

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
April 9, 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:** Tyler stated, "Under new business I'd like the minutes to show that I had asked the Supervisor if him and Janet had worked together with Christine Williams on this ordinance. I'd like the minutes to reflect that." For clarification, Brenda tried to find this information on the voice recording of the March meeting but was unable to find it quickly. Mary Ann stated she'd like to approve the minutes for the March meeting and if Tyler wants to listen to the tape and put a tag onto it later after listening to the audio and asked if we could do that. Brenda stated if we want to make a change to the minutes it must be done during this meeting. Brenda told Tyler if he wants to make a motion regarding a change in the minutes to go ahead. Tyler made a motion that in the minutes under new business for the resolution of the wind energy ordinance that Tyler asked Richard, our Supervisor, if he worked together with Christine Williams and Janet Daasch on this master plan and that Richard said "yes". The motion was not supported. Richard made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann to approve the minutes for the March 12, 2019 meeting. Ayes: 4, Nays: 1. Motion carried. Motion was made by Mary Ann, seconded by Lisa, to approve the minutes for the Annual Budget meeting held on March 12, 2019. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Minutes approved.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:** A motion was made by Mary Ann, 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:*** Colleen Maki presented the assessor's report to the board and a copy will be placed on file. A list of properties that are being foreclosed upon in Garden Township for nonpayment of property taxes has been received. The Township Board will have a first right of refusal on all these parcels. If the Township decides to take any of these properties the back taxes would need to be paid and the property must be used for public purpose only and they cannot be resold. There are two parcels the township may be interested in which are across the street from the Township Hall; however, those parcels are located in the Village of Garden so they would have first chance. Formal correspondence should be sent to the Township from Delta County and the timeline to make a decision would be about two to three weeks.

***FIRE DEPARTMENT:*** Chief Farley was not present so there was no report.

***CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT:*** The township received another letter from the Michigan Department of Treasury regarding tax quarter ending September, 2017, stating a penalty was due in the amount of around \$38.00. Brenda call them again and was told it was resolved again. Brenda stated the board needs to think about how they will start with the clean-up of the cemetery. Richard stated he'd like to get together with Archie and the Clerk to talk about it. There is an election on May 7, 2019, with three millage proposals. The Township Clerk must now be available on election day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00

p.m. to register voters for same day voting if eligible. Also, the Township Clerk will be in her office the Saturday before election day, which is May 4, 2019, to register voters and give out absentee ballots from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**TREASURER/TOWNSHIP HALL:** The Treasurer and Clerk accounts do not balance due to a General Fund e-payment which was completed on March 30, 2019, but has not cleared the bank statement yet. The difference should be resolved with the April bank statement.

**TRANSFER STATION:** Richard and Bill Harris are looking for a new semi-truck but haven't found anything yet.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** No updates.

**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:** Still working on trying to obtain additional funding for the fire signs. C.U.P.P.A.D. may be able to provide student volunteers to help the townships with the mapping for the fire signs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Zoning Contract with Delta County:** Motion was made by Tyler, seconded by Brenda, to approve the zoning contract with Delta County in the amount of \$562.50 for the next two years. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Tyler – yes, Lisa – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.
- **Tri-County Volunteer Fire Department:** Motion was made by Mary Ann, seconded by Lisa, to approve payment of \$500.00 to Tri-County Volunteer Fire Department to help cover costs of maintaining their trucks. Roll Call Vote: Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.
- **Ice Melting/Flooding in Village and Garden Township:** The possibility of flooding in Garden Township and the Village was a problem again. Some residents and the Village and helped to build a temporary berm to route the water to the new ditch. The Village will be working on a berm before next winter.
- **Heritage Lease Extension:** Motion made by Brenda, seconded by Tyler to extend Heritage's lease at the fire hall through July 2019 as stated in their letter dated March 5, 2019. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

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

Motion made by Richard, seconded by Mary Ann, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

*Brenda Lester*

Garden Township Clerk