**BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 10, 2022

7:00 pm

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy., Potterville, MI 48876 at 7PM on January 10, 2022.

**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, Chuck Meddaugh, Scott Hoornstra, Jenna Coburn, and Chris Tennes - Trustees. Gene Shanahan-Clerk, Absent, Karen Miller – Treasurer, Absent.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chuck moved to accept the agenda, Scott supported. Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 5 Yeas - 0 Nays

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the December Board meeting on December 13, 2021 were presented. Jenna moved to approve, Chuck supported. Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

**RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT:** Visitors in attendance included: County Commissioner Brian Droscha, State Representative Angela Witwer, Benton Township Fire Chief Tim James, and Assistant Chief Don Buck, Jake Arndt and Deputy Everts. Representative Angela Witwer discussed possible GM Battery Plant and up to 2,000 jobs and 2.1 Billion dollars in incentives coming to area and bill introduced to get a Rural Development Office, an executive directive signed by the Governor to establish a department to work on issues for smaller communities, and working to repeal the Pension Tax, and other activities at the State level that effect our District.

**REPORTS TO BOARD:**

**Sheriff's Report**: Deputy Everts from Eaton County Sherriff’s office provided summary of the events that were responded to totaling 69 events in December, and discussed option for vacation checks available. Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

**Fire Department Report** – Tim James gave the Fire department report. Computer and server upgrades project moving forward. 2 New Paramedics/Firefighters have started, more interviews coming up. Updated on Department Apparatus usage, and had inspection/service on extrication equipment. Worked on Community Relations and provided Department Updates. Participated in Shop with a Hero and Holiday Parade events and attended several meetings and a phone conference. Firefighter Baker is out of Hospital. Discussed staffing issues/recruiting difficulties due to Covid and other injuries.

28 Fire runs in December 2021: 14 City of Potterville, 14 Benton Township and 2 Mutual Aid.

EMS runs: 17City of Potterville, 23 Benton Township and 73 Mutual Aid.

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

**Bills for December** were paid totaling $14,175.38. Scott moved to approve bills, Chris supported: Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Chris - Yea, Jenna-Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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| **Clerk Report:** Thanks to Joy Suits for substituting for Board Meetings, so that I can spend time with my grandson in Grand Rapids. Paid bills, contractors and staff. Assist with Tax calls and collections. Ongoing election training, updating QVF weekly. County testing tabulator modems. Sent publications to paper. Installation of Water Softener, replaced water filter. Handling cemetery requests, updating web site as needed. Clerk report will be put on file.**Treasurer Report:**  Continue to collect taxes, working with BS&A to set-up online access.Financial report for December provided. Chris suggested looking at CD’s for options to invest additional money.Treasurer report will be put on file.**Supervisor Report:**Continued work on the Township Master Plan with Tammy and informational public hearing to gather public comment for the Final Master Plan. Work with attorneys and Tammy on finalizing permanent Zoning Ordinance. Zoning applications, calls and office encounters. Worked on Ordinance complaints and letters to violators of the ordinance with Bob. Complete and submit asset forfeiture forms for Michigan State Police. Prep work for planning meeting and Board meeting. Statutory Duties of the Office. Attended Township Board Meeting, Planning Commission Meeting and Board of Review Meeting. Supervisor report will be put on file.**Assessors Report** was provided by Gary Suits. 5 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. 1 Zoning Compliance Permit processed, no Land Division application processed, 1 Zoning Board of Appeals Petition processed. No Special Use or Site Plan application permits processed. Continued work on Final Zoning Ordinance, Updating Master Plan, and prepared adjacent property owner information and notice for ZBA meeting in January. Report will be put on file.**Ordinance Enforcement Report** was provided by Gary. Robert Bashore performed site visits, called and talked to residents regarding complaints, followed up on others with multiple calls concerning 2607 Kinsel with a site visit, discussion about complaint, and becoming compliant with the ordinance. Calls to complainants, investigations to locate 2 trustees of the property in question and sending materials to them to address the ongoing problems. Additional discussion on discharging a firearm rules/regulations and safety zones around occupied buildings.Report will be put on file.**Correspondence:** None.**Unfinished Business:** None**New Business:** None**Public Comment:** County Commissioner Brian Droscha discussed resignation of Parks Director, upcoming meetings, possibility of placing trails through Eaton County right-of-ways and provided Broadband survey information, and a new committee will be formed to look into it. Discussion about a letter going out to public regarding purchase/lease of land to develop Solar project by Demeter USA. Chris thanked the Board members, Township staff and Benton Township Fire Department for working through trials and troubles over past year with Covid challenges and handling the excess of mutual aid runs. Gary added his thanks as well.Meeting Adjourned at 8:21 P.M.Joy Suits – Deputy Clerk. |
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