

**BENGAL TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
7:00 PM
September 14, 2022**

Bengal Township Board Meeting was brought to order by Supervisor McDonald at 7:01 p.m.

Members present: Eric Boak, Nick McDonald, Lori Pung, Stan Sillman

Absent: Sharon Bassette

Community present: Commissioner Dave Pohl, Tyler Rademacher

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

Supervisor McDonald presented the **agenda** for review. Tree Removal at Cemeteries and ARPA Funds were added to the agenda. Treasurer Pung made a motion to approve the agenda as amended Trustee Sillman supported, motion carried.

The **August 10 meeting minutes** were presented by Supervisor McDonald, Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the August 10 minutes with no changes, Trustee Boak supported, motion carried.

Treasurer Pung presented the **Treasurer's Report** as prepared by Deputy Treasurer Schultheiss. Trustee Sillman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Trustee Boak supported, motion carried.

Clerk's Report: None

Treasurer Pung presented the **current bills to be paid** and noted that the Deputy Treasurer's payment was supposed to be in September, but it will be done in October and also noted that there was no receipt for Smith Oil & Propane for \$467.55 – she will contact Clerk Bassette and Deputy Treasurer Schultheiss to provide receipt. Treasurer Pung made a motion to pay current bills in the amount \$28,935.58, Trustee Sillman supported, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

New Business:

Commissioner's Report - Dave Pohl

County Board of Commissioners approved a full faith and credit resolution for Lake Victoria branches drain note. This is a common practice for public benefit projects particularly multi-year bonds.

Approval was given for the County to change the Medical Examiner Services to Sparrow. This will allow all pieces of the service to be combined into one contract as well as relieve police personnel of medical examiner duties to pursue their police work.

The Clinton County Sheriff Department is planning implement the use body cameras for the Sheriff Department personnel in the next year. Nearly all other departments in the County already use this technology.

The was discussion concerning a future Public Safety facility (Jail and related needs) replacement. Refurbishing of the existing facility was considered but found to be impractical. This likely will require a bond issue as the cost would exceed normal cash flow capacity. The needs have changed since the current jail was built. We have a much higher percent of women now then 30 years age as well as more drug and mental health issues. Many of these also impact the safety of the jail personnel.

A broadband taskforce was established to provide citizen guidance in the implementation of the project.

Adopted an amendment to the soil erosion ordinance.

Approved sidewalk improvements and repairs for Motz Park and received a report on the success of the dog park on Clinton Lakes.

Clean community event – electronics, medical waste, September 24 – Granger site on wood street by appointment only

Sheriff's Report: None

Auditor's (Maner Costerisan) Report: None

Planning Commission Report: Lori Pung

Treasurer Pung, who also serves as the Planning Commission Liaison, presented the **Master Plan Addendum for Solar Farms**. Discussed the purpose of the Master Plan, what the addendum was for and discussed how the maximum acreage range was calculated. Trustee Boak asked what if the values in the calculation change such as the number of animals that was used. Treasurer Pung explained that the Master Plan is reviewed every 3-5 years and it can be changed if needed. The addendum will need to go out for public comment for a period of 63 days. Treasurer Pung also mentioned that the Planning Commission is wrapping up changes to the Ordinance and that will be presented to the Board soon.

Treasurer Pung made a motion to approve the Master Plan Addendum for Solar Farms, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried.

Enforcement Officer Contract was presented by Treasured Pung. Forrest Thurston was recommended by the Planning Commission to be the Township Enforcement Office. The contract would commence on 10-1-2022 and it has similar language that was used for the previous Enforcement Officer, but the compensation is now a flat annual amount vs. a per site visit and automatically renews each year unless one of the parties decides to terminate. Supervisor McDonald made a motion to approve the contract with Forrest Thurston to serve as the Township's Enforcement Officer, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried.

Supervisor McDonald brought forth the topic of **compensation for those who may fill in for the Enforcement Officer** regarding site inspections. Occasionally, the Enforcement Office may not be available, and the Township does not want to hold up residents' projects.

Trustee Sillman made a motion to accept a substitute for the Enforcement Officer when not available and compensate the substitute \$75.00 per site visit to perform site inspection and complete all required corresponding administrative tasks, Trustee Boak supported, motion carried.

Township Supervisor Training – Supervisor McDonald will attend MTA training on October 12/13 – There is money in the budget.

Tree Removal at Cemeteries - Ryan Simon was contacted and he provided quote for tree removal at the Lowell Rd. (\$800) and Taft Rd. (\$2,400). Board agreed to move forward with Lowell Rd. but wait on the Taft Rd. tree until spring as it is not a hazard.

ARPA Funds – Treasurer Pung asked if there was any recent discussion regarding the funding and what the Township might want to do with it. Supervisor McDonald will ask Clerk Bassette, who also serves on the Township’s Park Exploration Committee, to provide an update and/or presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Old Business: None

Board Comments: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Treasurer Pung – September 14, 2022