

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

May 8th, 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: Nick Tipper, MaLissa Schutt, Dave Pohl, and Suzy Williams

The **agenda** was presented for review. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

The **February 14th meeting minutes** were presented. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried. The **April 10th meeting minutes** were presented. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried, Clerk Bassette abstained.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – Suzy Williams asked about the bridge to be built on Dexter Trail Road. Supervisor McDonald advised there have been no recent updates, he reviewed what he knows to date and said he would try to contact the Road Commission again, also suggested that the neighbors are free to contact the Road Commission also.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda items –Ms. Williams also discussed confusion while voting at the Bingham Township Hall for the May election, explaining the only signage said, “Bingham Township Vote Here”, there was not a sign for Ovid or Bengal Townships. The board agreed that signs are needed, and Ms. Williams said she would work on the signage for the township for future elections.

Reports

Dave Pohl gave the **Commissioner’s Report** giving an update on the Broadband completion, stating they are still waiting on formal documentation to commence. He advised that the Sheriff’s Department, using Forfeiture Funds in the amount of \$40,000, are updating their artillery. He discussed the “Building Strong Communities Council” work in Clinton County. Mr. Pohl advised that the county has reviewed rental agreements and increased rental rates for the fair ground buildings. The property intended for public recreation on Pratt Road has been named “Clinton Trails” and there will be a grand opening Saturday, May 11th. A discussion commenced on the different types of usage the park will offer. Updates were given on the Veteran’s Transportation Project aka Clinton Transit, the County ordinance on wind turbines, Green Haven. Finally, Dave announced he will retire from the Commission this year.

MaLissa Schutt, Executive Director of Clinton Transit, came and discussed **Clinton Transit**. MaLissa joined Clinton Transit in 2019 and has been making organizational changes within the board of directors and the organization as a whole, as well as changes to meet the residents needs for expanded services. Clinton Transit has increased ridership by 40% over pre-Covid numbers. Rides include: 46% medical

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trips, 30% employment trips, 18% shopping trips; 46% of riders are adults and adults with disabilities. The organization has added a new software system and each bus now has a tablet on board. People would really like Sunday services, and services like Uber to be available to them, Clinton Transit is working to offer these services, but at this time they do not offer Sunday and Uber type services. Currently Clinton Transit offers regular rides to Dewitt and to Lansing, and basically anywhere in Ingham County now. If interested the website for Clinton Township is mybluebus.com. The millage for Clinton Transit will be on the August ballot and is to restore what was approved in 2020, no additional funding is being requested.

Eric Boak gave a update on the **Planning Commission** stating that there was one junk complaint, no ZBA activity, battery storage systems, and the Essex Township request to combine their zoning with Bengal Townships, discussion commenced regarding the topic.

No **Sheriff Report** was given.

Suzy Williams gave the **Delegate report**, stating that the township is down by two Republican delegates. The Republican delegates are having their Lincoln Day dinner on May 9th.

Treasurer Solomon gave the **Treasurer Report**, there is nothing out of the ordinary for the township during April. The general fund beginning balance was \$760,428.55 and the ending balance was \$759,621.00. The restricted funds beginning balance was \$1,056,040.58 and the ending balance was \$1,056,040.58, no change for the month of April. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the treasurer report, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerk Report**, sharing that the report was inline with the Treasurer's report. Clerk Bassette discussed the dead insect issue in the foyer, Supervisor McDonald said he would spray for insects. Trustee Silms made a motion to approve the Clerk report, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette present the **bills to be paid**, Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$8,140.95, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Supervisor McDonald presented the **Road Commission gravel contracts**. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the two gravel contracts for the two miles between Grove and Frances Roads on Townsend in the amounts of \$21,665 for each mile, supported by Treasurer Solomon, motion carried. Clerk Bassette will scan and email them to the Road Commission. Supervisor McDonald also stated that there have been complaints regarding gravel scraping, it is understood that there have been a few retirements at the road commission which may be resulting in inexperienced grader drivers.

Hall rental revisions were tabled.

New Business

Board Comments – n/a

Motion of excused absences – n/a

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The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:19 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Sharon Bassette