

**BENGAL TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present: Nick McDonald, Stan Sillman, Eric Boak, Lori Pung; Absent: Sharon Bassett

Community Present: Elizabeth Ayoub, Jody Smith, Dave Pohl, Vern Feldpausch, Larry Wineland, Doug Steffen, Gail Watkins, Deputy Stehlik

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

Supervisor McDonald presented the **Agenda** for review, Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

The **August 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes** were presented by Supervisor McDonald. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT on agenda items: None

Commissioner Report – Dave Pohl - United Way presented Asset Limited Income Constrained Employee (ALICE) report; ITC – Electric transmission line – site could be at Ionia/Clinton line. There will be community meetings to discuss the line on October 10th and October 11th. Line Not likely to be in Bengal Township; On 10-31-23 the County will hold a public hearing regarding adopting an ordinance for Off Road Vehicles (ORVs); Board voted to move forward with two amendments on solid waste – BRANCH county will be added to solid waste agreement Granger expansion of 60 acres; Pratt road park moving forward received permits; New broadband initiative - close to submitting another proposal; honoring a resident, Edwin Parks, that died in Civil war will be honored.

Planning Commission Report– Eric Boak - PC meeting was held on August 31; Essex Center Township Supervisor, Karla Wardin would like to partner with the Township’s Planning and Zoning. Supervisor Wardin will be at the next PC meeting; Kurt Koenigsknecht announced that he is not interested in reappointment when his term expires in June 2024; PC will be looking at updating Ordinance language regarding drones; looking at drafting a meeting attendance policy; PC has received questions about debris left on the road by farmers – who should clean it up; PC would like to get township emails.

Delegate Report – Elizabeth Ayoub - Thanked the Board for hosting appreciation event on August 30th; 21 officers attended and it was a great event; Delegates continue to connect with residents and are putting signs around – “Protect and Restore” and also have a FB page. Received a \$50 donation and turned check over to Treasurer Pung; submitted receipt for reimbursement for \$50 to Suzanne Williams 8510 W. Centerline Rd., St. Johns, Mi 48879.

Road Commission Report - Doug Steffen reported RC paved 20 miles of road, chip sealed 65 miles and graveled 65 miles; moved into new building last week and will have a public open house in November and will send info to townships soon; have not heard much more on the EAGLE chloride

restrictions; received \$13.5M - \$10M will be used in Bath Township to rebuild section of Chandler Rd. remaining \$3M will be used to rebuild a section of N. Dewitt to accommodate trucks for cheese plant. Dexter Trail Bridge project - bid came back at \$700K and will send details to Supervisor McDonald.

Larry Wineland commented that the mud on the road is getting out of hand and the township has to pay more to put more gravel on it and something needs to be done.

Sherriff Report – Deputy Stehlik thanked everyone for their support for the appreciation event; he didn't see anything in the department reports that would cause concern for the Township.

Treasurer Report – Treasurer Pung presented report and noted that the Deputy Treasurer will move funds from Savings to General Checking to cover bills. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Report – None

Supervisor Report – Supervisor McDonald will investigate getting emails for the Township.

Payment of Current Bills - in Clerk Bassett's absence, Treasurer Pung presented the current bills to be paid in the amount of \$37,222.40; Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve current bills to be paid and was seconded by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Unfinished Business - None

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Vern Feldpausch, Dallas Township Supervisor and Fire Chief, reported that Dallas responded to 29 calls in Bengal Township and only 19 were billed to the Township – 5 were lift assist and 5 were medical false alarms; did these 10 runs as a courtesy, also reported that if there is a fire in the township, several surrounding fire departments will assist, but only one department will bill for the service; Bengal township only had 2 structure fires during the year.

Jody Smith, Board member for Clinton Transit, thankful that the mileage passed; stated that CT provides free rides for all veterans in Clinton County; updated rates to a standard system; provided brochures; attended the appreciation event.

Larry Wineland wanted to know why there was such an urgency to fix the Dexter Trail Bridge.

Board Comments:

Treasurer Pung discussed the possibility of charging a cancellation fee for the township hall. She will put info together and present at October meeting.

Treasurer Pung discussed Treasurer position and indicated that she would like to find a replacement soon.

Trustee Sillman made a **motion to excuse** Clerk Bassett and was seconded by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Supervisor McDonald **adjourned** the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Treasurer Pung