**BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

April 12, 2021

7:00 pm

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the township hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy., Potterville, MI 48876 at 7PM on April 12, 2021.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Gary Suits led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Gary presented the agenda Chris moved to approve, Jenna supported. 7 ayes; 0 nays, Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the March Special meeting held on March 8, 2021 were presented. Scott moved to approve, Karen supported. 7 ayes; 0 nays, Motion carried.

Minutes from the March Board meeting held on March 8, 2021 were presented. Scott moved to approve, Karen supported. 7 ayes; 0 nays, Motion carried.

**RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT:** 7 Visitors were in attendance including: Fire Chief Tim James, Deputy Don Buck, Jason Arndt, Joy Suits, County Commissioner Brian Droscha, and Penny Haney.

No Comments.

**REPORTS TO BOARD:**

**Sheriff's Report**: 84 events in March. Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

**Fire Department Report** - Chief James gave the Fire department report. Increases in Covid 19 related responses, with increased calls and personnel costs for decontamination of vehicles and wait times at hospitals. Engine /Tanker 215 in for DOT inspection, fire pump service and repairs. Annual breathing air compressor service completed. BTFD personnel close to completing FF1 & 2. ROXAR is now in service- Brush 217. New firefighter/EMT was hired, Jenna Warner. BTFD station and employee vehicle vandalized, Law Enforcement investigating. Statewide tornado drill took place on 3.24.21.

Training provided on respiratory emergencies, airway adjuncts, Brush Truck 217, tanker task force training and practice day for some Fire Academy students. Meetings attended. Fire runs in March 2021: 7 City of Potterville, 10 Benton Township and 10 mutual aid. EMS runs: 32 city of Potterville, 23 Benton Township and 34 mutual aid. The Fire Department's Report will be put on file.

**Bills for February** were paid totaling $15,831.90.

Karen moved to approve bills, Scott supported: Roll Call Vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.

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| **Clerk Report:** Purchased EPB computer thru grant funding Center for Tech and Civic Life. Attended special meeting and board meeting, training continues with Joy Suits as Deputy Clerk. Paid bills, contractors and staff. Online training with Bureau of Elections continues. Clerk report will be put on file.  **Treasurer Report:** Financial report provided for March 2021 with revenue and expenditures. Completing tasks in cleaning, purging, organizing for next tax season.  Fire Board and Township board meetings. Treasurer report will be put on file.  **Supervisor Report:**  Ordinance development, Zoning issues and ordinance complaints, update on Solar, Insurance relating to ordinances, Prep work for meetings and covering all statutory duties needed and more. Supervisor report will be put on file.  **Assessors Report** was provided by Gary Suits. 1 building permits issued in March. Report will be put on file.  **Planning & Zoning Report** was provided by Gary Suits: Phone discussions and e-mail correspondence listed. 2 Land divisions and 1 Special Use Permit processed in March. Report will be put on file.  **Unfinished Business:** None.  **New Business:**  **Post Audit Policy** discussed with authorization of Supervisor to expend up to $7500 for emergency expenditures. Gary Moved, Jenna supported. Roll call vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea.  Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  **Treasurer Designee Policy** discussed with authorization of staff to receive tax payments. Jenna moved, Gene Supported; Roll call vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  **Check Scanner** proposal from Independent Bank discussed with IB providing equipment at no cost and waiving fees for 6 months. Chuck moved that we proceed with proposal and get equipment installed, and authorize Gary to sign a contract (if necessary- subject to review) Scott supported. Roll call vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  **Blight Elimination Ordinance** sample was proposed and discussed and determination was made to modify language to except agricultural equipment necessary for operation of farm/business and to change violation to a municipal civil infraction. Motion was made to move forward with the process of developing a Blight Elimination Ordinance by Chuck, supported by Scott: Roll call vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  **Outdoor Wood Furnaces** ordinance was discussed and motion was made by Scott, supported by Chuck not to develop an ordinance for Outdoor Wood Furnances; Roll call vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  **Fire Board Business:** Karen resigned her position on the Fire Board effective March 30, 2021. Scott agreed to replace her on the Fire Board effective immediately.    **Mileage Reimbursement:** Policy was discussedand Motion was made to revise resolution to add mileage for trips to bank and other township business and pay the current IRS mileage rate. Scott moved to modify the current resolution as stated above, Jenna supported: Roll call vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  **A Trackside Storage violation of Article 19 was** discussed, and township received an offer of help from Brandy in Potterville to assist with issues of unsafe structures and maintenance at the facility. Over the past week, 95% of the issues have been resolved through clean-up and maintenance and no action was needed by the board.  Supervisor Gary Suits provided a quick update on the Sandstone law suit and their application to leave with Michigan Supreme Court.  **Attorney Fees:** Supervisor Gary Suits sought approval from the board to allow Supervisor leeway to contact Attorney as needed to address legal issues of the Township. Chuck moved to allow Supervisor to expend up to $500 per month in attorney fees to handle the legal business needed, Chris supported. Roll call vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  **Consumers Energy Franchise Renewal** was discussed and Gary moved to have this item moved to May Board meeting agenda, Jenna supported. Roll call vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays. Item will be added to May agenda.  **Special Use Permit** SUP2021-001 Solar Energy System, Small was discussed. Chuck moved to approve the recommendation of the Planning Committee to approve the special use permit with stipulations/contingencies recommended, Jenna supported. Roll call vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.    **Public comments**:  No additional comments.  Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 PM. | | | |
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