

‘BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

October 8th, 2025 - 7:00PM
Township Hall, 6586 West M-21 St. Johns MI
Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

Roll call was taken, here: McDonald, Bassette, Solomon; absent Tipper. Sillman arrived after roll call at 7:07 pm.

Public Attendance: Jodi Smith, Linda Roof, Tom Irrer, Zach Rudat

The **agenda was reviewed**, Tom Irrer submitted his PA116 application during this time, Trustee Solomon made a motion to approve the agenda as updated to add “Irrer – PA116 Application” under new business, supported by Clerk Bassette, motion carried. Trustee Sillman had not arrived in time to vote.

The **September 10th meeting minutes** were presented for review, Trustee Solomon made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, supported by Supervisor McDonald, motion carried.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – n/a

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – n/a

REPORTS

Commissioner Rudat gave the **Commissioner Report** discussing the county budget recommendation for the 2026 fiscal year. There’s no change in our county millage rate but increases in county taxable value are projected to increase tax revenue by 5.4% next year; expenditures are projected to increase by 5.2% from the current fiscal year. A Budget Hearing will be held at the Courthouse on Tuesday, September 14th, at 6 pm. He gave an update on the fairgrounds, staff are currently working on the fairgrounds master plan and are developing a 20-year capital budget, a steering committee has been formed of BOA commissioners, county staff, MSU Extension, CC 4-H, CC Farm Bureau, and SJ FFA.

Planning Commission – there was not a meeting this month so nothing to report.

Library Report - n/a

Township Assessor Report - n/a

St Johns Fire Chief Report - n/a

Clinton County Road Commission Report - n/a

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Sheriff Report - n/a

Delegate report - n/a

Jodi Smith from **Clinton Transit** discussed the recent M-DOT tri-annual audit, they have not gotten the report back yet but it appears that everything went very well. Ridership growth has been increasing monthly by about 1%, this is based on pre-Covid numbers.

REPORTS

Clinton Area Ambulance – n/a

Treasurer Solomon gave the **Treasurer Report**, nothing out of the ordinary for the month. The general ledger beginning balance was \$20,825.96 and ending balance was \$5,988.48. The savings ledger beginning balance was \$866,049.92 and ending balance of \$392,288.86, as well as the two CDs approved and opened last month in the amounts of \$250,000 each. The budget was reviewed, and amendments were discussed to increase the assessor account from \$1,500 to \$3,000, this change was due to the assessor BOR expenses from last fiscal year were paid this fiscal year; increasing the propane account from \$2,000 to \$2,300, this change was from an increase in usage from last years contracted amount; increasing cemetery care account from \$2,000 to \$5,500, this change is due to the approved tree removal for a few trees located in our cemeteries; and the election account increasing from \$500 to \$2,800, this change is due to the new state requirement for a camera facing the ballot drop box. Treasurer Solomon also discussed the newsletter to be sent with the winter tax bills, please get with him if you have anything to add. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the Treasurer Report, including the budget amendments as discussed, Treasurer Solomon supported, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerk Report**, discussing the new requirements for the election drop box camera equipment. While the State of Michigan will reimburse for the purchase, we are not sure when the reimbursement will be made, thus the budget increase for this fiscal year. The township can also purchase a new drop box under the same program offered by the state, so it is no cost to the township. Because we are unsure when the reimbursement will be made to the township, clerk Bassette requested that the election account be increased from the \$2,800 (approved above) to \$4,800, which will include the cost of the new drop box. The Clerk Report was in line with the Treasurer report except for the savings and checking account balances, it was the omission of the interest income to the accounts. Clerk Bassette will make the changes and bring the September clerk report back to board in November. Treasurer Solomon made a motion to amend the election budget to \$4,800 and approve the clerk report with the discussed changes to the savings and checking for the omitted interest income, Trustee Sillman supported, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **current bills to be paid**, Supervisor McDonald noticed the check in the amount of \$5,910 was not included on the list and it should have been. Trustee Sillman made a

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motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$24,152, which includes the check for \$5,910 to Williams, supported by Treasurer Solomon, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Foster Swift Overlay Conversation was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

The **township mileage** was discussed by Supervisor McDonald, he spoke to the attorney who advised that the August 2026 election would be good, then if not approved, we could add it to the November 2026 election ballot. The deadline for the August ballot is May 12th. Trustee Sillman made a motion to put the mileage on the August 2026 ballot, supported by Treasurer Solomon, motion carried.

The board reviewed the **PA116 application for the Irrers**, Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the PA116 application for Irrer's, Treasurer Solomon supported, motion carried. Clerk Bassette will get the paperwork sent to the appropriate local and state authorities listed on the paperwork.

Board Comments – none

Treasurer Solomon made a **motion to excuse** Trustee Tipper's absence, Trustee Sillman supported, motion carried.

The meeting was adjournment at 7:57 pm.

Minutes submitted by Clerk Bassette