**BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

October 11, 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 October 11, 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, Gene 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 September Board meeting on September 13, 2021were presented. Scott noted

One correction on vote. Gene moved to approve with change, 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.

**RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT:** Visitors in attendance included: Dave Dehaan from Walker Fluke & Sheldon, PLC, County Commissioner Brian Droscha, and Jason Orton from David Chapman Agency. County Commissioner Brian Droscha updated the board: County Budget passed, stimulus helped. ORV Group is seeking ordinance and approval for use of County Roads. Brian provided information regarding State and County current laws and concerns regarding County liability. Also provided Broadband Survey Update.

**REPORTS TO BOARD:**

**Sheriff's Report**: Gary provided report. Scott noted concerns regarding 3 Retail Fraud calls. 69 events in September. Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

**Fire Department Report** - Gary gave the Fire department report. Tim James could not attend but sent text that an employee has a horrific leg injury and other medical related issues. Critical staff shortage being experienced at this time.

Fire runs in September 2021: 13 City of Potterville, 4 Benton Township and 2 mutual aid.

EMS runs: 24 City of Potterville, 15 Benton Township and 50 mutual aid calls.

The Fire Department's Report will be put on file.

**Bills for September** were paid totaling $20,291.54 with an additional $59,358.00 check (approved allocated funds in budget for Fire Department) needing board approval.

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:** Working on November 2 Consolidated Election, sent publications and postings, assisted in collecting taxes, paid bills, contractors and staff. Updating Qualified Voter File. Assisted with FYE update with BS&A. Total Security waiting on delivery and install of server replacement for accessing security cameras. Cemetery requests for burials and monument foundations. Clerk report will be put on file.  **Treasurer Report:** Provided by Karen Miller. Collection of Summer 2021 taxes. Provided financial report and working with BS&A to correct some issues with FYE changes made. Subject to change next month due to updates made to prior postings  Treasurer report will be put on file.  **Supervisor Report:**  Submitted follow-up info for CLFRF Grant. Zoning applications & calls. Worked with Bob on Ordinance complaints. Worked on Master Plan with Tammy. Prep work for meetings. Attended Township Board Meeting, Planning Commission Meeting, and Fire Board Meeting.  Supervisor report will be put on file.  **Assessors Report** was provided by Gary Suits. 9 building permits issued in September.  Report will be put on file.  **Planning & Zoning Report** was provided by Gary Suits: Phone discussions and e-mail correspondence listed. 1 Zoning Compliance Permits processed 1 Special Use Permit request. Preparing materials for Master Plan Update.  Report will be put on file.  **Ordinance Enforcement Report** was provided by Gary. Robert Bashore reached out to 4 complainants to start process and gather information regarding issues. Following up.  Report will be put on file.  **Unfinished Business: None**  **New Business:**  Auditor’s Report for the year ended March 31, 2021 was presented by Dave DeHaan from Walker, Fluke & Sheldon. Change in year end from June 30 to March 31. Benton Charter Township received a Clean Opinion. Discussion of numbers throughout report and not being comparable due to 9 month vs. 12 month audit.  Special Use Permit for Richard Schafer for Fire Apparatus sales, repair and refurbishment business located at 4079 E. Gresham Hwy. Potterville, MI 48876, former Ayles Tree Property. Chuck Moved to approve SUP2021-004, Gary supported. Roll Call Vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene-Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Chuck - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  Gary mentioned that the application from plaintiffs Sandstone Creek and Gary Walters for leave to Michigan Supreme Court has been denied and sent back to local court. Discussion regarding legal counsel provided by Fahey Shultz Burzych Rhodes and our Insurance company and benefits of keeping Fahey Shultz Burzych Rhodes as co-counsel with Insurance Attorney and active in Township defense.  Chuck moved to keep Fahey Shultz Burzych Rhodes as co-counsel with Insurance Attorney, Karen supported. Roll Call Vote: Roll Call Vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene-Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Chuck - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  Insurance Renewal Proposal was presented by Jason Orton of David Chapman Agency.  Walked through proposal and all issues related to Township Insurance and the changes in becoming Charter Township and addition of Zoning increasing costs. Jenna moved to approve the agreement, Chris supported. Roll Call Vote: Roll Call Vote: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Gene-Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Chuck - Yea. Motion carried 7 yeas - 0 nays.  **Public Comment:** No Comment  Meeting Adjourned at 8:17 P.M.  Eugene Shanahan - Clerk. | | | |
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