**BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

July 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 July 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:** Chris moved to accept the 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the June Board meeting on June 14, 2021 were presented. Jenna moved to approve, Chuck supported. Roll Call Vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.

**RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT:** Visitors in attendance included: County Commissioner Brian Droscha, County Commissioner Dairus Reynnet, Benton Township Fire Department Chief Tim James and Deputy Clerk Joy Suits.

No Comments.

**REPORTS TO BOARD:**

**Sheriff's Report**: Scott assisted in explaining the Sheriff's report. 85 events in June with multiple traffic stops/violations. Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

**Fire Department Report** - Chief Tim James gave the Fire department report. E-211 annual service, support for Potterville Gizzard Festival, Air monitor serviced and calibrated, M-100 Traffic Signal repaired , Bay door needed spring repair, severe weather and tornado warnings, no damage reported. Apparatus and Station cleaning, Training and meetings listed. Challenged staff to reduce energy costs by using power in off-peak hours to save money on electricity bills.

Fire runs in June 2021: 5 City of Potterville, 7 Benton Township and 6 mutual aid. EMS runs: 22 city of Potterville, 23 Benton Township and 36 mutual aid. The Fire Department's Report will be put on file.

**Bills for June** were paid totaling $16,448.01.

Chuck 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:**, Paid bills, contractors and staff. Sent Special Election notices and continue to send A/V apps and ballots, to support consolidation with City of Potterville. Learning and training continue. Work with Total Security to repair and access security cameras ongoing. Clerk report will be put on file.  **Treasurer Report:** Provided by Karen Miller. Mailed all Summer tax statements and Community Survey questionnaire, provided financial report.  Treasurer report will be put on file.  **Supervisor Report:**  Continued work on ordinance development and research, Zoning applications and calls, ordinance complaints, work on Master Plan and Community Survey, worked on bids and quotes for repairs, prep work for board meetings and Planning Commission meetings. Supervisor report will be put on file.  **Assessors Report** was provided by Gary Suits. 2 building permits issued in June. Report will be put on file.  **Planning & Zoning Report** was provided by Gary Suits: Phone discussions and e-mail correspondence listed. 3 Zoning compliance permits processed in June.  Report will be put on file.  **Unfinished Business: None**  **New Business:**  **Blight and Public Nuisance Ordinance presented for approval:** Jenna moved, Scott supported. Roll Call Vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Ordinance Adopted 7 yeas - 0 nays.  **Adoption of Principles of Governance:** Chuck moved to adopt, Gary supported. Roll Call Vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - yea, Gene -Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  **Computer Upgrades at Township Office:** Reviewed multiple bids and selected Pottervilla to implement the project in the coming weeks.  **Public comments**:  Darius Reynnet shared a resident's concern regarding Speed Limit signage on Vermontville Hwy marked 35, but no additional marking for resuming 55 MPH Speed Limit. Discussed that where 2 lanes resume, Speed limit reverts to 55MPH. Referred to County Road Commission.  Brian Droscha provided an update on County issues; Broadband meeting on July 7 and hurdles to overcome, not adequately mapped, and a study may be conducted to do mapping. Additional concerns over losing multiple deputies to retirement in coming years and costs to county, Looking at ways to fund patrols in the County and discussed an optional possibility of having townships fund police coverage of the County and contracting with Sheriff Department.  No additional comments.  Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 P.M.  Eugene Shanahan - Clerk. | | | |
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