**BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

December 13, 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 December 13, 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, Chuck Meddaugh, Scott Hoornstra, Jenna Coburn, and Chris Tennes - Trustees. Gene Shanahan-Clerk, Absent.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Scott moved to accept the agenda, Karen supported. Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Karen – Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the November Board meeting on November 8, 2021 were presented. Scott moved to approve, Chuck supported. Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Karen - Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

**RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT:** Visitors in attendance included: County Commissioners Brian Droscha and Dairus Reynnet, Benton Township Fire Chief Tim James, and Assistant Chief Don Buck and Jake Arndt.

Jake spoke on the issue of ATV’s and Golf carts on County Roads. He is in favor of them.

**REPORTS TO BOARD:**

**Sheriff's Report**: Gary provided report.

69 events in November, Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

**Fire Department Report** – Tim James gave the Fire department report. Computer and Server upgrade project moving forward. Ambulance staffing concerns continue, Bay 2 overhead door system replaced. Ambulance 110 repairs, Snowplow cleaned and painted - in service, fire extinguisher inspections complete. Recertification training provided, and phone conference. 28 Fire runs in November 2021: 15 City of Potterville, 13 Benton Township and 4 Mutual Aid. 47 EMS runs: 27 City of Potterville, 20 Benton Township and 56 Mutual Aid. Cascading effects of Covid continue to take toll on the Department resulting in staffing issues, dispatching issues. One of the paramedics has been diagnosed, will never normally walk again, another fighting for life due to Covid since November. Ambulance has been taken out-of-service for 10 days due to Covid. Longer response times for ambulance can be expected. Most stress experience in 40 years. Chief James encourages the community to come together and take extra precautions as they need help and local hospitals being overwhelmed. The Fire Department's Report will be put on file.

**Bills for November** were paid totaling $68,704.26. Chuck moved to approve bills, Karen supported: Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Karen – Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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| **Clerk Report:** Completed November 2 Consolidated Election duties, sent publications and postings, paid bills, contractors and staff. Monitor Inbox and Update Qualified Voter File. Total Security still working on getting us access to cameras. Received a quote from Mohre Soft Water for Softener replacement. Election office hour’s 7A-8P on Tuesday November 2. Handled Cemetery requests. Update web site as needed.  Clerk report will be put on file.  **Treasurer Report:**  Collecting Summer taxes, prepped printed and mailed winter taxes, collecting winter taxes, confirming with Assessor and County. Financial report for November provided. Looking at better options for CD rates. Treasurer report will be put on file.  **Supervisor Report:**  Continued work on the Township Master Plan with Tammy. Zoning applications, calls and office encounters. Worked on Ordinance complaints and letters to violators of the ordinance with Bob. Contacted John Fuentez at Eaton County to finalize Board’s Decision re: Off-Road Vehicles. Prep work for planning meeting and Board meeting. Statutory Duties of the Office. 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. 2 building permits issued in November.  Report will be put on file.  **Planning & Zoning Report** was provided by Gary Suits: Phone discussions and e-mail correspondence listed. 2 Zoning Compliance Permits processed, no Land Division application processed, no Zoning Board of Appeals Petitions processed. No Special Use or Site Plan application permits processed. Continued work on materials for Zoning Ordinance before 12.9.21 Planning Commission meeting.  Report will be put on file.  **Ordinance Enforcement Report** was provided by Gary. Robert Bashore called, talked to residents, performed site visits, followed up and mailed letters, returned letters and discovery on that issue, prepared and mailed violation notice paperwork, handling complaints.  Report will be put on file.  **Correspondence:** None.  **Unfinished Business:** Water Softener Replacement - Mohre Soft Water Quote received. Discussed options regarding replacement and servicing. Chuck moved to buy the Smart Choice system, Gary supported: Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Karen – Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays.  **New Business:** 2022 Board Meeting Dates approval. Jenna moved to accept dates with name correction, Karen supported: Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Karen – Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays.  **Public Comment:** Brian Droscha updated board on County Broadband survey reports, no specific funding amounts given out yet. Targeted survey planned with research for millage increase proposal for the ballots in conjunction with parks. Keeney Park in Bellevue is having problems with vandalism. Parks commission working to address issue, local police will not address the issue.  Jake Arndt, Benton Township Emergency Services Association President, discussed the annual Christmas Stockings program, provided to all the kids in the township. Stocking stuffing and distribution will be done incorporating a no contact safety plan, and the community and business support for the program with donations of goods and services has been nothing but positive.  Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 P.M.  Joy Suits – Deputy Clerk. | | | |
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