

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

January 8, 2025 -7:00PM

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

Regular Board Meeting

The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the meeting commenced at 7:03.

Call to Order – Roll Call – present: McDonald, Sillman, Tipper, Solomon; absent – Bassette.

Supervisor McDonald presented the **agenda** for review and proposed the additions of item 10.D. Cemetery Plots and 10.E. Zoning under New Business. Treasurer Solomon motioned to approve the agenda with the additions. Motion supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried.

Minutes from the December 11, 2024 regular meeting and December 31, 2024 special meeting were reviewed. Trustee Tipper motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Trustee Sillman seconded and the motion was carried.

No **Public Comment on Agenda Items** nor **Non-Agenda Items**.

REPORTS

Commissioner Zudat gave the **Commissioner Report** and discussed the organizational meeting was held and committee appointments made. The BoC elected Bruce DeLong as Chair and Zach Rudat as Vice chair. Commissioner Zudat also mentioned additional townships in the county are looking into doing their own zoning.

No reports were given for **Planning Commission Report, Assessor's Report, Sheriff Report, or Clerk Report**.

Delegate Report – Delegate Lynda Roof advised it has been pretty quiet lately and had nothing else to report.

Clinton County Transit Report – Jody Smith provided name and number for the contact that organizes the Books on the Bus program at Clinton County RESA. She offered a final reminder that Clinton Transit is giving free rides for those pursuing GED through Michigan Works with a final deadline to register with Transit by 1/9/25.

Treasurer Report – Treasurer Solomon advised there was nothing out of the ordinary. The general checking account ended December with a balance of \$12,569.06 while the general savings account ended with a \$766,124.66 balance. Trustee Sillman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

Treasurer Solomon presented the **bills to be paid** in the amount of \$565,283.48. Supervisor McDonald would like to review the Cutting Edge bill in more detail, but agreed with approving it as-is. Trustee Sillman motioned to pay as presented with the exception of allocating the Dexter Trail Bridge bill to utilize the ARPA money. Trustee Tipper supported and the motion carried.

No **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor McDonald provided the **Clinton Area Ambulance Budget** for the Board to review, noting there was no change to Bengal's contribution. Trustee Sillman motioned to approve the budget of Clinton Area Ambulance as presented. Seconded by Treasurer Solomon, the motion carried.

Dr. Mark Holley maintains the **Letter from Register of Deeds** so we do not usually need to gain access. However, McDonald signed the agreement with witness by Trustee Sillman in the event we need to have access in the future.

Treasurer Solomon, Supervisor McDonald, & Deputy Treasurer Schulteiss will meet on Sunday 1/12/25 to review the **2025-2026 budget**. McDonald mentioned one of the review topics at that meeting will be to asphalt seal the parking lot and to account for the path to the bike trail. The budget will be discussed in more detail at February's meeting.

Two **Cemetery Plots** are being purchased. Lot 22 space 1 & 2 are being sold to Anthony Mathias Feldpausch and Martha Ellen Feldpausch of St. Johns, MI in Oakridge Cemetery at \$350 each. The motion was made by Trustee Sillman to approve the sale of these two spots and seconded by Trustee Tipper. Motion carried.

Zoning - Trustee Sillman was contacted by neighboring property to the township that's zoned light industrial. The property owner was advised by McKenna & Associates that they were at capacity for square footage of a structure and property owner was seeking to add another structure. Supervisor McDonald will review zoning ordinance and potentially discuss with McKenna, then be in touch with Trustee Sillman and/or property owner.

Board Comments – n/a

Motion of Excused Absence – Trustee Sillman motioned to excuse the absence of Clerk Bassette due to illness, supported by Trustee Tipper. Motion carried.

Public Present: Jody Smith of Clinton Transit and Essex Township, Lynda Roof, Suzy Williams, and Zach Rudat as the Clinton County Commissioner.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Treasurer Solomon.

Approved 2/12/2025