**BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 14, 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 March 14, 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, Karen Miller – Treasurer, Gene Shanahan - Clerk, Jenna Coburn, Chuck Meddaugh, Scott Hoornstra, and Chris Tennes - Trustees.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Special Meeting:**

Minutes from the March 7, 2022 Special Meeting were presented. Jenna moved to approve the minutes, Jenna supported. Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Karen – Yea, Gene – Yea, Jenna – Yea, Chris - Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Karen moved to accept the agenda with addition of New Business: Budget Amendment, 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the Board meeting on February 14, 2022 were presented. Jenna moved to approve, Gene supported. Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Karen- Yea, gene – Yea, Jenna – Yea, Chris - Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

**RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT:** Visitors in attendance included County Commissioners Brian Droscha and Darius Reynett, Benton Township Fire Chief Tim James, and Assistant Chief Don Buck, Jake Arndt, Brian Park – Oneida Township. No Comment. Public comment section closed.

**REPORTS TO BOARD:**

**Sheriff's Report**: Gary provided the Eaton County Sherriff’s report totaling 73 events in February. Sheriff's Report will be put on file.

**Fire Department Report** – Tim James gave the Fire department report. Tim Discussed Worker’s Comp Office issues related to covering Covid. He has received responses from Elected Officials, and an investigation that has begun looking into the issue. Tanker Truck suffered significant damage and is out of service. BTFD is waiting on Insurance report on damage – may take 6 to 8 weeks to get a price on repairs. A-110 rear brakes replaced. BTFD will be waiting 30-60 days for response on State of Michigan First Responder Training and Recruitment Grant Application. Winter Weather protocols were discussed. 27 Fire runs in February 2022: 11 City of Potterville, 16 Benton Township and 2 Mutual Aid.

EMS runs: 22 City of Potterville, 25 Benton Township and 53 Mutual Aid.

Recruiting was discussed and Meetings that were attended were listed. Spring Weather is coming, and increase in Burning Permits expected.

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

**Bills for February** were paid totaling $22,580.72. Motion to accept bills made by Chris, supported by Chuck. Roll Call VOTE: Gary- Yea, Karen – Yea, Gene – Yea, Jenna – Yea, Chris - Yea, Scott - Yea, Charles - Yea. Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

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| **Clerk Report:** Thanks AGAIN to Joy Suits for substituting for Board Meetings, so that I could spend time with my grandson in the hospital in Grand Rapids. Paid bills, contractors and staff. Assisted with tax calls and collections. Updating QVF weekly. Had ballot bags certified by Eaton County on 3-10-22. Still waiting on County testing tabulator modems. Sent publications to paper. Work with Jake to handle cemetery requests, and a special thanks to Jake for his help over the past several months. Updated web site as needed. Clerk report will be put on file.**Treasurer Report:**  Continue to collect taxes for Summer and Winter, working with BS&A to set-up online access. Began Audit preparations. Completed Bank Recs. Made bank deposits. Made bank deposits. Paid out tax liabilities for taxes collected. February financial report provided, and Investment report provided. Treasurer report will be put on file.**Supervisor Report:**Continued work on the Township Master Plan with Tammy and Final Zoning Ordinance for presentation to Zoning Board and Township Board. Zoning applications, calls and office encounters. Worked on Ordinance complaints and violation reports. Procured Violation Booklet and work with Bob on Problem properties. Worked on Budget. 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. 1 building permits issued in February.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 2 Land Division application processed, No Zoning Board of Appeals Petition processed. No Special Use or Site Plan application permits processed and No Site Plan Permits processed. Continued work on Final Zoning Ordinance and updating Master Plan. Report will be put on file.**Ordinance Enforcement Report** was provided by Gary. Robert Bashore working to address complaints; 4232 Doane Hwy, 2607 Kinsel Highway D&J Auto Salvage, and Benton Road between Santee and 6500 Benton. Report will be put on file.**Correspondence:**  From John Diemer regarding complaints and resolutions from 6-9-21 through 1-2-22.**Unfinished Business:** None**New Business:** **Comcast Cable Communications, LLC’s Metro Act Permit Application.** Motion made by Chris to approve, 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.**P.A. 116 Application – Tennes.** Chris asked to be recused from the voting on this. All board members agreed. Chuck moved to accept P.A. 116 application for Stephen Tennes and Bridget Tennes, 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.**1 Amendments to Budget presented as follows:** Karen moved to amend 2021-2022 budget (Sexton) 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 Comment:** County Commissioner Darius Reynett discussed Staffing shortages due to retirements at Sheriff’s Department, and Brian Droscha discussed the reasons for troubles recruiting replacements, ORV Ordinance now in place, Benton Township not included. And possibilities of 3 additional Charter townships possible in coming year, and budget concerns at Sheriff Department. Meeting Adjourned at 8.10 P.M.Eugene Shanahan –Clerk. |
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