

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

October 9th, 2024 -7:00PM

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

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

Roll call vote was taken McDonald, here; Boak, here; Sillman, here; Bassette, here; Solomon, here.

Public in attendance include John Sirrinc, Nick Tipper, Jody Smith, Tom Irrer, Suzy Williams, Dan Veldhuizen, and Denice Schultheis.

The **agenda** was presented, the City of St. Johns Community Fund/City of St. Johns representative John Sirrinc was added under New Business. Trustee Boak made a motion to approve the agenda with changes, Treasurer Solomon supported, motion carried.

September 11, 2024 meeting minutes review was tabled.

There were no **public comments on agenda items**.

During **public comments on non-agenda items**, Suzy Williams requested an update on the bridge work on Dexter Trail. Supervisor McDonald discussed the progress on the bridge, stating good weather has contributed to the timely progress.

REPORTS

Commissioner Pohl gave the **Commissioner Report**, stating that there was a 4-5% budget increase, including staffing increases for the Sheriff's Department. The Commissioner also discussed the new generator for the County Building, while a substantial cost to the county, the new generator will cover the entire county office building, rather than just the Emergency Services area of the building that the old generator covered previously. Also discussed were changes to County Zoning for building a second home on a property. Finally, the Road Commission will hold its annual officer meeting on November 19, he requested we all attend.

Dan Veldhuizen from Siegfried Crandall P.C. gave the **Auditors' Report**, advising that they were impressed with Denice's work on the financial preparation for the township. There was very little to suggest for the township, but he did make note that we should add a Purchasing and Procurement policy.

Planning Commission liaison Boak gave the **Planning Commission Report**, advising on the recent PA116 application, the Planning Commission will be working to clarify the PA116 process to learn more for future applications. Trustee Boak advised that the PC will not schedule PC meetings for March, November and December, and every other month will have a meeting

Bengal Township

October 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Page 2

scheduled. If the meeting is not needed during any scheduled monthly meeting, that meeting will be cancelled.

No **Township Assessor Report** was given.

No **Sheriff Report** was given.

The **Delegate Report** was given by Suzy Williams.

The **Clinton Transit Report** was given by Jodi Smith. She advised that it was Melissa who attended last month's meeting. Currently Clinton Transit is piloting an "UBER" type system, starting in Dewitt and St. Johns, the vehicles for this service are provided by MDOT. She discussed disaster training they have been doing and a fun Halloween activity they do is the Haunted Bus. In addition to the week time services, she advised that they now have 6 full-time routes on Saturdays, they have about 65 riders on Saturdays. Jodi ended by stating that their staff does a wonderful job.

Treasurer Solomon gave the **Treasurer Report**, he advised that the general account beginning balance was \$789,604.53 and the ending balance \$786,810.05; the millage account beginning balance was \$997,126.76 and the ending balance of \$997,126.76. Treasurer Solomon discussed that the Budget for Planning line item should increase from \$6000 to \$9000; and the LDA Application Fees should increase from \$1200 to \$1500. Treasurer Solomon made a motion to accept the budget changes as discussed, Trustee Sillman supported, motion carried. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the treasurers report as presented, Clerk Bassette supported, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerk Report** when she made a motion to close the regular meeting and reopen the **Election Commission Meeting** at 7:40 pm, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried. Clerk Bassette presented that she needed to add Nancy Holland to work as an election inspector for the November 5th election. Clerk Bassette made a motion to close the Election Commission meeting and reopen the Board Meeting at 7:43 pm, supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried. Clerk Bassette went on to discuss the monthly report, stating that it was not in balance with the Treasurer's report, more research would be required. Trustee Sillman made a motion to accept the Clerk Report as presented, Trustee Boak supported, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **current bills to be paid**, Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the bills to be paid in the amount of \$25,732.85, Trustee Boak supported, motion carried.

Unfinished Business – n/a

New Business

John Sirrine, representative from the **St. Johns Community Fund/City of St. Johns**, presented the plans for the updates being made to the City Park, additionally he presented plans for future expansions after the initial phase has been completed. The total package for the completed project is projected to be \$2.4 million and will be done in phases. The first phase is \$1.6 million,

Bengal Township

October 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Page 3

which is the initial playground and is expected to be completed next summer, no specific date was given. The City of St. Johns has obtained funding from the Spark grant and sponsorships from the St. Johns Community Fund and others. At this time the City is looking for funding partners for the remaining phases of the City Park, the City is looking to add \$150,000 to the endeavor, while they are not recommending a contribution amount, they are hoping the closer townships might contribute \$30,000, and the further out townships \$10,000.

Supervisor McDonald presented a **PA-116 application for Tom Irrer**, Trustee Boak made a motion to approve the application as presented, supported by Treasurer Solomon, motion carried.

Supervisor McDonald discussed the **Lawn/Snow bids**, we are looking for more bids, this was tabled for receipt of further offers.

The **Hall Rental Revisions** were tabled.

During **Board Comments** we discussed how to use the remainder of the ARPA funds.

Motion of Excused Absence – n/a

The meeting was **adjournment** at 8:29 pm.