

## **BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**MEETING 7:00 PM**

**February 8, 2017**

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

Members present: Deb Schafer, Nick McDonald, Denice Schultheiss, Bill Kushmaul, and Sharon Bassette

Public present: Kat Neese, Lori Pung, Marcia Pung, and Steve Pung

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

Supervisor Schafer moved to accept the **agenda** as amended to add: Approve Board of Review members for March meeting. Clerk Bassette made a motion to accept the agenda as amended, supported by Treasurer Schultheiss, motion carried.

Treasurer Schultheiss moved to accept the **January 11, 2017 meeting minutes** as presented, supported by Trustee Kushmaul, motion carried.

Treasurer Schultheiss presented the **Treasurer's Report** and recommended we amend the current year budget to increase assessor expense to \$8000 covering additional expense from parcel appraisals done by the assessor. Clerk Bassette moved to increase the 16/17 assessor's budget to \$8000, supported by Trustee Kushmaul, motion carried. Supervisor Schafer moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, supported by Trustee Kushmaul, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **Clerks Report**. Treasurer Schultheiss moved to accept the clerks report as presented, supported by Trustee Kushmaul, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **current bills to be paid** and ratify a checks issued to Mark Holly for quarterly payment in January and \$5.00 paid to the IRS in January. Also to ratify moving \$5000 from the savings account to the checking account in January and also to approve moving \$10,000 from savings to checking this month. Treasurer Schultheiss moved to accept the bills to be paid with changes, supported by Trustee Kushmaul, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Lori Pung made a mention about the prior month minutes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Visitor **Kate Neese, Recycling & Waste Management Coordinator**, discussed the upcoming recycling event which is April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8-2 in St. Johns. She advised that medications (keep in original packaging), televisions and computer monitors will also be collected during that time.

The **Commissioners Report** was given by Commissioner Pohl. He advised the county has updated the network security system. The *Sheriff's Department* will get updated computers patrol cars, new camera system at the jail, and some office renovations. *The jail* has recently re-signed the contract to accept prisoners from other governmental agencies. *Clinton County Economic Alliance and Lansing Area Economic Partnership (LEAP)* are participating on opportunities on the south side of Clinton County. The County is trying to sell the *RBW School*; the cost to operate the old school exceeds the worth. The church and house behind Rodney B. Wilson School have been razed. *Solar planning, and wind turbine* discussions are ongoing.

An attendee of the meeting, Steve Pung, asked about the wind turbine discussion in Riley Township. Commissioner Pohl acknowledged that Riley Township has been approached by Scott Kehoe from the Government and Corporate office of DTN Energy Operations to put in a "Wind Park".

No **Sherriff's Department Report** was given.

**March Board of Review members** were recommended: Dan Rademacher, Rex Monke, and Terry Thurston. Treasurer Schultheiss moved to accept the Board of Review members as presented, supported by Trustee Kushmaul, motion carried. Board of Review will be March 15 from 2:55pm – 9 pm; and March 16 from 9 am to 3 pm. An announcement was made that the township is looking for alternate members for Board of Review.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The **Planning Commission Report** was given by Chair Lori Pung. McKenna Associates attended the last Planning Commission Meeting and Chair Pung summarized the meeting. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve and sign the contract with McKenna Associates, supported by Trustee McDonald, motion carried, Treasurer Schultheiss abstained.

Supervisor Schafer gave a **report on the roads**. The Grove Road bridge contract was discussed. A motion was made by Treasurer Schultheiss to approve the Grove Road bridge contract and include in 2017/2018 township budget, supported by Trustee Kushmaul, motion carried. Bengal Township has a scheduled meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm with the Road Commission; board members were asked to attend.

It was advised the **Budget Review** meeting will be the scheduled with the normal township meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Treasurer Schultheiss reviewed the proposed 2017/2018 Township Budget. Zoning Chair Pung requested a copy of the proposed budget and advised she would get zoning budget information from McKenna Associates. Treasurer Schultheiss disbursed a Comparison Salary Report covering township board member wages from surrounding townships and made recommendations. Discussion commenced on this and Clerk Bassette will put together a Salary Resolution for approval at our March township board meeting.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Supervisor Schafer gave an update on the Verizon Tower.

**ADJOURN MEETING:**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Sharon Bassette.