

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

January 10th, 2024 -7:00PM

Township Hall, 6586 West M-21 St. Johns MI

Regular Board Meeting

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

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

Supervisor McDonald presented the **agenda** for review. Clerk Bassette requested that we close out the meeting for an Election Committee Meeting and add the appointment of the Election workers for the Primary Election, this was added after the Clerk's Report. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the agenda with changes, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **December 13th, 2023, meeting minutes**, Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the minutes with clerical changes, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Public in Attendance: Lynda Roof, Jim Roof, Nolan Solomon, Larry Wineland, Doug Steffan, and Jon Johnson who attended remotely by Zoom.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – Assessor Mark Holley commented that the Board of Review is scheduled for Monday, March 11, from 3-9; Thursday, March 14, 9-3. Mark will get Clerk Bassette the Newspaper Announcement.

REPORTS

Commissioner Pohl gave the **Commissioner Report** discussing the revised Greater Lansing Area Regional Stormwater Program memorandum of agreement; the County Treasurer blanket bond for tax collection season; the Broadband project; the contract to prepare the Parks and Greenspace Master Plan and the 5-year plan; the Chamber of Commerce Night Walk at Motz Park in Feb and March; and the county participation with a State of Michigan Cybersecurity Services Grant Program.

Planning Commission Report – n/a

Delegate Lynda Roof gave the **Delegate Report**, she talked about the progress the Voter Integrity Group has made in Clinton County. The group is made up of 15-16 volunteers who are canvassing voter irregularities in each township of Clinton County, they will provide each township with a report of their findings in the next couple of months.

Sheriff Report – n/a

Jon Johnson, our **insurance agent from Burnham and Flower** was in attendance to review the township's insurance liability coverage and questions we had regarding our hall rental agreement and alcohol. Clarify that generally when a host offers alcohol to their guests, their homeowner's liability should be satisfactory, but if there is alcohol being sold there would be additional liability requirements and other state requirements for alcohol permits. Prior to the meeting Mr. Johnson had provided a sample copy of a hall rental contract his Risk Management team had recently updated. He provided important insight on the liability insurance requirements for renter's policies, and he went over the townships liability

coverage. He also discussed additional outdoor entertainment, such as a tent and bounce houses. He advised a tent, for additional seating, would be okay. Temporary outdoor entertainment, such as bounce houses, should not be allowed under any circumstances.

Doug Steffan with the **Clinton County Road Commission** was in attendance to discuss the Dexter Trail bridge advising that materials pricing has gone up since last March by about 25%. He provided a Project Cost Worksheet which he reviewed by line item. He also provided pictures of other bridge examples using galvanized steel, rather than concrete, explained the galvanized steel culvert could come in about \$100,000 less than the concrete culverts, and could be available in the spring while concrete could be later in the summer, both are dependent on how quickly we make our decision. The Road Commission is working with other township boards for potential galvanized bridges also. Asked about the expected lifetime of the galvanized bridge, Mr. Steffan advised that he has been told 80-95 years, which is comparable to the lifetime for concrete bridges. The board asked Mr. Steffan to begin the bidding process for both the concrete and aluminum bridge types. He explained the timing for receipt of the bids would be 3-4 weeks from advertising for the bids.

Treasurer Pung gave the **Treasurer Report** – there was nothing out of the ordinary with the Treasurer's report, general account beginning balance \$669,674.79, ending balance \$661,451.50; restricted funds beginning balance \$847,386.07, ending balance \$797,037.17. She reviewed the budget comparison sheet and pointed to election and donation expenses that should be reviewed over the next couple of months based on the current spending. She also reminded members that if purchasing items for the township, to be sure to present the Township Tax Exemption form to the vendor to omit the tax expense charge from our purchases. Trustee Silman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerk Report**, discussing the Clerk's report is in-line with the Treasurer's Report. The discussion turned to non-compliance charges for Zoning applicants who do not contact the inspector for their final footing inspections. Nolan Solomon, the Planning Commission chair who was at the meeting, shared insight regarding implementing non-compliance charges, and agreed to have the Planning Committee investigate ways that we can ensure compliance with the final inspection requirements and bring it back to the board. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Clerk's Report as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Supervisor McDonald gave the **Supervisor's Report** and discussed the Board of Review workers Tyler Rademacher, Dan Rademacher, and Ron Armbrustmacher need to be appointed. Clerk Bassette made a motion to appoint Tyler Rademacher, Dan Rademacher, and Ron Armbrustmacher as Board of Review workers, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried. **Treasurer Lori Pung presented her letter of resignation** to the board, Supervisor McDonald made a motion to accept her resignation effective immediately, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried. Discussion commenced and Supervisor McDonald presented Nolan Solomon to be appointed as the new Treasurer for Bengal Township. Supervisor McDonald made a motion to **appoint Nolan Solomon as the Bengal Township Treasurer**, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried. Finally, Supervisor McDonald discussed the open Planning Commission position with Nolan's move to the Bengal Township Board, Brandi Solomon has agreed to be a member of the township Planning Commission. Supervisor McDonald made a motion to appoint Brandi Solomon to the township Planning Commission, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **bills to be paid**, ratifying a check issued to the Road Commission for \$48,040.40 on December 20th, it was not approved with the December bills to be paid. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$57,179.70, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Update on the Dexter Trail Bridge. As discussed earlier the township has determined that the Road Commission will move forward with the bidding process.

The regular board meeting was closed at 8:35 and the Election Commission meeting began.

Clerk Bassette presented the election inspectors to be appointed at the board meeting, including Lori Pung, Stephanie Hirsch, Megan Church, Michael Simon, Brenda Zlotek, and Jenna Benjamin; of those inspectors, Stephanie Hirsch, Michael Simon, and Brenda Zlotek will work as our early voting inspectors for the county.

The Election Commission meeting was closed at 8:38 and the regular began.

Appointing election workers was bypassed in error, election workers will need to be appointed at the February township board meeting. All board members were at the Election Commission meeting so no surprises at the February meeting with the election workers.

The **Hall Rental Contract Revision** was tabled until next month. With the added information from Jon Johnson, from Burnham and Flower, regarding the hall rental documentation this topic was tabled. Lori Pung has graciously agreed to continue to assist Clerk Bassette with continuing the work on the hall rental contract, the revised contract will be brought back to next month's meeting for approval.

New Business

Supervisor McDonald presented an **Ambulance Resolution** to be approved for financing an ambulance. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the Clinton Area Ambulance Service Authority resolution, a roll call vote was taken: Sillman, yes; McDonald, yes; Bassette, yes; Boak, yes, motion carried.

Cemetery Trees were discussed, Clerk Bassette discussed that a neighbor to one of the cemeteries is concerned about a dead/dying tree in the cemetery next to their driveway, it should be taken down, so it does not fall and block the exit to their home. Supervisor McDonald has an individual interested in taking the trees down for the wood, he will work with the person to get the trees taken down or pruned. Supervisor McDonald will communicate with the cemetery neighbor.

Board Comments – n/a

Motion of Excused Absence – n/a

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – Larry Wineland stated that he does not think that the township should pay to replace an existing driveway that will be eliminated by the new Dexter Trail bridge construction.

The meeting was adjournment at 9:30 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Bassette.