

## BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

June 12th, 2024 -7:00PM

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

### Regular Board Meeting Agenda

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

Roll call was taken including McDonald, Bassette, Sillman, Boak, and Solomon all in attendance, there were no absences.

Public in attendance: Doug Steffen, CCRC, Mark Trotter, CCRC, Judy and David Smith, Essex Township, Phil Hanses, Drain Commissioner, Audrey Tipper, Lynda Roof, Precinct Delegate, Suzy Williams, Precinct Delegate, Dave Pohl, and Denice Schultheiss.

The **agenda** was presented for review, Audrey Tipper, Park Committee was added under Unfinished Business. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the agenda as revised, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried.

The **May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes** were presented. Treasurer Solomon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried, Clerk Bassette abstained.

### **Public Comment on Agenda Items –n/a**

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda items** – Incumbent Drain Commissioner Phil Hanses discussed his run for the position, discussing his 19 years as drain commissioner and an additional 20 years in the Drain Commission office. David Smith from Essex Township discussed the recent school millage proposal that failed in May and a survey located at the SJPS Facebook page. He is trying to get the word out for people to go take the survey and make your voice heard, Mr. Smith also thanked the township for its consideration of mingling Essex Township's Planning and Zoning with Bengal's.

### **Reports**

Dave Pohl gave the **Commissioner's Report** giving an update on the Broadband completion, the recent audit advising that the financials are in good shape, he announced that the County 911 Emergency Services won a grant in the amount of \$185,000 to update 7 workstations and a new controller for the 911 services, he gave an update on the Waste Management Plan, discussed that the county is reviewing its employee wages and have decided to give a much needed raise, where due, after a recent wage study, he also discussed updates to the revenue sharing with the state. Some questions were asked, and a discussion commenced about the new county park on Pratt Road.

Doug Steffen from the Clinton County Road Commission distributed and presented the **Project Cost Worksheets for the Dexter Trail bridge**. He offered an aluminum arch pipe type at \$618,000 vs the box culvert type at \$850,000, explaining that the life of each are 70-90 years vs 80-90 years respectively. He added that they are installing the aluminum arch pipe at the corner of Townsend and Chandler that the board members could view in advance of our decision for the Dexter Trail bridge. The board asked Mr. Steffen to bring the contract for the aluminum arch bridge to the July meeting.

Treasurer Nolan Solomon gave the **Treasurers Report** advising that the general account beginning balance was \$759,621 and the ending balance was \$770,886.49; the restricted funds accounts starting balance was \$1,056,040.58 and the ending balance was \$1,056,040.58. Nolan also advised that we will want to approve moving funds from savings to checking to cover the checks issued for this month, Deputy Treasurer Schultheiss explained that we can approve the transfer, but it is not needed for her to move the funds. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Trustee Boak gave an update on the **Planning Commission** stating that Kurt Koenigsknecht will be stepping down from the commission this month, Samuel Neilson's term will end in 2025 and he will not be renewed. He discussed that the commission are reviewing the % of buildings to acreage, battery storage facility language, and possibly combining Essex Township under Bengal Townships Planning and Zoning. Eric stated that after the Planning Commission reviewed the pros and cons of the Essex Township request to mingle Planning and Zoning under Bengal Townships current Planning Commission, that there are no real benefits to Bengal Township and recommended not moving forward with the possible merger with Essex Township. Supervisor McDonald announced that Lori Pung has agreed to temporarily fill in for the open Planning Commission position until a new member has been found to fill the empty spot.

No **Sheriff Report** was given.

Suzy Williams gave the **Delegate report**, stating that Tina Irrer is also going to be on the ballot as a delegate for the township. She explained what the delegates do and that they just had their annual Lincoln Day dinner where the speaker discussed battery storage facilities.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerk Report**, sharing that the report was in line with the Treasurer's report, that the Election Commission had met to approve the election inspectors for the August election, the inspectors included Michael Simon, Brenda Zlotek, Stephanie Hirsh, Jenna Benjamin, Diane Koenigsknecht, and Denice Root. Clerk Bassette discussed a recent hall rental issue and how to proceed with the refund of the deposit since the costs for cleaning was more than the deposit, we will not refund the deposit, but at this point, before we review the rental agreements, we do not feel like we have recourse for more than non-refund of the deposit. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Clerk report, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette present the **bills to be paid**, pointing to the two \$1000 invoices from the City of St. Johns Fire and Rescue not having any one for the township to charge to recover our costs on the two non-residential scenarios. Supervisor McDonald said that he would contact them to see about getting a name for us to bill the charges to. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$36,949.84 with Supervisor McDonald contacting the St. Johns Fire and Rescue before sending them the checks, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business**

Audrey Tipper, Bengal Township Park Committee chair, spoke to the board about the committee, sharing that Sam Neilson took part in a podcast for upcoming grants and grant application processes, she also went on to explain that after a review of the Fleis and Vandenbrink (F&V) contract, she discovered that F&V were to assist the township with a second grant application this past spring, the work was not

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completed and she will be communicating with F&V to make sure they will assist the township with another grant application.

Supervisor McDonald presented the **Road Commission contracts** for the mowing of local gravel roadsides at \$4,200.00; over band crack seal at \$4,998.90; chipseal at \$89,032.00; spot gravel at \$7,050.00, and brush spray at \$8231.76. Discussion commenced and Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the mowing the roadsides, the over band, the chipseal, and the spot gravel, tabling the brush spray, supported by Treasurer Solomon, motion carried. Clerk Bassette will scan and email them to the Road Commission.

**Hall rental revisions** were tabled.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Board Comments** – Supervisor McDonald requested that someone attend the CAAS meeting on 6/20 at 6:00 pm. Stan volunteered to attend the meeting.

**Motion of excused absences** – n/a

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:31 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Sharon Bassette