

## **BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**MARCH 08, 2023**

**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: Dave Pohl, Deputy Stehlik

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

Supervisor McDonald presented the **agenda** for review, Trustee Stillman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, supported by Treasurer Pung, motion carried.

The **February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes** were presented by Clerk Bassette, some corrections were requested. Trustee Sillman, made a motion to approve the minutes with changes, supported by Treasurer Pung, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** n/a

### **REPORTS**

The **Commissioner's Report** was given by Dave Pohl. Dave gave an ARPA Report update. He discussed that the since the selling party has completed their updates to the property located in the south part of the County for a park, anon-disclosure agreement was signed. An update was given on the chip plant. The underground fiberoptics project bid was won by Frontier. Re-monumentation was discussed. The jail is/has had an assessment of their security systems, there will be upgrades for car and body cameras, as well as an X-ray machine to be used for jail visitors. Community Mental Health has received a communities grant of \$49,000 for counseling services. Steve Wissawasser was been appointed County Treasurer.

No **Planning Commission** meeting was held in February.

Deputy Stehlik gave the **Sheriff's Report**. Experiencing normal day to day activities, nothing out of the ordinary. Discussed the upcoming car and body cameras.

Treasurer Pung gave an update on the state of the township, everything is going well, working on the budget. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, Trustee Boak supported, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerk's Report**, Trustee Boak made a motion to approve the Clerk's Report as presented, Treasurer Pung supported, motion carried.

The **current bills to be paid** were presented by Clerk Bassette, after discussing the bills to be paid Treasurer Pung made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$14,428.77, supported by Trustee Silman, motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Supervisor McDonald presented the **Clinton County Ambulance Service – CAASA budget to approve for 2023-2024**. Treasurer Pung made a motion to approve the CAASA budget as presented, Trustee Sillman supported, motion carried.

Supervisor McDonald gave an update on the **Road Commission chloride quote and township projects**, Nick discussed the Road Commission meeting he and Stan attended.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Township employee wage resolutions** were discussed and the survey results provided by Clerk Bassette were reviewed, there were 12 clerks from Clinton County who responded to the survey. As a result of the review Trustee wages will increase by \$300; and the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer pay will all increase by \$1,500 each. Resolutions to Establish Township Officer's Salaries was made by Treasurer Pung and supported by Trustee Sillman for the Supervisor salary in the amount of \$12,500; for the Clerk salary in the amount of \$15,500; for the Treasurer salary in the amount of \$2,400, Deputy Treasurer salary in the amount of \$12,600.00; and for the Trustee salary in the amount of \$2,400. A roll call vote was taken for each Resolution to Establish Township Officer's Salaries, and all resulted in the same: Trustee Boak, yes; Trustee Sillman, yes; Supervisor McDonald, yes; Treasurer Pung, yes; Clerk Bassette, yes.

**The Dexter Road bridge project and funding** was discussed. How will the township pay for the bridge project, from our fund balance or do we finance the project? Supervisor McDonald advised the project cost would be \$566,000, we have \$603,000 available, and 50% (\$55,000) of the ARPA funds would be used. The board decided to self-fund the Dexter Trail bridge project and forgo a loan for this bridge, which would have added an additional \$10,000 to the cost. A loan might be needed with the upcoming bridge project on Walker Rd in the next few years, we will discuss this issue at a later.

The board **reviewed the budget for the next fiscal year**, Clerk Bassette discussed the Presidential Election changes to the election process that could impact our election budget. Since the November 2022 Election, voters chose to have polls open for 8 days before the election for in person voting, and postage will be paid by the township for returning absent ballots with a Township Post Office code. The township will make adjustments to the budget when this occurs since the County Clerk has not decided how this will be handled at this point.

**Supervisor McDonald announced that he will be absent** from the April and May meetings due to a position he has accepted that requires him to be out of town during those meetings.

**Board Comments:** n/a

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

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** n/a

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Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Bassette.