

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

September 10th, 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, Tipper, Bassette, Solomon; absent: Sillman

Additions to the Agenda were discussed. Under new business “CCASA Amended Articles and By Laws” were added. Treasurer Solomon made a motion to approve, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

The **August 13th minutes** were presented for approval; Trustee Tipper made a motion to approve with typographical touchups, Treasurer Solomon supported, motion carried. The **July 9th minutes** were presented for approval, Trustee Tipper made a motion to approve as presented, Treasurer Solomon supported, motion carried.

Community in Attendance: Jodi Smith, Linda Roof

Public Comment on Agenda Items - n/a

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - n/a

REPORTS

Commissioner Report – n/a

Trustee Tipper gave an **update from the Planning Commission** meeting, the group has some concerns with a couple of the decisions made by McKenna, one for a pool and one for a pond. Supervisor McDonald commented on the pool situation and the Ordinance that was posted on the Bengal Township website. The Bengal Township ordinance on the website was not correctly updated with the pool information, it was not there but should have been. When the County requested our approval is when he noticed that the pool information was not included in the ordinance. He made the decision to waive the application because the resident was referencing incorrect information. Supervisor McDonald is working with McKenna to get this corrected. The other situation had to do with a pond, Trustee Tipper pointed to improper review by McKenna, after further discussion it was determined that once the excavation was completed, the situation would work itself out.

Library Report – n/a

Township Assessor Report - n/a

St John's Fire Chief Report - n/a

Clinton County Road Commission Report - n/a

Sheriff Report - n/a

Linda Roof gave the **Delegate Report**, she shared information on the Big Beautiful bill and private school sponsorships to \$1700. More information will be provided next month.

Jodi Smith gave an update on **Clinton Transit** sharing their ridership is up 30% higher than pre-covid ridership. She discussed the Micro Transit of St. Johns and Dewitt pilot programing; this is a new idea, and they have been trying to measure how well it is going, so far it seems to be going well. Clinton Transit could be a real “lifesaving” event for people, she shared that she has family in Montcalm County and they have nothing like this for their residents.

Treasurer Solomon gave the **Treasurer Report**, nothing out of the ordinary for the month. The general ledger beginning balance was \$32,089.19 and ending balance was \$20,825.96. The savings ledger beginning balance was \$865,479.85 and ending balance of \$866,049.82. Treasurer Solomon also discussed moving \$500,000.00 from the savings account currently at .50% to two **Certificate of Deposits (CD)**, one 6 months at 3.94%, and 12 months at 3.74%, \$250,000 each. Trustee Tipper made a motion to approve the 2 CDs as discussed, Clerk Bassette supported, motion carried. Also discussed was the township website update, last month it was approved to contract with STG to rebuild the website and bring it up-to-date to ADA requirements, integrating old to new, using Google Suite, and adding a calendar for hall rentals. STG will serve as the admin. Trustee Tipper asked to have baked in policies for email retention, etc. Clerk Bassette made a motion to approve the Treasurers report as presented, Trustee Tipper supported, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette gave the **Clerks Report** sharing the L4029 and Statement of Monies to be Raised reports that will be sent to the County for our mileages, she provided information as to where the figures come from and explained that all board members should plan to attend training sessions in the spring to get a better understanding of the importance of the information to the township. The Clerk Report is in line with the Treasurers report.

Treasurer Solomon made a motion to approve the Clerk report, Trustee Tipper supported, motion carried.

Clerk Bassette presented the **bills to be paid**. There were three discussed and approved bills from the August board meeting in the amount of \$2,683.84 in addition to the normal monthly bills in the amount of \$35,392.78 to be approved. Treasurer Solomon made a motion to approve the bills in the amounts of \$2,683.84 and \$35,392.78, supported by Clerk Bassette, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor McDonald discussed the **Foster Swift Overlay Conversion** to update the solar and wind portion of the ordinance, so it is in line with state requirements of PA233. The cost of the work is around \$5000.00, how should we move forward? The Overlay Conversion was tabled and will be reviewed again in the next few months.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor McDonald discussed and recommended the board accept the CAASA Fifth Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, with that he made a motion to approve as presented, supported by Clerk Bassette, motion carried. Nick also gave an update on the core policies in place with the ambulance service.

Board Comments - n/a

Supervisor McDonald made a **Motion of Excused Absence** for Trustee Sillman, supported by Trustee Tipper, motion carried.

The meeting was adjournment at 8:16 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk Bassette.