

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

December 13th, 2023 -7:00PM

Township Hall, 6586 West M-21 St. Johns MI

Regular Board Meeting Agenda

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

Call to Order – Roll call – present: Stan, Lori, Sharon, and Eric; absent: Nick

Trustee Silman presented the **agenda** for review. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the agenda, supported by Trustee Silm, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **November 8th meeting minutes** for review. Changes to the roll call portion were discussed, and “2023” was added after March 7 for the Dexter Trail Discussion paragraph. Trustee Silman made a motion to approve the November 8th meeting minutes with changes, supported Treasurer Pung, motion carried.

Public in attendance: Lynda Roof, Suzy Williams

Public Comment on Agenda Items – Suzy Williams discussed the importance of getting the bridge on Dexter Trail road fixed, pointing out the extra time it will take emergency vehicles from Dallas Township to get to the properties on Dexter Trail.

REPORTS

Commissioner Report – n/a

Planning Commission Report – n/a

Lynda Roof and Suzy Williams gave the **Delegate Report**, they shared information about what a delegate does within the township adding that Steve Lewis from Bath area leads the county delegates.

Sheriff Report – n/a

Treasurer Pung gave the **Treasurer Report** discussing that nothing was out of the ordinary for the township last month. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerks Report**, she reviewed the monthly clerk's report stating it is inline with the Treasurer Report. An update on next years election cycles was discussed, there are four elections in the township next year, the February and November elections will include early voting. There is a clerk meeting with the state on December 19th and early voting training in early January, so more information will follow. Since Clerk Bassette will learn more over the next month about early voting and permanent absent voter processes, the cost analysis for the added deputy clerk (and elections) was tabled. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Clerk Report, supported by Treasurer Pung, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **bills to be paid**, Treasurer Pung made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$15,174.42, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Trustee Silman discussed the **Dexter Trail bridge**, Doug Stephen will be at the township meeting in January to discuss the bridge. We have just gotten back the changed estimate on March 7, 2023 the Road Commission had advised by email and with a “very confident” project proposal \$566,000; at this time the Road Commission has advised that the bridge will now cost about \$810,000, which is approximately 43% more than the original proposal. The Road Commission is requesting to know if we will move forward next spring with the bridge work and how should we move forward. The board tabled the decision until the December meeting.

Hall Rental Contract review - tabled

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Pung presented the **Newsletter** that will be sent with the tax bills, Clerk Bassette gave some changes for the election announcement, further discussion commenced. Lori will make appropriate changes and forward to Clerk Bassette to verify her changes.

Board Comments – Trustee Boak has advised that he has had two people approach him about the condition of the mud on the roads from the farm tractors carrying it from the fields, in some places it is very slippery for drivers to get through. We have been advised by the Road Commission to contact them and they can get the road cleaned in that area. An announcement will be added in the Newsletter to have residents contact the Road Commission.

Motion of Excused Absence – since Stan did not notify he would be absent from the meeting it will not be considered excused.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - none

The meeting was **ajourned** at 8:39 pm.