

BENTON TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
May 13, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Benton Township Board was held at the Benton Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy. on May 13, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Steve moved to approve the agenda, Chris supported. The agenda was approved. Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nays.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting of April 8, 2019 were presented to the Board. Chris moved to approve, supported by Karen to accept the regular monthly meeting minutes of April 8, 2019. Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nays.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS

Don Buck, Commissioner Droscha, Jake Arndt, John Forell, Jodi Cobb, Jeaneen Smuts, Gary Cobb, Gary Walters, Duane Smuts, Gary Suits, Lindsey Hoxie, David Shiflett, Adam Auvenshine and Chief James

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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REPORTS TO BOARD

Sheriff Report: Roger Wickerham gave the report. There were 107 events over the past month including one Breaking and Entering and two Domestic Disputes. The Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

Fire Department Report - Chief James gave the report. The Department responded to a number of grass fires this spring. Some of the department members built a new dining room table for the station. The A111 Ambulance had a recall notice which has been taken care of by Shaheen Chevrolet in Lansing. Some of the Department attended an Arson investigation class. The Department participated in the Potterville Community Clean-up Day and will be participating in the Memorial Day events as well as the Gospel Fest. The calls for service included 8 township fire runs and 0 Mutual Aid runs; there were 11 Township EMS runs and 46 Mutual Aid EMS runs. The Fire Department's Report will be put on file.

Bills
May 2019

Bills Paid Prior to 5-1-2019

15099 Eaton county Treasurer (Dog Licenses)	\$9.00
15100 WOWS! Business	\$156.75
15101 Centec Cast Metal Products (flags for cemetery)	158.41
15102 Jake Schafer (opening Woodbury grave)	\$550.00
15103 Consumers Energy	\$337.29
15104 Tonya Anzaldua	\$120.00
15105 Card member services Credit card	\$134.96
15106 Roger Wickerham (MTA conference expense)	\$259.10
15107 Jeana M. Rohrs (MTA conference, postage for election)	\$551.24
15108 Voids	
15109 Harry Moore Board of Review training mileage	\$27.96
15110 Jake Schafer salary	\$1414.75
15111 Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes	\$762.50
15112 State of Michigan (withholding)	\$1092.34
15113 Karen Miller (MTA conference expenses)	\$461.83
15114 Great Lakes Window Cleaning	\$95.00
15115 The County Journal (synopsis, public accuracy)	\$467.00

Bills Paid After 5-1-2019

15116 Sandra Osborn	\$719.14
15117 Randy Jewell	\$719.14
15118 Roger Wickerham	\$1082.33
15119 Steven Davidson	\$80.16
15120 Christopher Tennes	\$83.77
15121 Karen Miller	\$1714.08
15122 Jeana Rohrs	\$1870.16
15123 Roger Wickerham (website)	\$395.37

Jeana gave her reasons for not signing check 15111 for Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes. She stated that she did not feel that the request to the attorney represented the entire township and she did not feel right to use tax payer dollars to pay the bill. Karen also stated that she wanted to do more research on our rights. Chris stated in hind sight clearly we should not have made the request however we need to pay the

bills. Chris made a motion to pay the bills minus check number 15111 for Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes and pay the remaining bills, supported by Karen. Roll call vote: Steve Davidson- yes; Karen Miller-yes, Chris Tennes-yes Roger Wickerham - no, Jeana Rohrs - yes Motion carried 4 ayes; 1 nay. Roger stated that we would pay most of the bills.

Clerk's Report – Jeana Rohrs presented the Clerk's hours for the month of April. She attended the MTA conference, held training for election inspectors and performed the public accuracy test for the special election held on May 7, 2019. Turn out for the election was low, 246 voters voted which included 86 AV ballots. The Charlotte Public School Millage was defeated in out township as well as in the county. We will be hosting another election in August as the Potterville Public Schools has handed in Proposal language to both me and the county. The Clerk's Report will be put on file.

Treasurer's Report –Karen's hours were included. Karen reported that she attended the MTA Conference. The expenditures for May 2019 were. \$19,778.78. Revenues from April were \$8,106.67 and the Balance on hand as May 1, 2019 was \$275,888.16. 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 April. Roger stated that he met with Oneida Township to discuss the pros and cons of a Charter Township. Roger attended the Emergency Managers Conference. He met with Pottervilla Computer Solutions to work on our website. Roger also suggested to the board that we start work on a proposal for Recreational Marijuana. We will be holding the budget workshop Tuesday May 14th at 6:00 PM. The Supervisor's report will be put on file.

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

Correspondence - None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Erik Deibel Assistant Drain Commissioner from Eaton County presented a proposal for the Walsh Drain that affects the areas of Otto and Vermontville Roads. The Drain Commissioner's office has gotten bids for replacement of 30 feet of drainage pipe. The cost exceeds the amount their office is allowed to spend on repairs to this drain. Erik asked for a proposal from our board that would cover the remaining cost. Roger moved Resolution 2019-1 May R Walsh Drain Maintenance and Repair. Steve seconded. Roll call vote: Karen Miller - yes, Chris Tennes - yes, Steve Davidson - yes, roger Wickerham - yes and Jeana Rohrs - yes. Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nays.

2. Chief James gave an overview of the Amended Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association Agreement Resolution. If we agree to sign this agreement we will have access to many resources that would be automatically assigned because of the agreement. Our Department may also be dispatched to other areas of the state because this agreement will provide Mutual aid across the state as well as state lines if needed. There is no cost involved. The Chief stated he would like to enter into this agreement if it pleases the board. Roger Wickerham moved to approve and Karen Miller supported. Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nays.

3. Potterville City Fire Proposal: Roger Wickerham presented a draft of the Public Fire Protection and Prevention Services for the City of Potterville. Chief James believes that this agreement would be a "win-win" for both the Township and the City. This agreement would be for five years and would cost the City of Potterville \$120,000. The first year with a rate of 3% over the next four years for inflation. Roger Wickerham moved to approve the proposal for Public fire Protection and Prevention Services be sent to the City of Potterville. Karen Miller seconded. . Roll call vote: Steve Davidson - yes, Chris Tennes - yes, Karen Miller - yes, Roger Wickerham - yes and Jeana Rohrs - yes. Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nays.

4. Budget Amendments:

1) Karen moved to amend the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget account #101-247-703.000 Board of Review by \$65.00 to be taken from the account #101-890-955 the Contingency fund. Roger supported. Roll call vote: Chris Tennes - yes, Roger Wickerham - yes, Steve Davidson - yes, Karen Miller - yes and Jeana Rohrs - yes. Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nays.

2) Karen moved to amend the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget account #101-247-727.000 Board of Review Reimbursements by \$28.00 to be taken from the account #101-890-955 the Contingency fund. Steve supported. Roll call vote: Roger Wickerham - yes, Chris Tennes - yes, Steve Davidson - yes, Karen Miller - yes and Jeana Rohrs - yes. Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nays

3) Karen moved to amend the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget account #101-276-801.000 Sexton by \$500.00 to be taken from the account #101-890-955 the Contingency fund. Chris supported. Roll call vote: Roger Wickerham - yes, Steve Davidson - yes, Karen Miller - yes, Chris Tennes - yes and Jeana Rohrs - yes. Motion carried 5 ayes; 0 nays

Public Comment:

Mr. Gary Suits spoke concerning Solar in Benton Township. He stated that the before mentioned bill should be paid by this board because it is the will of the people. He has also looked at the Michigan Legal Zoning Acts and he suggested that our proposal would super seed the County's current Zoning language.

He encouraged the board to not let this drop, to look at our proposal again and let the county know that we have the authority to write our own language.

Mr. Lynn Hoxie represents Eaton County Citizens for Solar Regulation. They have been in the news. They contacted Mr. Roger Wickerham and asked about what could be done and Roger probably called the attorney on behalf of this group. Solar power is not going away. We should keep our attorneys abreast on this situation as it will not be going away. Mr. Hoxie suggested that I sign the check because by not signing the check it makes an additional chapter for Channel 10 news to report on. Mr. Hoxie said "If it comes down to it I will sign the damn check and pay my own money for it." Mr. Hoxie suggested that it would cost the township up to \$100,000.00 for a special election. I am just bringing you up to speed. Not signing the check is really neat for the next chapter. He suggested that they may start a petition to become a Charter township.

Commissioner Droscha reported that the Ways and Means Committee met about the budget. The county will be launching the new website in three days. All county meetings will now be recorded and uploaded to the Eaton County site for those who would like to hear the meetings.

Don Buck reported that the Fazoli's Dinner to be held May 7, 2019. The dinner was a great success and Don thanked everyone who attended.

Mr. John Forell thanked the board for all the things that we have done. As the chair of this board you allowed an attack on one of the members of this board. Miss-stated facts were given. Truths are not being presented. Tough spot for land owners. Federal and State law requires green energy. As a county commissioner I could never pay for a referendum and to use tax payer's money to pay for it. It was a surprise to Roger that he received the documents that he did from the attorney. Mr. Forell suggested that is on the attorney then. He suggested that it is illegal to pay an attorney for these documents.

ADJOURNED:

Adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Jeana Rohrs, Clerk