

## **BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**DECEMBER 14, 2022**

**MEETING 7:00 PM**

The Bengal Township Board meeting was brought to order by Supervisor McDonald at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call: All here includes Sharon Bassette, Stan Sillman, Eric Boak, Lori Pung, Nick McDonald

Community present: Gary Weber, Benton Hiezler, Dave Pohl, Sara Morrison, Nick Tipper, Tim Jones, Tyler Rademacher

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was said and the meeting commenced.

Supervisor McDonald presented the **agenda** for review, Clerk Bassette requested that the Mark Holly and the Poverty Exemption Form be added to the agenda. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approved the agenda as changed, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

The **November 9th meeting minutes** were presented by Clerk Bassette, a change to show Trustee Sillman was absent, an attendee last name was corrected, Planning Commission updated was revised, Motion for Excused absent was corrected. Trustee Boak made a motion to approve the minutes as revised, supported by Treasurer Pung, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Gary Weber asked easement questions and the window to complete the work.

### **REPORTS**

The **Commissioner's Report** was given by Dave Pohl. Dave advised candidate John Fuentes was chose from 13 candidates for the County Administrator position (since Craig Longnecker's retirement). ARPA and LEAP were discussed. Broadband updates were discussed, since the original proposals the maps have been changed, the county requested updated proposals and are hopeful to make a decision by mid-January. The county park being planned for the south part of Clinton County is in process and a tentative location on Pratt road, ½ mile west of Riley Township hall has been chosen, the seller has things to work on before signing the agreement. Also discussed was an update regarding the 1500-acre Granger property (owned by the Dave Morris Farms) located near the Armory in Southwest Clinton County.

Sara Morrison gave an update on the **District Library** advising that the library has changed their operating system. The new system allows members more electronic processes to check out books automatically, get notifications when books become available, book returns, and many more great benefits. Fines are no longer charged on books. During Covid the Library added Brain Fuse which is an application that assists student and parents with various educational questions that come up, this is available for everyone. Also discussed was the Libby/Overdrive audio book availability, the application is a cooperative which offers audiobooks and online books from 40 different libraries. The library will be doing author presentations with the authors coming in to the library. Sara updated the board on the upcoming library renovations. The library has had no updates for over 25 years since the library was moved to its new location. The changes will include a 60-person meeting room, which will be free to the

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community to use. The library has about half of the funds for the renovations so far, and have received a \$65,000 impact grant, a \$10,000 ITC donation.

The board was updated on the **Planning Commission** by Lori Pung. She advised that the changes to the ordinance were discussed at a public hearing in November. The changes to the ordinance include the solar energy, civil infractions, and temporary dwellings. While there was good community attendance and discussion during the hearing and many good comments were made, Lori recommended the board approve the ordinance changes during the December meeting since the moratorium will mature in early January. It was considered the board not to approve the changes, but decided to get the changes on the books and continue reviewing for additional amendments in the future. A roll call vote was taken: all votes were yes for Bassette, McDonald, Boak, Sillman, and Pung, motion carried. Lori also discussed upping the rates for applications, if McKenna increases their fees.

Furthermore, Lori offered her resignation from the **Planning Commission as the board liaison** as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, Trustee Sillman made a motion to accept Lori's resignation from the Planning Commission effective 12/31/2022, supported by Clerk Bassette, motion carried. With Lori's resignation Eric Boak agreed to again take on the board liaison position for the Planning Commission effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Trustee Sillman made a motion for Trustee Boak to start with the Planning Commission as the board liaison effective 1/1/2023, supported by Clerk Bassette, motion carried.

No **Sheriff's Report** was given.

Treasurer Pung discussed the **Treasurer's report** updating the board on the current months business with nothing out of the ordinary. Treasurer Pung requested that \$30,000 be transferred from savings to checking. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the \$30,000 transfer, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried. Treasurer Pung discussed the budget and adjustments that needed to be made. Treasurer Pung made a motion to change the line-item name for the "Clerk/deputy clerk salaries" to "Clerk Salary" and reduce the amount to \$14,000 from \$14,500, while increasing the Election salaries from \$3500 to \$4000; Clerk Bassette supported, and the motion carried. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerk's Report**, discussing that the Assessor, Mark Holley, had requested that we discuss and approve the Resolution for 2023 Property Tax Exemption Guidelines. A roll call vote was taken and yes was stated by Bassette, Pung, McDonald, Boak, and Sillman. Clerk Bassette updated on changes made to Treasurer Pung's pay that was approved at the November meeting. The check was issued for a full year payment, while Lori was appointed to the board starting in June, a new check was issued since the amount was less than the original approved amount. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approved the Clerk's report as presented, Treasurer Pung supported, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **current bills to be paid**. The check issued to McKenna was held to provide Treasurer Pung time to review it. Trustee Pung made a motion to approve the bills (including the McKenna bill) to be paid in the amount of \$58,520.64, Trustee Sillman supported, motion carried.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Supervisor McDonald **updated on the Roads.** He presented the **Clinton County Road Commission recommendations for road** work this coming year. He advised that he has recently received a complaint from a resident about the **extreme mud situation with the roads** in the township, he will contact the Road Commission and make them aware of the complaint. Supervisor McDonald asked how we should commence with the road **chip seal and chloride** this coming year, all agreed to stick with the plan as in prior years. Updates were given regarding bridges in the township, the **bridge on Dexter Trail** has recently been closed and there are concerns with another **bridge on Walker Road.** The township is awaiting an estimate of costs from the Road Commission for the Dexter Trail bridge.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Nick Tipper was in attendance and gave a short presentation on how we could **improve our email system** using “aliasing” from a new Google or Outlook system, sharing different benefits of each system and explaining how the aliasing works. He advised that each system has access to open office or Microsoft Suite if needed for those capabilities. The monthly cost is based on what features are needed.

**Township projector** was tabled for next month.

Supervisor McDonald discussed the **ITC-Mid Michigan Infrastructure project.**

**Board Comments:** n/a

**Motion of Excused absence:** n/a

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Tyler Rademacher had comments and questions on the temporary housing changes to the ordinance.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Bassette.