

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

May 14, 2025 -7:00PM

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

Regular Board Meeting

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

**Call to Order** – Roll Call – present: McDonald, Sillman, Tipper, Solomon; absent – Bassette.

Supervisor McDonald presented the **agenda** for review. Trustee Sillman motioned to accept the agenda with a minor correction to remove “vote” from the Roll Call section. Trustee Tipper seconded; motion carried.

Trustee Sillman motioned to approve the **April 9, 2025 meeting minutes** with a minor spelling correction, seconded by Trustee Tipper; motion carried.

**No Public Comment on Agenda Items.**

**No Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.**

**REPORTS**

Commissioner Rudat gave the **Commissioner Report** discussing the culvert in Westphalia will be getting replaced soon as the culvert had just been delivered on 5/14. The County’s Veterans Affairs received approval of a grant. However, recent communication shows it’s at risk of being reduced; the public may reach out on the VA’s behalf. In November 2025, CCRESA will be opened to students who would not typically qualify for CCRESA, but transportation would be the responsibility of the party. Commissioner Rudat also explained the Sheriff Department will be adjusting their fleet. An infrastructure meeting will be held on Tuesday 5/20/25 at 9 am to discuss the jail.

**Planning Commission Report** – Trustee Tipper advised the Planning Commission met on 4/30/25 and reviewed language of the drone amendment.

**Library Report** – N/A

**Assessor’s Report** – N/a

**Sheriff Report** – N/a

**Delegate Report** – Delegate Lynda Roof discussed the St. Johns School Bond proposal failed in all the precincts. She shared statistics for math efficiency have dropped. Reading levels have also declined almost an entire grade level in the last two years for certain grades.

**Clinton Transit** – Jodi Smith advised of an upcoming “community conversation” on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Clinton Transit Office on Scott Rd where Clinton Transit will welcome community conversation on ideas both from Clinton Transit and from the community members. They would like to hear about what’s working well and things the community would like to see. Further, ridership is remaining steady.

**Treasurer Report** – Treasurer Solomon provided the April Treasurer Report details regarding our general checking starting the month at a balance of \$10,143 and ending at \$12,234.37 with nothing out of the ordinary. The general savings started at \$853,093.87 and ended at \$853,703.12. Trustee Sillman motioned to accept the report as presented, supported by Trustee Tipper. Motion carried.

**Clerk Report** – n/a

**PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS**

Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the **payment of current bills** as presented, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Hall Cleaning Bids** – Supervisor McDonald is anticipating another bid, but topic was tabled.

Trustee Sillman advised he is in the process of getting an additional bid for the **trail to the Rails to Trails**.

The **Culvert Contract** was presented for review for the Essex Center Culvert. Trustee Sillman motioned to accept the contract to repair this culvert. Trustee Tipper seconded. The motion carried and signatures of Supervisor McDonald and Treasurer Solomon were provided with Clerk Bassette to sign at a later date.

**St. Johns Fire & Rescue Contract** was discussed. The most recent contract proposal moved the annual payment from \$5800 to \$7800, along with the per-run fee of \$1000. The Board is in favor of continuing with that layout, subject to review by our attorney.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of Amendments to Zoning Ordinance** – we can reapprove the amendment regarding accessory structure; the county required a longer time to provide their response than what our April meeting allowed for. No further comment was made, however. Trustee Tipper gave a summary of the drone amendment, including some background information of why the amendment was made necessary. Treasure Solomon made a motion to adopt these amendments to the Zoning Ordinance as presented, supported by Trustee Sillman. Motion carried. After notification of approval, McKenna will provide an updated and complete ordinance for us to upload to the website.

Trustee Sillman is pursuing **tree trimming bids** to have trees presenting with issues to be trimmed/taken down in all cemeteries besides on Walker Rd. Supervisor McDonald has a contact that may assist with the hardwood.

A motion was made by Trustee Sillman to **appoint Tanner White as a new member to the Planning Commission** with Mr. White also serving as the liaison from the Planning Commission to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Tipper seconded; motion carried.

**Board Comments** – brief discussion on gravel and chloride projects. Two miles of Walker Rd between Forrest Hill and Essex Center will get gravel with its first application of chloride to follow. All other roads have received their first of three chloride applications. The website was discussed and agreed to have it reflect about three years of history for approved minutes.

**Motion of Excused Absence** – Trustee Sillman motioned to excuse the absence of Clerk Bassette, supported by Trustee Tipper. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Treasurer Solomon.