

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

February 11, 2026

Regular Board Meeting Drafting Minutes

The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call was taken, all were in attendance.

Public in attendance – Suzy Williams and Jody Smith

The **agenda** was presented, Jon Johnson from Acrisure Insurance was added as B and after the Assessor Report, Facility Issues were added under new business as H., Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the agenda as revised, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

The **January 14, 2026 meeting minutes** were reviewed and a correction under the Treasurers Report section to change from \$13,000 to \$1,300 for website costs. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the January 14, 2026 meeting minutes as corrected, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – n/a

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – n/a

REPORTS

Dr. Mark Holley gave the **Township Assessor Report**, he took questions from the board, advised on the Board of Review dates which are March 9th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm and on March 10th at 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm. He reported that statewide most counties have had home sales increase by 2.7%, while home sales in this region have been flat.

Jon Johnson from Acrisure Insurance spoke to the board via Zoom. He discussed safety grants available to the township for items such as security systems, cameras, signage, updates to parks and playgrounds, dash cams on vehicles; Spring grant cycle 2/1 – 3/15. Fall cycle 8/1 – 9/15, and the criteria is on Par Plan website, this is for future purchases. He stated the Par Plan has scholarship program for municipal employees which can be issued for things such as professional state certifications. Jon advised that the Par Plan offers a water leakage sensor; this is a new program and free to members to enroll at the Par Plan website. Jon discussed our policy features, he went on to discuss cyber insurance, need for additional coverage if selling alcohol during hall rentals, wrongful acts liability as with zoning decisions. We had further discussion regarding the township's needs for cyber liability insurance. The last estimate they gave us was around \$800, he estimated the cost to add cyber liability would be \$1,000/annually. Jon stated that eventually, based on the current cyber situations, cyber liability insurance will be required.

We will need to complete an application to get the estimate. Jon took questions from board members regarding zoning liability.

Planning Commission – No meeting this past month, plan to have a meeting on 2/25.

Library Report - n/a

Commissioner Report – n/a

St Johns Fire Chief Report – n/a

Clinton County Road Commission Report – Supervisor McDonald stated there would be a meeting with the road commission regarding chloride applications next Tuesday at 10:00 am here at the township hall, anyone may attend.

Sheriff Report – n/a

Delegate Suzy Williams gave the **Delegate report** stating that the Republican convention is in 2 weeks where they will nominate the Republicans running for Attorney General and Secretary of State.

Jodi Smith gave the **Clinton Transit report** stating that they had met with Representative Tim Kelly to show him their operations. She advised how lucky Clinton County is to have the transit services; she referenced another nearby county who does not have transportation services.

Supervisor McDonald advised that **Clinton Area Ambulance updates** will be included in the “New Business” section added to the agenda.

Treasurer Solomon presented the **Treasurer Report** giving updates on account balances: savings beginning balance \$320,494.33, ending balance \$323,125.49; checking beginning balance \$6,936.88, ending balance \$9,901.77; tax beginning balance \$190,418.79, ending balance \$304,748.08; no change in CDs, Roads and Bridges, and Chloride accounts since the prior month. Treasurer Solomon reviewed the budget and gave an update on the website update. He added that updated pictures of the cemeteries would be good to have on the website, he also needs to get updated names and terms for committee members for the website. Trustee Sillman made a motion to accept the Treasurer Report, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerk Report**, she presented the monthly report for review, showing it is in line with the monthly Treasurer Report. She presented a printout from Mercantile bank as a second check that those balances are in line with what is being shown on the Treasurer’s report which is provided monthly. It was noted that the two new CD’s are not shown on the Mercantile balance report. A Mercantile balance report will periodically be brought to the board for review and comparison with the monthly Treasurer Report. Clerk Bassette will ask Deputy Treasurer

Schultheiss to add the two \$250,000 CDs to the online portal. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Clerk Report as presented, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **current bills for payment**, check 4532 will be void and a new check will be issued to Frontier Communications, the bills to be paid report showed check 4537 to Clinton Area Ambulance was in the amount of \$22.12, that amount was changed to \$2,212.00, and finally the total was changed to \$19,020.31. Included in the bills was one from Cutting Edge in the amount of \$515 for snow plowing, Supervisor McDonald stated that Cutting Edge had been told weeks prior they should not clear the parking lot in January and February since we are not renting the hall in those months any longer, should we pay this bill? It was decided to pay Cutting Edge but put them on notice that further plowing in January and February is not needed. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the bills to be paid in the amount \$19,020.31, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor McDonald advised that the **tower rental income** has not been received for a few months, he has worked with our attorneys who communicated with the new company and a payment should be forthcoming for the unpaid months.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor McDonald discussed the upcoming budget. He presented the board with possible changes to the **Code Enforcement Officer** position duties and pay that would impact the 26/27 budget year; he asked board members to think about the suggested budget changes, and we will discuss again at the March board meeting.

Supervisor McDonald discussed that the **Clinton Area Ambulance Service Association (CAASA)** had an emergency meeting the previous night, they are out of funds for the payroll. They are requesting \$2.00 per capita from all townships involved in the CAASA, for our township it would be \$2,212.00; the budget would increase to \$17 per capita with a contingent of up to \$22 per capita. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the \$2.00 per capita, plus the budget increase to \$17 per capita, with contingent up to \$22 per capita, supported by Treasurer Soloman, motion carried.

Supervisor McDonald discussed a recent **junk complaint**, he has been working with the resident and believes everything has been put in accordance with the ordinance.

Clerk Bassette **presented a board salary comparison** with other townships surrounding Bengal Township, and within the county. Discussion commenced regarding the various township structures compared to ours, when the last increase was, and other factors. Supervisor McDonald recommended we increase the wages for Supervisor, Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer, and Clerk positions by \$1,000 annually, the trustees will increase by \$300 annually. Treasurer base pay

\$2,700, does not include \$600/annually for website updates, Deputy Treasurer \$13,300, Clerk pay will be \$16,500, Supervisor pay \$13,500, Trustee pay \$2,700. Clerk Bassette will present resolutions at the March board meeting. Adjustments will be made to the upcoming 2026/2027 budget.

The **Cutting Edge Bill for January** was discussed above with the Bills to be paid.

Supervisor McDonald presented the **Assessor contract** to be reviewed, after discussing the contract it was decided that Supervisor McDonald would get with Mr. Holley regarding the additional \$100 fee for information requests from random consumers, if there is a fee he should collect it from the consumer before giving the information. The way this contract is written makes it very difficult to budget for these costs, the amount of time spent compiling the information, etc.

Supervisor McDonald gave an update on the **Township/County Zoning update**. The County is considering moving the zoning work they do back to the Townships, it is not as much about funding, but staffing.

Board Comments – n/a

The meeting ended at 10:05 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Bassette