

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – December 9, 2015
7:00 P.M. at the Bengal Township Hall

The regularly- scheduled Bengal Township Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Schafer at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Deborah Schafer, Supervisor; Elizabeth D. Ayoub, Clerk; Denice Schultheiss, Treasurer; and Nick McDonald, Trustee. Trustee William Kushmaul was absent.

Members of the public present: Greg Armbrustmacher, Township Assessor; Thomas Benson, Betty Fedewa Bedard, Kathy Kushmaul, Dayna & Adam Dailide, Eugenia Pung, Lori Pung, Keith Thurston, Steve Pung, Marcia Pung, Terry Thurston.

All pledged allegiance to the flag, and then a motion was made to make corrections to the agenda: namely changing the date of the minutes to be approved to November 11, 2015, and adding, under New Business, (7) Collections and (8) Assessor; and deleting from Old Business Clerk's Software. A motion was made by Ayoub, seconded by Schultheiss, and passed to accept the corrections to the agenda.

After review of the minutes from the November 11, 2015 meeting, a motion was made by Ayoub and seconded by Schafer to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

A motion was made by McDonald, seconded by Schafer, and passed to accept the treasurer's report.

The Principles of Governance printed by the Michigan Townships Association was shown to all board members. It was signed by the four members present.

A motion was made by Ayoub to transfer \$45,044 from the money market (savings) account to the general checking account. It was seconded by Schultheiss and carried.

The Clinton County Conservation District asked if Bengal Township would be willing to reduce its hall rental fee for a January meeting regarding water quality improvements to the Maple River watershed. A motion was made by Schafer and seconded by Schultheiss not to offer a discount to the Clinton County Conservation District for the hall rental on January 17. Motion carried.

Cutting Edge Lawn Care had billed Bengal Township for a \$200 fertilizer application which was not a part of the signed contract. Schafer moved, and it was seconded by Schultheiss, that this bill be paid. With one dissenting vote, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Schafer and seconded by Schultheiss to pay all bills presented except the bill to Pontem Software. The board directed the clerk to purchase Quick Books instead. With one dissenting vote, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Schafer and seconded by McDonald to accept the clerk's report. Motion carried.

The floor was opened for public comments. Steve Pung requested that his comments be put on the record. He stated that he would like for Clerk Ayoub to "function solely as clerk," not to use her legal experience in this position.

Commissioner Dave Pohl was not present so there was no report from the County.

Deputy Wiswasser presented the sheriff's report.

Greg Armbrustmacher, assessor, presented a land division application for Glenn Pung. A motion was made by Ayoub and seconded by Schafer to refer this to the Planning Commission to ensure compliance with both the state land division act and the township's land division ordinance. Motion carried. He also reported that the December Board of Review meeting would be held next week.

Upon recommendation of the planning commission, a resolution removing (3.5 acres of) Fedewa's property from the PA 116 program was adopted.

After a review of the two bids received by the township for snow removal, a motion was made by Ayoub and seconded by Schultheiss to accept the one year snow removal contract from Tom McComb.

A motion was made by Schultheiss and seconded by McDonald to amend the budget as follows: increase hall supplies by \$300 and increase the clerk's salary by \$1. Motion carried.

Schafer reported on the D'Hondt collection matter. D'Hondt requested that he be permitted to pay \$100 bi-weekly until the \$1,000 debt is paid. The motion was made and seconded, that if there is a signed and notarized agreement by D'Hondt to this affect, and if the \$57.00 for the filing fees be added to this bill, Schafer be permitted to accept this agreement. Motion passed.

The township assessor's contract expires March 31, 2016. Proposals for an MCAO certified assessor will be accepted and reviewed at February board meeting. Ayoub will get the information for this to Kate Neese at the Equalization Department to start this process.

McDonald, Board appointee to the Planning Commission, reported that the Planning Commission met November 4th and December 2nd and also on December 16th (special meeting). They are continuing to review the proposed zoning ordinance. The planning

commission received a request to regulate drones and is looking into same. A proposed copy of the ordinance should be finished and given to the Board members by the end of the month.

McDonald stated that the Verizon Cell Tower application for a variance has met the county's requirement for the 150 foot setback, and the recommendation of the planning commission is that the application be approved. Schultheiss moved, McDonald seconded, and the motion carried to accept the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the site plan for the Verizon Cell Tower.

After review of the updated Investment Policy, Schafer moved, Ayoub seconded and the motion carried to adopt this policy. After review of the updated Hall Rental Policy, Schultheiss moved and Schafer seconded that this policy be adopted. Motion carried.

Schafer reported that all 2015 work on the roads has been completed, that the township is over budget in 2015 for chloride applications, and that the township is under budget for road and bridge work.

There are three bridges in Bengal Township which need either repair or replacement: one on Grove Road north of Taft (which, hopefully, will be put on the critical list for Federal funding); one on Lowell south of Kinley which is a double culvert; one on Dexter Trail west of Centerline.

The Clinton Area Ambulance Authority will meet next week to approve its budget.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ _____
Elizabeth Ayoub, Clerk

Date of Approval January 13, 2016