

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
July 9, 2019

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 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: Mary Ann made a motion, seconded by Tyler, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on June 11, 2019. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: A motion was made by Mary Ann, seconded by Lisa, to approve the bills as presented by the Clerk. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, Lisa – yes, and Richard – yes. Bills approved.

REPORTS:

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Colleen Maki presented the assessor's report to the board and a copy will be placed on file.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Farley gave his report. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Lisa, to proceed with work by Kobas Electric for LED lighting at the fire hall based on their estimate of \$6,619.00 with an additional cost of a total up to \$7,100.00 to have the lighting motion activated, if possible. Roll Call Vote: Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion Carried. The Fire Department received several memorial donations for Nancy Dalgord. Brenda will send thank you letters to all the donors.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: It is time to have the yearly F-65 report completed to submit to the Michigan Department of Treasury. An email was received from Anderson Tackman that stated the charge would be from \$300.00 to \$500.00 to have them assist with the F-65 report. Anderson Tackman also offered to assist the clerk and treasurer to record the year-end accruals, accounts receivables, and adjust our fixed assets for depreciation. They expect it to take about two hours in addition to the F-65 report. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Tyler, to hire Anderson Tackman to assist with completion of the F-65 report and to also assist the clerk and treasurer with the year-end postings. Roll Call Vote: Brenda – yes, Tyler – yes, Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried. A letter was received from U.P. Propane regarding the price of propane for the coming winter months for the hall only. Nothing has been received for the Fire Department. Phone calls were made to other propane companies to see if the township is able to get a better price but most companies asked have determined their prices for the winter season yet; therefore, the township is not able to make a decision yet. More phone calls will be made before the next meeting.

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: Will be covered under transfer Station Inspection under new business.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Lisa is still working on closing out the grant and is researching a new sign for the park which may be around \$2,000.00. No other updates at this time.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Supervisor updated the board regarding several various meetings he attended. Also, there will be a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on July 11, 2019, to establish work groups for the numbering system on the new 911 signs. CUPPAD will be present as well. The goal is to get 10 teams of two volunteers to work on the grids. The Village will be holding a picnic and work bee on September 28, 2019. Everyone should meet at the Village of Garden pavilion at 9:00 a.m. The purpose will be for members of the community to assist the Village in clearing out ditches to help alleviate flooding issues that arise every spring.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Roads:** Richard recommended the board consider two contracts for road repairs from the County Road Commission. One was for N-26 Road (27.25 road in Isabella) with the estimated township contribution being \$8,426.64. The second recommendation was for N-22 Road (a portion of 16th Road) with the estimated township contribution of \$11,015.64. Total in the Hiawatha National Forrest Road fund is \$23,000.00 which will also cover chloride. The cost of chloride treatment will be approximately \$8,000.00; therefore, the township can only submit repairs of one of the roads. Richard stated that N-26 Road is in the worse shape. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Lisa, to accept the project material agreement with the Delta County Road Commission for work to be completed on N-26 Road north of the Isabella area with an estimated township cost of \$8,426.64. Roll Call Vote: Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.
- **American Legion Hall Use:** If one non-profit organization is not charged a rental fee then all non-profit organizations should be treated the same way, per the MTA. Brenda stated that if the township endorses this policy it may need to be addressed in the future due to the township's cost of setting up and putting away the tables/chairs, and cleaning. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Tyler, that Garden Township allow any non-profit organizations within Garden Township to use the hall for no cost as long as they have paid the deposit of \$100.00 in advance and they remove their all trash. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Tyler – yes, and Brenda – yes. Lisa and Richard abstained. Motion carried.
- **Hall Septic and Village of Garden's Users Fee:** The township has paid the Village of Garden \$2,000 yearly since 2013 (6 years total) due to a prior funding issue with the Village of Garden. There's a question as to whether or not the \$2,000 fee, if paid, is an allowable expense per information received from the Michigan Township's Association. Prior to 2013 nothing was charged the Township for a user's fee for the village park. Fairbanks Township has only given the Village money for the park two times. Years ago, the hall was jointly owned by the Village of Garden and Garden Township. In 1989, the Village turned the hall over to the township because they could no longer afford to keep it going and the fire hall/ambulance garage was turned over to the Village of Garden. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann, to allow Richard to convey some legal advice received from the township attorney. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Attorney suggested the township complete a FOIA request to the Village of Garden asking them give the amounts that were spent on the park since 2013. Brenda will submit an official FOIA request to the Village. The \$2,000 fee to the Village of Garden is on hold until the information from the FOIA request to the Village is returned. Brenda returned a call to Katie Sporer, Village Trustee, on July 10th, the following day after the last township meeting, where she was told by Katie that if the Township did not pay the \$2,000 park users fee to the Village, the Township will need to find a different place to put the septic field. The cost to run the hall yearly is around \$20,000 and the average revenue is only \$500. The board has the option to close the hall, sell it, turn it back over to the Village, or pay the user's fee to the Village and proceed with the septic system replacement. As of now the health department has the request on hold until they hear back from the township.
- **Fire Department Lighting and Grant:** Covered in the Fire Department report.
- **Fire Sign Project:** Covered under Supervisor comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **July Board of Review:** July Board of Review will be held on July 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the township hall.
- **Transfer Station Inspection:** Bill and Richard did a complete inspection of the buildings and completed a list of projects to work on. Bill should have everything done by the end of the July.

- ***Cleaning of the Township Park:*** The park outhouses will not be cleaned daily due to the budget and the fact that Bill has been working over 40 hours per week; therefore, he will clean the bathrooms on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.
- ***CUPPAD Renewal Agreement:*** It's time to consider renewing the CUPPAD agreement at a cost of \$106. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Brenda, to renew the agreement with CUPPAD by paying the fee of \$106. Roll Call Vote: Tyler – yes, Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.
- ***F-65 Report and Accounting Adjustments:*** Covered under the Clerk Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Motion made by Lisa, seconded by Mary Ann, to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester
Garden Township Clerk