

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
December 11th, 2024 - 7:00PM
Township Hall, 6586 West M-21 St. Johns MI
Regular Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and the Pledge was said.

A roll vote was taken: Bassette, here; McDonald, here; Tipper, here; Sillman, here; Solomon, here.

Additions to the Agenda included adding 10.B. for fire fighter meeting. Treasurer Solomon motioned to approve the agenda with the additions, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

The **September 11th and November 13th meeting minutes** were presented for approval. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve September 11th, 2024 minutes as presented, seconded by Supervisor McDonald, motion carried, Clerk Bassette abstained. Treasurer Solomon made a motion to approve the November 13, 2024 minutes as presented, supported by Supervisor McDonald, motion carried.

There were no **public comments on agenda items**.

There were no **public comments on non-agenda items**.

Reports

There was no **Commissioner report** given.

There was no **Planning Commission report** given.

There was no **Township Assessor** report given.

Deputy Stahlik came in and gave the **Sheriff report** and he discussed that the department was approved to add three new positions. The interviews began in November and the new recruits are scheduled to begin working as soon after the beginning of the year as possible. He went on to discuss how these new positions will impact the community. The board thanked Deputy Stahlik for his service to the community.

Delegate Lynda Roof gave the **Delegate report**, she advised that this has been a generally quiet period for the delegates. She did share that the school bond proposal was coming up in May. On that note, Clerk Bassette advised that the May election for Bengal Township will likely take place with Bingham Township, at their hall.

The **Clinton Transit report** was given by Jodi Smith. Clinton Transit is part of a program that transports GED students back and forth to their class for free. Something new that Clinton

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Transit has added to their buses is a book box for adults and children to borrow from, it has been going over well.

Treasurer Solomon gave the **Treasurer report**, reporting that the general ledger beginning balance is \$789,248.34 and ending balance is \$787,914.95; and the restricted funds beginning balance \$975,283.55 and ending balance of \$937,837.63. Nothing is out of the ordinary for this month except that the Tax Account has been added to the report. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, supported by Clerk Bassette, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerk report**, she advised that Deputy Treasurer Schultheiss provided the transactions that made up the difference from last month's report, and the Clerk report was now in line with the Treasurer report for the prior month since those changes have been added. But for this month the Clerk report is slightly off due to having to correct the payment amount on Denise Schultheiss' reimbursement check, it was issued in the wrong amount, so I voided and reissued the payment during the month of November, while the Treasurer's report does not include the change yet. This will correct itself in next month's report. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Clerk report, Trustee Tipper supported, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **current bills** to be paid. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$51,152.10, Clerk Bassette supported, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Clerk Bassette presented the updated **hall rental** documentation for board members to review. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the hall rental documentation as presented, supported by Clerk Bassette, motion carried.

New Business

Supervisor McDonald discussed the **SLFRF grant money reporting** that needs to be done by year end. Clerk Bassette and Treasurer Solomon agreed to meet and help Supervisor McDonald with the reporting, no date was given to meet. Supervisor McDonald will forward a training video.

Motion of Excused Absence n/a

Board Comments

Supervisor McDonald discussed the meeting he had with the St. Johns Fire Chief about **added costs to the fire department**. Besides himself and the fire chief, the meeting included the City of St. Johns manager, the city's accountant, and the supervisors from

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Greenbush and Bingham townships. It was discussed at the meeting that the fire chief has decided to retire from the unpaid chief position. Since there is no one who is willing to accept the unpaid position, the city must look for ways to pay for expenses involved in paying the new fire chief. It is the intention of the city to increase the rates to the townships. It sounded as if Bengal townships increase would be less impactful than the other townships, since Bengal is already paying more than the others.

Open positions for the **Planning Commission and ZBA membership** were discussed, Kurt Koenigsknecht from PC and Ron Dersham from ZBA reached their term limits and will not reup so we will need to fill those positions for the PC and ZBA, George Koenigsknecht will not renew his ZBA membership at the end of his term, and since Trustee Boak has completed his term and did not run again, the board needs to choose a replacement for the board PC Liaison. Since Kurt is the PC liaison with the ZBA, the PC will need to fill that position too. At the last ZBA meeting in December Robert Root and Audrey Tipper will go from ZBA alternates to ZBA members, Clerk Bassette will be secretary, and Audrey Tipper will be recording secretary. The ZBA will need two new alternate members since. We need one more Planning Commission member since Kurt has left, Lori Pung agreed to fill in for Kurt temporarily, so we still need to find a new member. At this time, board Trustee Tipper agreed to be the Planning Commission liaison for the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Clerk Bassette.