Septic:** There will be a charge from U.P. Septic of \$200.00 to come and do the test for the septic.
- **Website:** The new website is up and running. The web address is gardentwp.com. The yearly fee was \$8.00 more than expected.
- **Fire Signs:** So far, the Delta County Townships Association has collected \$139,000 toward the fire sign project. Garden Township would receive 15% of that money (about \$15,000 to \$20,000) and would have to contribute an additional \$5,000. Delta County Townships Association will have another meeting on January 24, 2019. DCTA needs a commitment from the Township of \$5,000 of which \$1,000 was raised with the raffle and a donation was received from Heritage for \$900 so the township will need to come up with an additional \$3,100. Brenda wanted Richard to clarify whether or not the Village of Garden will be included. Richard will be attending the meeting on January 24, 2019, and will get an answer for us. Richard made a motion, seconded by Lisa, that Garden Township commits to the fire sign project and acknowledges the township will be responsible to pay \$5,000.00 toward the project. Roll call vote: Brenda – yes, Tyler – yes, Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Township Hall and Fire Department Lights:** Covered under Old Business.
- **Metal Recycling:** Covered under Transfer Station.
- **Training Substitute for Cemetery/Park:** Overlooked in error.
- **Training Substitute Driver for Transfer Station:** Covered under Transfer Station.
- **Leaf Blower for Cemetery:** Richard made a motion to purchase a leaf blower not to exceed \$150.00 for the cemetery. There was no second. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Tyler, to table the decision on the leaf blower until the March meeting. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Heritage Lease:** A letter was received from Heritage requesting their lease be extended on a month by month basis with a monthly rental fee of \$575.00 commencing on April 1, 2019. Richard requested a 60-day notice from Heritage before they vacate the premises which Alan Kostrzewa verbally agreed to at this meeting. Alan Kostrzewa also stated that Heritage will convert the furnace back to the way it was before Heritage installed their own LP gas tank. Motion made by Lisa, seconded by Brenda, to allow Heritage to continue leasing the Fire Hall on a month-by-month basis as outlined in the letter received from them. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Battery Replacement for Laptop:** Richard had to replace the battery on his laptop and the request for payment was listed on the bill sheet for January, 2019.

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

Motion made by Lisa, seconded by Tyler, to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

*Brenda Lester*

Garden Township Clerk