

BENTON TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
July 8, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Benton Township Board was held at the Benton Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy. on July 8, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jeana moved that the Sheriff Report be moved to the last Report, Karen seconded Motion carried 4 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent

Karen moved to approve the agenda with the change, Steve supported. The agenda was approved. Motion carried 4 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Budget Meeting held June 10, 2019 were presented to the Board. Steve moved to approve, supported by Karen. Motion carried 4 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting of June 10, 2019 were presented to the Board. Karen moved to approve, supported by Steve to accept the regular monthly meeting minutes of June 10, 2019. Motion carried 4 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent

RECOGNIZE VISITORS

Don Buck, Commissioner Droscha, Gary Walters, David Shiflett, Duane Smuts, Gary Suits, Kara Suits, Gary Vorie, Chris McWorter, Anna Burman, James Gensel, Nancy Gensel, Connie Arndt, Jake Arndt, Theresa Wells, Ahren Taszreak, Mike Hoskins, Lindsey Hoxie, Lori Mawhorter, Jayne Hoxie, Scott Hornstra and Chief James

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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REPORTS TO BOARD

Fire Department Report - Chief James gave the report.

Training this past month included Apparatus Operation, Drafting and Pumping and Hose loads. The Department attended or took part in many activities included Potterville Public Schools Field Day and the Gospel Festival. They are looking forward to starting their new budget year. The calls for service included 8 Township fire runs and 0 Mutual Aid runs; there were 11 Township EMS runs and 35 Mutual Aid EMS runs. The Fire Department's Report will be put on file.

Bills
July 2019

Bills Paid Prior to 7-1-2019

15149 State of Michigan (withholding)	1103.21
15150 Consumers Energy	277.27
15151 Eaton County Equalization Dept (Maps)	15.00
15152 Michigan Election Resources	28.65
15153 WOWS! Business	155.48

Bills Paid After 7-1-2019

15153 Tonya Anzaldua	120.00
15154 Jake Schafer salary	1414.75
15155 WOWS! Business	155.56
15156 Jeana Rohrs (postage)	180.00
15157 Sandra Osborn	719.14
15158 Randy Jewell	719.14
15159 Tom Fasnaugh	30.83
15160 Barbara Wickerham	30.83
15161 Ben Kudwa	32.32
15162 Roy Pelfrey	32.32
15163 Maureen Sorbet	32.32
15164 Jack Caughey	36.94
15165 Roger Wickerham	1082.33
15166 Christopher Tennes	\$83.77
15167 Steven Davidson	\$80.16
15168 Karen Miller	1714.08
15169 Michelle Badgley	126.86
15170 Jeana Rohrs	1870.16
15171 The County Journal	140.60

Karen moved to approve paying the bills supported by Steve. Roll call vote: Roger Wickerham- yes; Karen Miller-yes, Steve Davidson - yes and Jeana Rohrs - yes, Chris Tennes - absent Motion carried 4 ayes; 0 nay 1 absent.

Clerk's Report – The clerk's report was included in the packet. Jeana gave a brief update on the upcoming election. The Clerk's Report will be put on file.

Treasurer's Report –Karen's hours were included. The summer taxes have been mailed. The software system has been switched to BS&A. The expenditures for July 2019 were. \$12,803.72. Revenues from June were \$27,272.78 and the Balance on hand as July 1, 2019 was \$317,652.82. 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 June. 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 Assessor's report will be put on file.

Sheriff Report: Officer Holiday gave the report. There were 125 events over the past month. Officer Holiday was happy with the report. Nothing too serious to report. The Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

Correspondence - None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Township Zoning? Roger stated that because there have been questions about the township doing their own zoning he felt that the board should discuss it and give some direction about the next steps. Roger stated that he only had approximate cost, and that he knew that we would not need to become a charter in order to do our own zoning. Karen asked what the benefit to us would be and Roger stated that the township would control how and what type of ordinances we would pass. Another question was if the county had ordinances in place would new ordinances be retroactive? Roger doesn't believe that if a project were started that we could go backward on it. Jeana asked what the biggest complaint against the way we are doing our zoning now and Roger stated that the Solar Energy issue seems to be the only complaint. Steve suggested that the work load would be greater for the supervisor. Roger stated that someone would need to be contracted to do the work as well as the attorney fees would go up as each ordinance would need their stamp. Roger believes in order to do the zoning a millage would need to be added to the taxes. Steve suggested that we move this subject to our next meeting and publish in the paper that it will be discussed in order for all of the citizens of the township might attend. Steve made the motion to move the discussion to the next meeting and publishing this in the paper ahead of the meeting, Karen supported. Motion carried 4 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent

Public Comment:

Theresa Wells asked if this change would stop the solar panel from going up and if it did not then we learned a lesson from not doing this sooner. She also questioned whether the fire department could handle putting out solar array fires? She stated that she did not want to pay more taxes.

Ben Kudwa stated that we need to take charge and become a Charter township.

Lindsey Hoxie said that during his time collecting signatures for the failed referendum many citizens stated that they would be willing to pay to stop the solar development and he believes that they would be happy to pay more in taxes for the township to do their own zoning.

Gary Suits stated that we can and should do our own zoning. He stated that we can at least stop the county for a year.

Scott Hornstra suggested that all that happens in our township building is elections and the handing out of business cards from the county. He stated that the county doesn't care and that Benton Township is the "armpit" of the county. He also stated that the County does whatever it wants and shoves their decisions down our throats.

Ron Park suggested that the county is trying to shove their decisions down our throats.

Nancy Gensel said that she had collected hundreds of signatures in the failed Referendum. She believes that we should listen to the people.

Commissioner Droscha stated that many of the county meetings have been postponed until this week due to the holiday.

ADJOURNED:

Adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Jeana Rohrs, Clerk