

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

March 12th, 2025 -7:00PM

Minutes

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

Roll call was taken: McDonald, here; Sillman, here; Bassette, here; Tipper, here: Solomon, here.

The **agenda** was presented, and it was revised to add “d. Budget Meeting Time” under new business. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes discussed, Trustee Solomon supported, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **February 12th, 2025 meeting minutes** for review, a spelling correction will be made changing Silm to Sillman. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with changes, supported by Clerk Bassette, motion carried.

Public in attendance: Jody Smith, JH from DTE.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – n/a

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – n/a

Reports

Zach Rudat, County Commissioner, gave the **Commissioner Report**, discussing that the commission meetings are now being live streamed; he discussed the recent presentation that LEAP had given to the commissioners; jail tour and updates; and the maintenance building expansion project.

Trustee Tipper gave the **Planning Commission Report**, he discussed the February 26th PC meeting with Chris Khorey in attendance where they discussed A1 and light industrial districts, he gave updates on PA233, zoning escrow reimbursements and the fee schedule.

Township Assessor Report – n/a

Sheriff Report – n/a

Delegate Report - n/a

Jodi Smith gave the **Clinton Transit Report** discussing micro transit updates, inclement weather policy, work riders, the Transit is proud of the quality of service and their buses.

Treasurer Solomon gave the **Treasurer Report**, advising the savings beginning balance \$764,870.31, ending balance \$765,828.42; general funds beginning balance \$18,077.73, ending balance \$3,482.92. Treasurer Solomon discussed that since Clerk Bassette had gotten a quarterly payment approved at the February board, a budgetary adjustment to increase clerk wage up to \$19,375 up from \$15,500. Treasurer Solomon made a motion to approve the budget adjustment as discussed, supported by Trustee

Sillman, motion carried. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report as presented, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerks Report** stating that the report is inline with the Treasurer's report accept a small difference of \$13.91, which was due to a check being approved at February's meeting but was not added on to the Treasurer's report yet; she made members aware that the May 6th School Board Proposal election is being held at Bingham Township, this approach saves the township paying for a full election; also discussed was the cleaning proposal recently received by the township, because the pricing was higher and more than we have paid historically, board members decided that we would try to get more cleaning bids, members will ask around in the community to see if we can get additional bids; the board was updated on the Zoning Compliance application escrow reimbursement process and the reimbursements in this month's check approvals. Trustee Sillman made a motion to accept the Clerk's report as presented, supported by Treasurer Solomon, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **bills to be paid**, Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$14,475.49, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Supervisor McDonald discussed **hall rentals** during the months of January and February, stating that the rental income does not support the snowplowing expense, he discussed the possibility of not renting the hall during those months and discontinue snowplowing the parking lot during those months. It was decided that hall rentals will run from March 2nd through the first weekend of January. Supervisor McDonald will discuss the snow plowing contract with Cutting Edge.

Supervisor McDonald discussed the possibility of Treasurer Solomon maintaining the **township website**, rather than continuing to outsource. It was decided to add \$600 to the treasurer's salary, increasing it from \$2400 to \$3000 annually.

New Business

Supervisor McDonald discussed board salaries, there were no requests for increases other than previously discussed for the Treasurer salary. **Wage resolutions** for: Clerk, \$15,500; Supervisor, \$12,500; Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer, \$3000/\$12,600; Trustee, \$2,400 were discussed. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the wage resolutions as presented, Clerk Bassette supported, motion carried. A roll call vote was taken: McDonald, yes; Bassette, yes; Solomon, yes; Tipper, yes; Sillman, yes.

Supervisor McDonald discussed the **road project contracts** including: chloride, \$78,075.51; brush spray, \$8009.28; spot gravel, \$8625.00; over band, \$6999.60; Walker from Wacousta – Forest Hill, \$23,525.00; and Wacousta to Essex Center, \$23,525.00. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the contracts as presented, supported by Supervisor McDonald, motion carried.

Supervisor McDonald discussed the **2025-2026 Budget** line by line, changes to be made were the treasurer wages from \$2,400 to \$3,000; increased the building repairs and improvements to chipseal driveway from \$21,000 to \$23,000; Clerk Bassette to check on how the inspector wages were processed as a contractor and employee.

Board Comments – n/a

Motion of Excused Absence – n/a

The meeting was **adjourned** at 9:05 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by Clerk Bassette