

BENGAL TOWNSHIP

Board of Trustees – Annual Budget Meeting Minutes

Date: March 23, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

1. Call to Order

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Bengal Township Board of Trustees was called to order at **6:30 PM** by **Supervisor McDonald**. There was **no public in attendance**.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

3. Roll Call

Present: Supervisor McDonald; Clerk Bassette; Treasurer Solomon; Trustee Sillman; Trustee Tipper

Absent: None

A quorum was declared present.

4. Additions to the Agenda

Additions to the agenda included **Assessor Mark Holley**, **Bills to be Paid**, and **email correspondence**, all added under **New Business**.

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Motion by: Trustee **Sillman**

Second by: Trustee **Tipper**

Decision: Motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Solomon** reported that there were no changes to the township savings account. **Mercantile Bank** continues to provide satisfactory services to the township. Additional

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discussion was held regarding **certificates of deposit and general banking services**. No new deposits were reported due to the current statement cycle.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report.

Motion by: Trustee **Sillman**

Second by: Treasurer **Tipper**

Decision: Motion carried.

6. Clerk's Report

Clerk **Bassette** reported no additional items.

Motion: To accept the Clerk's Report.

Motion by: Trustee **Sillman**

Second by: Trustee **Solomon**

Decision: Motion carried.

7. Bills to Pay

The Board discussed an invoice from **Assessor Mark Holley**. Clarification was provided that the amount attributable to Bengal Township was **\$1,095.86**.

Motion: To approve payment of the **Mark Holley invoice in the amount of \$1,095.86**.

Motion by: Clerk **Bassette**

Second by: Trustee **Tipper**

Decision: Motion carried unanimously.

8. Public Comment on Budget

The meeting was suspended for public comment at **6:33 PM**. There was **no public comment**.

The meeting was reconvened at **6:34 PM**.

9. Proposed 2026–2027 Budget

Discussion was held regarding the proposed budget. No changes were made from the previously discussed draft.

Motion: To approve the **2026–2027 Bengal Township Budget**.

Motion by: Trustee **Sillman**

Decision: Motion carried unanimously.

10. Schedule of Meetings, Times, and Dates

The Board agreed to continue regular meetings on the **second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM**, and the **2027 budget meeting will be held on March 31, 2027 at 7:00 PM**. **Supervisor McDonald will post the meeting schedule on the township announcement board.**

11. Bank Accounts for Township

Motion: To approve **Mercantile Bank** as the primary bank and **Huntington Bank** as the secondary bank.

Motion by: Trustee **Sillman**

Second by: Trustee **Tipper**

Decision: Motion carried.

12. Budget Amendments

The Board reviewed and approved amendments to the 2025–2026 budget to reflect actual expenditures.

Motion: To amend the following budget line items as presented:

- **101.002 Board Salaries:** amended from \$1,500 to **\$2,085**
- **260.003 Insurance Bonds:** amended from \$7,000 to **\$7,030**
- **260.009 Miscellaneous County:** amended from \$0 to **\$60**

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- **260.001 Treasurer's Expense:** amended from \$2,000 to **\$2,160**
- **270.001 Electricity:** amended from \$1,200 to **\$1,230**
- **400.006 CA Ambulance:** amended from \$16,590 to **\$18,810**
- **444.002 Ditch Mowing:** amended from \$4,004 to **\$4,010**

Motion by: Trustee **Sillman**

Second by: Trustee **Tipper**

Decision: Motion carried.

13. Assessor Contract

The Board discussed the Assessor contract, including clarification of language related to fees charged for work outside the scope of annual assessing duties. It was noted that such fees are paid directly to the Assessor by the taxpayer and do not impact township expenditures. No revised contract was presented at the meeting.

Motion: To approve the **Assessor Mark Holley contract as presented**, following discussion and clarification.

Motion by: Trustee **Sillman**

Second by: Treasurer **Solomon**

Decision: Motion carried.

14. Board Comments

Supervisor **McDonald** reported that he had spoken with **Frontier Communications** and that a meeting was scheduled to take place at the township hall on **April 9**, between **8:00 a.m. and noon**. Board members were also asked to review recent correspondence from the township attorney prior to the April meeting.

A legislative update was provided by Trustee **Tipper** regarding **Michigan House Bills 4583 and 4584**, which would require certain local elections to be held in November instead of May. It was noted that the bills had passed the Michigan House and that their status at the Senate level was still under consideration.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at **6:56 PM**.

Clerk Certification

I certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete record of the Bengal Township Board of Trustees **Annual Budget Meeting** held on March 23, 2026.

Clerk Bassette

Date: April 7, 2026

Prepared from talk-to-text transcript and notes from the meeting, formatted to align with official township records and audit requirements.