

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

January 14th, 2026

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

Meeting Minutes Draft

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

A roll call was taken Tipper, Bassette, Sillman, Solomon all in attendance; McDonald absent.

Trustee Sillman presiding over the meeting in Supervisor McDonalds absence.

The **agenda** was presented for approval. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the agenda as present, supported by Treasurer Solomon, motion carried.

The **December 10th, 2025 minutes** were presented for approval. Trustee Tipper made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections to the balance of one of the two small Certificates of Deposits from \$1000 to \$2000, supported by Trustee Solomon, motion carried.

Public Attendance - Jodi Smith, Zach Rudat

Public Comment on Agenda Items - n/a

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - n/a

REPORTS

Zack Rudat gave the **Commissioner Report**, he discussed the Frontier/Road Commission issues with crew worker road work safety, the Road Commission pulled Frontier's permit due to hazardous road conditions for driver awareness at their work sites. Corrections were made and the permit was reinstated. County Clerk retiring, state mandates that circuit judges will decide who will replace her, the position is open for anyone in the county to apply for. Since the Clinton County Zoning Administrator for zoning leadership positions are now both open due to the current person is retiring, the second is moving to Dewitt. Discussion regarding zoning done by the township is real.

Trustee Tipper discussed the **Planning Commission**, stating there was not a December meeting and there will not be a January meeting as there is not a need. He did state that the big zoning discussion lately are the data centers, and to please let him know your thoughts and/or concerns regarding data centers before the next PC meeting.

Library Report – n/a

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Township Assessor Report – n/a

St Johns Fire Chief Report – n/a

Clinton County Road Commission Report - n/a

Sheriff Report - n/a

Delegate report - n/a

Jodi Smith gave the **Clinton Transit Report** stating that the staff and drivers -Staff at Clinton Transit pick families in the community to give them food for a family Christmas dinner and presents for the holidays. She told a story about the relationships of the drivers and the riders, and how the drivers wait out for their passengers even when they are not riding. She explained how important the transit is and compared Clinton County to Montcalm County, we are lucky to have the transit in place.

Trustee Tipper attended the **Clinton Area Ambulance meeting** for Nick, and he discussed that they are working on their budget, the current cost per capita is currently \$17, other municipalities get closer to \$34 per capita, there is such a large discrepancy. Since the Covid outbreak calls have been declining, people don't pay, CAASA is in a difficult situation, they may need to lay off an administrative person, this was not well received by the attending townships. There were no conclusions.

Treasurer Solomon gave the **Treasurer Report** stating no change in CD balances \$1000.00, \$2,000.00, \$250,000.00, \$250,000.00; the savings beginning balance was \$356,760.06, ending \$320,494.33; the general checking beginning balance \$10,843, ending \$6,936.88; roads and bridges beginning balance \$425,653.18, ending \$419,983.00; tax collection account beginning balance \$14,434.64, ending \$190,418.79. Budget discussion, he is working on the tentative numbers for 26-27, while in discussions it was noticed that we did not receive payments for the cell tower for just about a year, Supervisor McDonald has been working with attorneys to get things changed over to the new vendor. The treasurer went on to request amending our current budget based on some overages and projections: 260.003 insurance bonds work comp, expecting increase, move from \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00; 265.001 land building repairs and improvements, \$23,000.00 to \$23,500.00; 270.006 dues \$1,250.00 up to \$1,251.00; 270.007 supervisor expense from \$200.00 to \$1000.00, Supervisor McDonald had to get a new computer; 270-008 website, budget migration to move website from \$1,000.00 to \$13,000; 400-001 St. Johns stand by fee \$7,000.00 to \$7,800.00; 444-002 ditch mowing from \$4,000.00 to \$4004.00. He advised that if anyone is interested in a wage increase for the 26-27 fiscal year, bring information to

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support your wage increase to February's meeting. He asked Clerk Bassette to turn information for this year's election expenses to him as soon as possible. Stan made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report as presented with the budget changes as discussed, supported by Trustee Tipper, supported by Clerk Bassette, all in favor. \$3406.00,

Clerk Bassette gave the Clerk Report stating that everything is in line with the Treasurers Report, she presented the Cemetery Ordinance for review. She is in the process of selling two cemetery sites. The Resolution For 2026 Poverty Exemption Guidelines, a rollcall vote was taken with no dissent from the group in attendance, the Resolution was approved. Treasurer Solomon made a motion to approve the Clerk Report including the Resolution, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **bills to be paid** in the amount of \$20,117.90 to the board for approval, Trustee Tipper made a motion to approve the bills as presented, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried.

Unfinished Business -n/a

New Business – Clerk Bassette wondered about signage for the parking lot and if the township is interested in cyber insurance, Treasurer Solomon suggested talking to the insurance provider regarding the parking lot signage and requested I get him the cyber insurance documentation from the insurance company for him to review.

Board Comments – n/a

Trustee Sillman made a **motion of excused absence** for Supervisor McDonald, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

The meeting was **adjourned at 8:16 pm.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Bassette