

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 2019

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

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

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

MINUTES: Lisa made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on April 9, 2019. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: There are two additions to the bill sheet for the Fire Department, \$199.99 for the purchase of a battery charger at Menard's and \$812.50 to Hannula Agency for additional accidental coverage for the fire fighters. A motion was made by Mary Ann, seconded by Lisa, to approve payment of the bills as presented by the Clerk with the two additions for the Fire Department. Roll Call Vote: Brenda – yes, Tyler – yes, Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, and Richard - yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Colleen Maki presented the assessor's report to the board and a copy will be placed on file. Item number two on the assessor report is an error. Colleen explained the millage reduction fraction and how it affects the township millage rate.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: There were five fires since the last meeting. Some repairs were done on the trucks. The battery charger quit working so another one was picked up at Menard's. Keith will be ordering fuel and getting cleaning supplies for the trucks. There's a chance the fire department may get a truck to from the U.S. Forest Service to replace the brush truck from and the only requirement would be to repaint the truck. Fire Chief's Association had a meeting with Motorola regarding radio issues. Also, the yearly check from the Fire Chief's Association should be arriving soon and may be around \$700.00.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: So far there are four spring burials. Brenda and Richard still need to meet with Archie regarding cutting saplings and other issues regarding clean-up. The election went well and it was the first election where the township clerk may register new voters.

TREASURER/TOWNSHIP HALL: The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balanced and there are no concerns with township hall right now except for the septic system replacement.

TRANSFER STATION: The township received the first two payments for metal from the new company, A & L Metal. The payments are much lower than they were with Coplan.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Lisa is working on finishing out the grant and is looking at replacing the current sign.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Supervisor updated the board with information he received during various meetings he attended.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Fire Station Lights – Sault Tribe 2% Grant:** No updates at this time.
- **Fire Signs:** Additional funding has been received by Delta County Township’s Association in the amount of \$35,000.00. The township is still seeking volunteers to help with the project regarding mapping out the grids.
- **Septic Update:** The Health Department said the whole system, tank and drain field, needs to be replaced for the township hall. The Village of Garden has agreed to allow the township to install septic and or drain field on village property. The only stipulation the Village of Garden required is a fence be installed around the drain field. A fence should also be placed around the tank.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Heritage Lease Extension:** Motion made by Brenda, seconded by Lisa to extend Heritage’s lease at the fire hall through August 2019 as stated in their letter dated March 5, 2019. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Marihuana Ordinance:** Motion was made by Mary Ann, seconded by Brenda, to approve the Marihuana opt-out ordinance named the Garden Township Marihuana Establishment Ordinance. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – no, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.
- **Foreclosed Properties:** Property with abandoned home and adjacent vacant lot across the street from the township hall is up for foreclosure due to nonpayment of taxes and was declined by the Village of Garden so Garden Township may assume this property as long as it would be used for township use and all the back taxes and water charges were paid. Cost to demolish current building as well as cost to make it into a parking lot for the township hall would be around \$20,000 plus the monthly water fee would need to be paid to the village. Motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Brenda, to decline possession of the properties. Ayes: 5, Nay: 0. Motion carried.
- **Fire Department Millage:** The millage expires in 2020; therefore, it needs to be considered for renewal. Brenda stated millage request could be ran in the August election but the township would be responsible to pay for the entire election. If it’s on the ballot in the November, 2019, the election cost would be shared with Delta County. A motion was made by Richard, seconded by Lisa, to request a millage renewal for the Fire Department be placed on the November, 2019, ballot using the same ballot language that was used the last time it was ran with changes to the estimated total received to current levels provided by the Township Treasurer with dates starting 2020 through 2029. Roll Call Vote: Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard -yes. Motion carried.
- **Marygrove:** Marygrove is closing in July and the building was offered to the Village of Garden who contacted the township to see if the township wanted to make this a joint effort. A motion was made by Richard, seconded by Lisa, to decline the offer. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Roads:** Richard went out with the Delta County Road Commission to evaluate the township roads. Suggestions for repairs this year are for 27.25 and N-22 roads. N-3, and N-14 roads are suggested for next year. Estimates were received for all. Decision will need to be made at the June or July meeting.
- **Dust Control:** A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Lisa, to approve the project material agreement received from the Delta County Road Commission to provide dust control with a cost per gallon spot applied for \$0.365. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda - yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.
- **Transfer Station Freon Charges:** When freezers, refrigerators, air conditioners and dehumidifiers, are received A & L Metal will deduct \$25.00 per item containing freon. An idea would be to start charging everyone that brings these items this extra fee. Brenda made a

motion, seconded by Lisa, that the township does not charge township residents to dispose of these items. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

- **American Legion Hall Rental:** Mary Ann and Richard attended the American Legion meeting regarding the use of the township hall and the fact they don't pay a fee to use it. The township will contact the Michigan Township's Association for their opinion on whether the township should continue to give them use of the hall with no fee.
- **Clean Kill Pest Control:** Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Mary Ann, to hire Clean Kill Pest Control to spray for spiders at the township hall, fire hall, and Transfer Station. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – no, Brenda – yes, Richard – yes. Motion carried.
- **June 2019 Meeting:** Richard and Lisa will not be attending the regular meeting scheduled for June 11, 2019. Richard's Deputy, Janet Feenstra-Daasch, will be out of the area so Brenda agreed to run the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was received.

Motion made by Lisa, seconded by Tyler, to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester
Garden Township Clerk