

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

February 14th, 2024 - 7:00PM

Township Hall, 6586 West M-21

Regular Board Meeting

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

Call to Order – Roll call – present: Sillman, Solomon, Bassette, Boak, McDonald

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

Clerk Bassette presented the **January 10, 2024 meeting minutes**, Trustee Boak made a motion to approve the minutes with changes and typos presented, supported by Clerk Bassette, motion carried.

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

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

Public in Attendance: Dave Pohl, Sara Morrison

REPORTS

Commissioner Pohl gave the **Commissioner Report** discussing that the County Treasurer is in the process of reviewing existing policies, accessing the courthouse was recently revised and changes have been implemented; he discussed that a new jail is in the works and it is estimated to be \$50-\$60 million, the old jail would possibly be used as a juvenile penitentiary; wind and solar updates were given; ORV stickers were discussed for on-road ORVs.

Trustee Boak gave an update on the **Planning Commission** advising that Brandi Solomon is the new chair for the commission, Kurt Koenigsknecht is stepping down, there was one appeal in the township, drones were addressed, planning commission pay was discussed, and wording on township ordinance for % of building to property ratio.

Sara Morrison gave an **update on the District Library**, she stated that the library is now able to hire a construction manager for the construction work being done to the library building using funds they have been saving and a recent grant in the amount of \$550,000 matching grant. She discussed new applications being offered, like Hoopla and Consumer's Reports, the 501C3 Friends of the Library organization, the Michigan Activities Pass, updates to their strategic plan. Sara also discussed upcoming events such as Tobin Burck on March 28th discussing his book "Michigan Forgotten Serial Killers", the Silent Read program the 4th Tuesday of the month, "Friday Fun" every Friday. The library also has "Grab and Go" food kits every Thursday from 5-6, Covid Test Kits (until they run out).

Delegate Report – n/a

Treasurer Solomon gave the **Treasurer Report** – there was nothing out of the ordinary with the Treasurer's report, general account beginning balance for January 1st was \$663,408.11, ending balance \$671,867.40; restricted funds beginning balance \$797,037.17, ending balance \$797,037.17. Trustee Sillman made a motion to except the Treasurer's Report as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerk Report**, the Clerk's report is in-line with the Treasurer's Report. Election workers were discussed and appointed: Stephanie Hirsch, Michael Simon, Megan Church, Lori Pung, Jenna Benjamin, Nolan and Brandy Solomon. Discussed Guardian Wastewater invoice and background, Supervisor McDonald will call on this. Advised that the Cutting-Edge contract is maturing this fall, tabled to discuss in mid-summer. The pricing for Manor Costerisan was discussed, the price for the annual audit almost doubled, Supervisor McDonald to follow-up with Deputy Treasurer, Treasurer, and Clerk, the township will investigate getting another auditor. Clerk Bassette passed out the nominating petitions and documentation for individuals to complete who will be running on the August ballot. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Clerk's Report as presented including appointing the election workers, supported by Treasurer Solomon, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **bills to be paid**, Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$8,664.44, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor McDonald discussed the **\$15.00 per capita for the CAASA** and requested we approve the budget for the fiscal year 24-25. Supervisor McDonald made a motion to approve as presented, supported by Clerk Bassette, motion carried.

Hall Rental Contract Revisions – tabled

BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor McDonald discussed the township **website maintenance pricing**, Jane VanElls has done the maintenance for the township for several years, with all the requests for updates the pay is insufficient for her to want to continue to work for the township. Supervisor McDonald discussed this with Jane, she agreed to continue at a rate of \$595 annually, and if major projects occur it will be an additional \$25 an hour. Supervisor McDonald made a motion to accept the rate for website maintenance as discussed, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried.

Supervisor McDonald discussed the **board member wages**, it was decided wages will stay the same. He added that we need to get the Assessor pricing for this coming year. Supervisor

McDonald highlighted needed budget changes and updates including assessor increase from \$12,075 to \$14,900, propane increases from \$1800 to \$1900, and the treasurer's payroll budget increase from \$12,600 to \$15,750. The treasurer payroll increase was due to a portion of the 22/23 prior year payroll had been paid the in the 23/24 fiscal year. Treasurer Solomon made a motion to approve the changes to the budget, supported by Supervisor McDonald, motion carried.

Excused Absences – none

The meeting was **adjournment** at 9:20 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Bassette