BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

January 11, 2021

7:00 pm

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held via ZOOM, at 7PM on January 11, 2021.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Due to it being a ZOOM meeting, no pledge of allegiance was done.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Suits. Roll Call for Board Members included: Chuck Meddaugh, Scott Hoornstra, Jenna Coburn, and Chris Tennes - Trustees, Gary Suits - Supervisor, Karen Miller - Treasurer, and Eugene Shanahan - Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the November Board meeting held on November 9, 2020 were presented. Karen moved to approve the minutes Steve supported the motion. Motion carried 7 ayes; 0 nays.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT: 7 Visitors were on the Zoom Mtg.

Darius Reynnet reintroduced himself as new 10th District County Commissioner.

REPORTS TO BOARD:

Fire Department Report - Chief James gave the Fire department report. COVID 19 responses and transports have been increasing, which requires longer decontamination of equipment and station. Wait times at hospitals increasing to transfer patients into hospital from ambulance. Expenses for PPE increasing.E-211 Generator installed, A-111 was serviced. EMS agency license renewed. Provided EMS stand-by for COVID-19 vaccinations at Barry Eaton District Health department. Extrication tools serviced, (Old equipment - will need to be upgraded, Assisted with filling Christmas stockings, Old Brush Truck returned to State of Michigan - DNR, A-110 had oil leak repaired, Overhead door repaired. Old Fire Tools reporting program will need to be upgraded - investigating the costs found estimates ranging 3,500-10,000 (must consider for 21-22 budget.

3 BTFD members attending EMS Training Classes, meetings and special events attended.

Of the 103 service runs in November: 11 Benton Township fire runs, 4 City of Potterville and 3 Mutual Aid runs; the EMS runs, 15 in Benton Township, 19 City of Potterville and 47 Mutual Aid EMS runs. Of the 103 service runs in December: 9 Benton Township fire runs, 6 City of Potterville and 4 Mutual Aid runs; the EMS runs, 15 in Benton Township, 21 City of Potterville and 44 Mutual Aid EMS runs. Chief James offered thanks for the ongoing support of the Fire Department. The Fire Department's Report will be put on file.

Sheriff's Report: ECSD Deputy Everts provided the Sheriff's Report.

71 events in November and 97 events in December with one call of Domestic Assault: male firing gun at walls, arrested and charged with Felonious Assault/Discharging a Firearm.

Bills for November were paid totaling $91,160.75

Bills for December were paid totaling $19,001.16

Gary moved to approve bills, Gene Supported. Roll Call Vote: Miller - Yea, Tennes - Yea, Meddaugh - Yea, Coburn-Yea, Hoornstra - Yea, Suits - Yea, Shanahan - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.

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| Clerk Report:Worked through elections and attended 10th District County Commission recount, finalizing election reports. Thanks to Carol Orlowski - Benton Charter Township deputy clerk for serving as chair person and coordinating poll workers and tasks on Election day. Total of 1801 voters, with 956 absentee. Paid bills, Election workers, Contractors and staff. Assisted in gathering materials for audit, reviewing files and continuing to learn every day: Clerk report will be put on file.Treasurer Report:Financial reports provided for both November and December 2020. Prepared tax statements and mailed bills to residents on November 30. Collection in progress. Treasurer report will be put on file.Supervisor Report:Discussed mandate from MDHHS that required cancelation of December meeting, and work on setting up virtual meeting process. Noted additional work on dealing with Zoning Issues. Supervisor report will be put on file.Assessors Report was provided by Gary Suits. 3 building permits issued in November, and 3 building permits issued in December. Report will be put on file.Planning & Zoning Report was provided by Gary Suits: 4 Zoning Compliance permits processed in November, 1 permit processed in December. Report will be put on file.New Business:Approval of the County Designated Assessor of Record: Discussed as this would be only used as a back-up should Assessor not retain AMR designation. Concern raised by Charles Meddaugh regarding due date and with condition that Gary will contact County to address the deadline. Motion to accept made by Chris, supported by Chuck. Roll call vote: Tennes - Yea, Coburn - Yea, Meddaugh - Yea, Hoornstra - Yea, Miller - Yea, Suits - Yea, Shanahan - Yea. Motion carries. Approval of Meeting dates for 2021: Motion to accept with one modification made by Scott, supported by Gene. Voice vote - 7 Yeas, 0 Nays. Motion carries.Approval of Board Appointments: Karen raised question regarding other members of Boards, their terms were not expired.Board of Review: Motion to accept made by Karen, supported by Gary. Voice vote - 7 Yeas, 0 Nays. Motion carries. Planning Commission: Motion to accept made by Scott, supported by Karen. Voice vote - 7 Yeas, 0 Nays. Motion carries.Fire Administrative Board: Motion to accept made by Jenna, supported by Karen, Voice vote - 7 Yeas, 0 Nays. Motion carries.Zoning Board of Appeals: Motion to accept made by Chris, supported by Jenna, Voice vote - 7 Yeas, 0 Nays. Motion carries.Approval of Zoning Amendment language changes RE: Solar:Jack Caughey discussed the language changes to include geotechnical reports being done before and after, Lot Size and maximum amount of Township land/acreage of Commercial and Industrial Districts within township, and decommissioning plans. Discussion by Charles regarding language in 6 and 6A, explained by Jack for clarification. Motion to accept made by Charles, supported by Scott. Voice vote - 7 Yeas, 0 Nays. Motion carries.Additional discussion regarding township staff emails brought up by Charles Meddaugh - to have board members establish their own work email for township business only and Web Site updating and responsibilities discussed. Training forthcoming for staff. Chris Tennes mentioned Budget: looking at setting up workshops for board members, and to look at salaries for staff at that time as well. Gary discussed options being considered and working toward having 2021-2022 budget prepared and presented to board in March for April start.  No additional comments. Meeting Adjourned at 8:22PM. |
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