

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
July 10th, 2024 -7:00PM
Meeting Minutes

Trustee Sillman, standing in for Supervisor McDonald, called the meeting to order and the meeting commenced at 7:02 PM with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Roll call was taken: Bassette, Sillman, Solomon, Boak in attendance, McDonald absent.

Public in attendance: Linda Roof, Dave Pohl, and Jody Smith

Trustee Sillman presented the **agenda** for review by the board. "Clinton Area Ambulance Service update" was added after the Clerk Report. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the agenda with changes, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

The **June 12, 2024 meeting minutes** were presented for approval by the board, a correction to remove the second Treasurer's Report paragraph was discussed and Treasurer Solomon made a motion to approve the June 12, 2024 meeting minutes with the discussed changes, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Public Comments on Agenda – n/a

Public Comment on Non-Agenda items – Jody Smith from Clinton Transit discussed updates at the organization including their work with MDOT. Ms. Smith stated that she is planning to attend the regular township meetings and asked to have Clinton Transit added to the agenda monthly.

Reports

Dave Pohl gave the **Commissioner Report** discussing the 911 Public Safety hardware and software updates training for the users, the upcoming recycling event, and the renewed Veteran's Service Agreement with Ingham County, as well as other important issues at the county level.

Eric Boak stated that he was not able to attend the **Planning Commission meeting** due to scheduling issues, but that Christopher Khorey attended the recent meeting to discuss the battery storage system updates to the ordinance. Both Treasurer Solomon and Trustee Sillman stated they have been approached to discuss these changes by a representative of DTE. The DTE representative attended the PC meeting.

No **Sheriff Report** was given.

Linda Roof gave the **Delegate Report** stating that they are gearing up for the election with 3 delegates on the ballot. They are working to get conservatives on the school board.

Treasurer Solomon gave the **Treasurers Report**, stating that all is in line as it should be. The general account beginning balance is \$770,886.49, and the ending balance is \$763,750.94; the restricted fund account beginning balance is \$1,056,040.58, ending balance is \$1,038,103.84. He also presented the Revenues and Expenditure Report, stating there were no concerns at this time and no changes to the budget were made. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report, supported by Trustee Silman, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerks Report**, reviewing those who will be appointed as **election workers** including Theresa Koenigsknecht, Dale Koenigsknecht, and Nolan Simon; also reporting that Jenna Benjamin is no longer working as the township's Deputy Clerk, nor will she be cleaning the township hall; Lynn Cech, who is the Bingham Township Deputy Clerk, was discussed to have as the township Deputy Clerk, Clerk Bassette will contact her to discuss this work with her.

Clerk Bassette also presented the Clinton County Road Commission's Agreement for Improvements on Clinton County Roads, in the amount of \$618,000, to build the bridge on **Dexter Trail**, which was reviewed and approved during the June 12, 2024 township board meeting. Also discussed was the Agreement Regarding Improvements to Muskrat Creek Drain (Dexter Trail Bridge Project), the agreement will allow the township to work with the County Drain Commission rather than DEQ/EGLE, this agreement will allow sizeable savings to Bengal Township for the Dexter Trail bridge work.

Clerk Bassette presented the **Resolutions to Establish Township Officers Salary**. During the February, 2024 township board meeting the salaries were discussed and it was decided they would remain unchanged from the prior year (Supervisor, \$12,500; Clerk, \$15,500; Treasurer, \$2,400; Deputy Treasurer, \$12,600; Trustees, \$2,400), but the resolutions had not been completed to date. A roll call vote was taken for each resolution with Ayes from Sillman, Bassette, Solomon, and Boak, McDonald is absent. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Clerk's Report, to approve the Agreement Regarding Improvements to Muskrat Creek Drain, and to adopt the Resolutions to Establish Officers Salaries, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **current bills** to be paid. Treasurer Solomon discussed the substantial administrative expenses that McKenna has charged for a specific zoning compliance applicant communication, there were almost 12 hours @ \$85/hour totaling almost \$1000 administrative communication from April – May, how can we collect these administrative costs? Should Bengal Township be responsible when McKenna chooses to communicate for 12 hours with one applicant? McKenna is aware that we collect only \$450 escrow for applications, why would they think that we are responsible to pay them when they should they have

referred the builder to a real estate attorney. Treasurer Solomon will work with the PC Chair to contact Mr. Khorey regarding these charges, these payments will be tabled until further information is received. Also, Treasurer Solomon noted that the check numbers for himself and Brandy were mixed up on the "bills to pay report", as well as the check number for Clinton County Road Commission. Clerk Bassette will correct that on Quickbooks. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$25,353.49 and tabling the two McKenna payments, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Hall Rental Revisions - tabled

New Business – n/a

Board Comments – n/a

Excused Absence - Trustee Sillman excused Supervisor McDonalds' absence from today's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Sharon Bassette.