

BENTON TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
October 14, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Benton Township Board was held at the Benton Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy. on October 14, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Roger Wickerham. Others present from the Board were: Steve Davidson-Trustee, Jeana Rohrs-Clerk, Karen Miller Treasurer and Chris Tennes-Trustee.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Wickerham led those in attendance with the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Steve moved to approve the agenda, Karen supported. The agenda was approved. Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nays.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting of September 9, 2019 were presented to the Board. Chris moved to approve the minutes, supported by Steve to accept the regular monthly meeting minutes of September 9, 2019. Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nays

RECOGNIZE VISITORS

Don Buck, Commissioner Droscha, Gary Walters, David Shiflett, Lindsey Hoxie, Kelley Coburn-Harris, Barb Wickerham, John Diemer, Duane Smuts, Chad Chambers, Trevor Wawiernia, John Forell, Ed Rivet, Gary Suits, Andy McLean, and Ben Kudwa

PUBLIC COMMENT

REPORTS TO BOARD

Fire Department Report - Steve gave the report. The Tornado Warning & Warning Systems were checked and are operating as expected. Both bay's heaters are currently out of service. Training included Emergency Response for the City of Potterville and Agriculture Farm Animal Emergency Response. The calls for service Included 11 Township fire runs, 7 City of Potterville and 2 Mutual Aid runs; there were 25 Township EMS runs, 28 City of Potterville and 44 Mutual Aid EMS runs. The Fire Department's Report will be put on file.

Bills  
September 2019

BENTON TOWNSHIP CHECK DATE FROM 09/09/2019 - 10/04/2019

Bank 101 GENERAL BANK ACCOUNT

09/10/2019	101	15220	AP 00124 PONTEM SOFTWARE subscription	54.92
09/10/2019	101	15221	AP 00021 CONSUMERS ENERGY electricity hall/ cemetery	309.78
09/10/2019	101	15222	AP 00149 THE COUNTY JOURNAL Board of Trustees,Meeting Public Hearing	187.80
09/10/2019	101	15223	AP 00218 FAHEY,SCHULTZ,BURZYCH,RHODES Interlocal Agreement	1,012.50
09/12/2019	101	1(E)	AP 00264 FEDERAL GOVT. EFTPS	2,324.91
09/18/2019	101	15224	AP 00148 BS&A SOFTWARE PROGRAMS, GL AP AND PAYROLL	6,830.00
09/18/2019	101	15225	AP 00014 CENTEC CAST METAL PRODUCTS FLAGS/ HALL AND CEMETERY	267.11
09/27/2019	101	2(E)	AP 00264 FEDERAL GOVT. EFTPS	2,544.58
10/02/2019	101	15226	AP 00091 STATE OF MICHIGAN	1,125.15
10/02/2019	101	15233	PR 26 DAVIDSON , STEVEN	80.13
10/02/2019	101	15232	PR 36 JEWELL , RANDY	719.14
10/02/2019	101	15231	PR 34 MILLER , KAREN	1,714.07
10/02/2019	101	15230	PR 35 OSBORN , SANDRA	719.14
10/02/2019	101	15229	PR 32 ROHRS , JEANA	1,870.18
10/02/2019	101	15228	PR 11 TENNES , CHRISTOPHER	83.74
10/02/2019	101	15227	PR 24 WICKERHAM , ROGER	1,082.30
10/03/2019	101	15241	AP 00091 STATE OF MICHIGAN	3.06
10/03/2019	101	15234	PR 07 CAUGHEY , JACK	36.94
10/03/2019	101	15235	PR 28 FASNAUGH , THOMAS	30.84
10/03/2019	101	15236	PR 13 LOCKE , JEFFREY	32.32
10/03/2019	101	15237	PR 33 PELFREY , ROY	32.31
10/03/2019	101	15238	PR 27 SORBET , MAUREEN	32.33
10/03/2019	101	15239	PR 11 TENNES , CHRISTOPHER	34.50
10/03/2019	101	15240	PR 22 WICKERHAM , BARBARA	35.24
10/03/2019	101	EFT1(E)	PR EFTPS FEDERAL	965.83 V
10/03/2019	101	EFT2(E)	PR EFTPS FEDERAL	954.83
10/04/2019	101	15242	AP 00021 CONSUMERS ENERGY HALL	227.84
10/04/2019	101	15243	AP 00283 JAKE SCHAEFER MAINTAINANCE SEPTEMBER	1,414.75
10/04/2019	101	15244	AP 00359 KAREN L. MILLER POSTAGE	110.00
10/04/2019	101	15245	AP 00302 MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE MEMBER DUES	200.00
10/04/2019	101	15246	AP 00149 THE COUNTY JOURNAL SYNOPSIS 9/2019	74.92
10/04/2019	101	15247	AP 00255 TONYA ANZALDUA JANITORIAL	120.00
10/04/2019	101	15248	AP 00297 WOW! BUSINESS INTERNET AND PHONE	156.32
Total of 32 Disbursements:				24,421.65
Less 1 Void Checks:				965.83
				total \$23,455.82

Karen moved to approve paying the bills supported by Chris. Roll call vote: Roger Wickerham- yes; Steve Davidson - yes, Jeana Rohrs - yes, Karen Miller - yes, Chris Tennes - yes, Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nay.

Clerk's Report – The clerk's report was included in the packet. BS & A training hours were also included. The Clerk's Report will be put on file.

Treasurer's Report –Karen's hours were included. The expenditure for September 2019 was. \$28,237.16. Revenues from September were \$49,631.38 and the Balance on hand as October 1, 2019 was \$343,111.13. The Treasurer's Report will be put on file.

Supervisor's Report – Roger Wickerham presented the Supervisor's report and hours for the month of September. The Supervisor's report will be put on file.

Assessor's Report - There were three new building permits, no new foreclosures and no mortgage company sales. The Assesor's report will be put on file.

Sheriff Report: The Sheriff was not present. Roger stated that there were 78 events reported this month. This number is down. The Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

Correspondence

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Survey Language: Roger stated that a draft was included in our packet. Jeana suggested that we include a line for printed name as well as the signature line. Roger and Jeana had discussed setting parameters for any surveys moving forward. A suggestion is that we only do a survey if we have three consecutive months with 50 or more attendees discussing the same issue. Jeana also suggested that the citizens; when receiving the survey will wonder what we plan to do with the information. She suggested setting a number representing a % of tax payers in the township. Chris asked if Roger had talked to the County or MTA. Roger said he had not and did not believe that they would have any helpful information. Roger stated that it would be hard to set a bar because he doesn't know how this information will come back. If the surveys are only returned from one corner of the township then the survey is worthless. Roger stated that he is waiting to see what we get back before making his decision. Karen wondered about the highest percentage of voters that we have had in the biggest election. Barb Wickerham offered from the audience that she believed the highest to be 58%. Jeana stated that if Barb believed that to be true then we should set the % at 58%. Roger does not want to put a percentage on it. Karen suggested analyzing the surveys as they came in. Jeana said that in order to get a good representation of the township we would be wise to set a %. Roger stated that it could not be validated until we get back the information. Jeana stated that the % would help insure that we get a good cross section of the citizens in the township. It should not be based on elections or the number of those voting in our election but should be based on land ownership. Roger said that he thought it would be based on the voter data base. He suggested that we could not pull address from the tax data base. Karen and Jeana thought that with the new software we could pull from the tax data base. It was decided that the survey would be based on tax roles. One survey to each household. Roger will place an email address on the survey. Roger and Karen both stated that this is just information gathering not for decision making. Chris suggested taking what we get in and evaluating where they come from and then decide how to move on. Are we going to label an area? Roger stated that we are gathering information. Karen asked if every parcel will get a vote. We would not spend the money to mail multiples to a land owner. One land owner will get one survey. Roger is looking for suggestions on the language. Karen asked about a comment section and Roger said no. Add printed name, email and drop box, labels from the tax base and return date 2 weeks out. We will

remove residents in the first paragraph and rather have it read all areas of Benton Township. Roger asked all in favor: 5 ayes 0 nays.

NEW BUSINESS:

1 CU-11-19-4 Diemer Surface Mine Chris moved to approve. Karen supported the motion. Roll call vote: Roger Wickerham- yes; Steve Davidson - yes, Jeana Rohrs - yes, Karen Miller - yes, Chris Tennes - yes, Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nay.

2. Windsor Twp Mutual Aid Agreement No changes were made to this agreement; it is up for renewal due to new personnel at Windsor. Steve moved and Karen 2nd the motion. Roll call vote: Roger Wickerham- yes; Steve Davidson - yes, Jeana Rohrs - no, Karen Miller - yes, Chris Tennes - yes, Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nay.

3. Insurance coverage is the same as last year. Roger went over the additional option of Cyber Coverage. This option would be an additional \$720.00. The renewal cost is the same as last year. Steve moved and Karen 2nd the motion. Roll call vote: Roger Wickerham- yes; Steve Davidson - yes, Jeana Rohrs - no, Karen Miller - yes, Chris Tennes - yes, Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nay.

4. Office hours: Jeana suggested moving the current day closed from Monday to Friday. Karen made a motion to be open Monday to Thursday 9:00 am to noon and 1:00pm to 4:00 pm beginning on November 4, 2019... Chris 2nd the motion. Motion carried 4 ayes; 1 nay

Public Comments: Barb Wickerham; Gary Suits, and Kelly Harris-Coburn spoke in favor of the survey. John Forell questioned the board about our decisions to allow a land owner to put a surface mine or a DNR Hunting park on agriculture land if we are against allowing a farmer to sell his land to a solar company. Mr. L. Hoxie warned that board that either we take on our own zoning or his group would petition to place on the ballot the option that we become a charter township. Mr. Kudwa strongly supports our becoming a charter.

Brian Droscha reported that the county per the Governor will be facing cuts to the Road patrol and jail reimbursements.

ADJOURNED:

Adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Jeana Rohrs, Clerk