

BENTON TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
August 12, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Benton Township Board was held at the Benton Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy. on August 12, 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, and Chris Tennes-Trustee. Absent Karen Miller Treasurer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting of July 8, 2019 were presented to the Board. Steve moved to approve, supported by Roger to accept the regular monthly meeting minutes of July 8, 2019. Motion carried 4 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent

RECOGNIZE VISITORS

Please see the attached sheet with the list of visitors.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Roger asked to accept all public comments even those on the agenda so that they may be heard prior to the vote on "new business" item 4, Zoning. I am listing the speaker and opposed if they are opposed to taking on our own zoning and I will list for if the speaker is for our doing our own zoning.

Jack Caughey: For Zoning	David Rhodes: For Zoning	Ben Kudwa: For Zoning
Gary Suits: For Zoning	Lindsey Hoxie: For Zoning	Kelley Coburn-Harris: For Zoning
Richard Regis: For Zoning	Wendy Burchell: For Zoning	Harry Moore: Tax Question
Scott Hoornstra: For Zoning	David Dickerson: For Zoning	Theresa Wells: For Zoning
Dwane Smuts: Opposed Zoning	Charmaine Lepinski: For Zoning	Marilyn Slivensky: For Zoning
Jan Skinner: For Zoning	Helen Schneider: For Zoning	Ben Kudwa
Dwane Smuts	Brian Huver: For Zoning	Jon Forell: Opposed Zoning
Paul Dills: Use the microphone		

REPORTS TO BOARD

Fire Department Report - Chief James gave the report. Training this past month included Water Rescue. The calls for service Included 24 Township fire runs and 4 Mutual Aid runs; there were 15 Township EMS runs and 71 Mutual Aid EMS runs. The Fire Department's Report will be put on file.

Bills
August 2019

Bills Paid Prior to 8-1-2019

15172 Potterville	393.75
15173 Hart Intercivic (election equipment upgrade)	199.00
15174 Consumers Energy	195.90
15175 Cardmember Services (Quill supplies)	126.14
15176 The State of Michigan (withholding)	1138.01
15177 WOW! Business	156.45
15178 BS&A Software	11,555.00
15179 Municipal Retirement Systems	200.00
15180 Brighthouse Financial	8,252.20
15181 State of MI, DTMB, Fin Services (mailing taxes)	306.89
15182 The County Journal	178.56
15183 Cardmember Services (Go Daddy/Quill)	333.24
15184 Voids	
15185 MSU Federal Credit Union (CD purchase)	5584.90

Bills Paid After 8-1-2019

15186 Tonya Anzaldua	120.00
15187 Jake Schafer salary	1414.75
15188 Ron Kline Board of Review	11.09
15189 Harry Moore Board of Review	11.09
15190 Roy Pelfrey Board of Review	11.09
15191 Randy Jewell	719.14
15192 Sandra Osborn	719.14
15193 Roger Wickerham	1082.33
15194 Steven Davidson	\$80.16
15195 Christopher Tennes	\$83.77
15196 Karen Miller	1714.08
15197 Jeana Rohrs	1870.16

Steve moved to approve paying the bills supported by Chris. Roll call vote: Roger Wickerham- yes; Steve Davidson - yes, Jeana Rohrs - yes, Chris Tennes - yes, Karen Miller -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 description of the election. There is no November election. The Clerk's Report will be put on file.

Treasurer's Report –Karen's hours were included. The expenditure for July 2019 was. \$51,963.89. Revenues from July were \$50,503.19 and the Balance on hand as August 1, 2019 was \$317,547.46. 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 July. The Supervisor's report will be put on file.

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

Sheriff Report: Roger Wickerham gave the report. There were 119 events over the past month. The Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

Correspondence - emails were included in each packet for the Board Members

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Roger nominated Judith Locke to serve on the Fire Board. Steve 2nded the motion Motion carried 4 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent

2. Cemetery Tree Removal: We received four bids which included Midwest Tree Service for removal of the tree, removal of the wood and the brush for \$2500.00 Steve wondered if each company visited the site. Roger did let us know that they had been to see the tree prior to the bids. Roger did not verify insurance on all of the companies however Midwest was confirmed to have insurance. Chris moved to accept the Midwest Tree Service bid, Steve 2nded the motion. Roll call vote: Roger Wickerham- yes; Steve Davidson - yes, Jeana Rohrs - yes, Chris Tennes - yes, Karen Miller -Absent Motion carried 4 ayes; 0 nay 1 absent.

3. Roger moved to amend the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget account #101-276-776.00, Cemetery Equipment and Maintenance by \$2500.00, to be taken from the account 101-890-955.00 Contingency

fund. Steve supported. Roll call vote: Roger Wickerham- yes; Steve Davidson - yes, Jeana Rohrs - yes, Chris Tennes - yes, Karen Miller -Absent Motion carried 4 ayes; 0 nay 1 absent.

4. Zoning: Roger asked if we should as a township do our own zoning or should we continue asking the county do the zoning. Chris thanked everyone for coming. He feels that it is not fair for this board without the input from all township members. Such a change would need to be voted on. Jeana stated that we cannot move this issue on the ballot; Roger wants to make a decision tonight. The next available ballot would be May 2020. Steve has too many unanswered questions about staff, and liability. He is not for it at this time. Jeana is also not in favor due to cost, liability and staffing. The County has been doing the zoning without issue with the exception of this one concerning solar. Roger was advised by our insurance company not to do our own. He also stated that we cannot jump into doing this that we would need to find staff to do the zoning. Roger would rather have it go to a vote. Chris moved that we do not take on our own zoning at this time, Steve supported this motion. Ayes 4- Nays 0, 1 absent.

Public Comment:

Scott Hoornstra asked what the cost would be.

Gary Suits suggested that the planning commission already has the power from the zoning board.

David Rhodes suggested that the county might let us determine what we can and can't do.

Stan Carl Whose pockets are getting lines?

Jack Caughey gave his opinion on whose pockets are getting lined.

Nellie Regis asked why it would not be on the ballot until May 2020.

Neal Rohrs stated that he did not believe that we could go backward on an issue that the county had already acted upon.

Brian Droscha asked what it would take to get it on the ballot.

Wendy Caster

Kelly Hartman asked about the Emergency Response. Chief James stated that currently there is no need for this protocol but if the need became an issue that the department would have the protocol in place.

Jim Green how many acres?

Jedidiah Wieland. Ashamed of the board and our inability to take a stance. Shame on us for not doing our homework

Shawn Raleigh She never gets answers at these meeting. Disappointed in every time she comes. Don't vote for people who apparently are not doing their jobs.

Ben Kudwa Solar is unregulated

Nancy Gensel visit face book page Eaton County Citizens to Protect and Preserve Farmland.

Kelley Coburn-Harris Vote out the Eaton County commissioners and vote out the local officials that won't listen to us.

Marilyn Slivensky

Adjourned: 8:58

ADJOURNED:

Adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Jeana Rohrs, Clerk