

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2023

7:00 pm

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy., Potterville, MI 48876 at 7:00 PM on May 8, 2023.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Gary Suits, led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Gary Suits. Roll Call for Board Members included: Gary Suits, Supervisor, Karen Miller, Treasurer, Joy Suits, Clerk, Scott Hoomstra, Charles Meddaugh, Chris Tennes, Dave Falsetta - Trustees .

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Gary moved to accept the agenda, Chris supported. Motion was passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the Board meeting on May 8, 2023 were presented. Charles moved to approve the minutes, Karen supported. Roll Call VOTE: Motion was passed unanimously.

**RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT:** Benton Township Fire Department representatives, Jake Arndt, Connie Arndt, and Chad Chambers Eaton County Commissioner Brian Droscha, Darius Reynnet and Eaton County Deputy Dylan Lorenzo.

**REPORTS TO BOARD:**

**Sheriff's Report:** Deputy Dylan Lorenzo led the discussion of the Sheriff's Report . 94 events were listed, including 13 traffic violations, 4 car deer accidents, and 8 traffic hazard. **Sheriff's Report will be put on file.**

**Fire Department Report** – Connie Arndt gave the Fire Department Report which included a new AED added to T-215, results from the Fazoli's fundraising

dinner, and participation in the Potterville Memorial Day Service . Calls for service included (Fire ) 13 City of Potterville, 11 Benton Township, 1 mutual aid and (EMS) 23 city of Potterville, 28 Benton Township, 24 mutual aid.

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

Bills. Bills for May were paid \$115,476.82, Payroll \$9931.90 Motion to accept bills made by Chris, supported by Charles. Roll Call VOTE: 7 Yea  
0 Nay

Clerk Report: Joy gave report. Work included assisted with tax calls, statement requests, zoning inquiries, etc. Research on Police Report Definitions. Paid Bills, contractors and staff. Cemetery requests for burials, foundations, and burial spaces. Prepared publications, other duties of the clerk. Statutory duties of the office performed. Clerk report will be put on file.

Treasurer Report: Karen gave report. Made bank deposits, monitored investments, assisted with zoning and cemetery calls. Completed bank reconciliations. Began gathering documents for Audit. Began tax preparation for 2023 Summer tax season. Working with county on back data bases. Working on Treasurer's training manual. Treasurer Report will be on file.

Supervisor Report: Gary gave report. Attended Township Board Meeting, and Fire Board Meeting. Assisted with Zoning applications, calls and office encounters. Worked on Ordinance complaints and violation reports with OEO regarding problem properties. Prep work for Board meetings. Worked on plans for Meeting room desk. Work with Tammy on Planning and Zoning issues. Performed Statutory Duties of the office. Let out bids for hay. Supervisor report will be put on file.

Assessors Report: Report was provided by Gary. 4 building permit was issued, 2 bank foreclosures, and 1 recent Mortgage Company sale.

Planning and Zoning: Report was provided by Gary which included 16 phone/email discussions, 1 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed , 0

Zoning Board of Appeals Petition land division and 1 zoning amendment application. Planning and Zoning Report on file.

Ordinance Enforcement: Report was provided by Gary. Robert Bashore working to address complaints at 4 sites. Activity included 5 site visits to research possible violations. Report will be put on file.

Correspondence: None.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

- Discussion about construction of a new board desk in the meeting room. Board unanimously asked Gary to proceed getting a cost estimate for the project.
- Chris reported on his research with Matt Hannahs about the auto accidents at the intersection of Cochran and Vermontville Hwy. M-Dot is looking into it.
- Charles brought up the needs for an improved or new Fire Station. He suggested forming an exploratory committee. The board decided to ask Chief James for design ideas and estimated cost and to consult with Zoning Administrator Tammy Foster before the exploratory commission is formed.

Public Comment Commissioner Droscha gave an update on current County projects.

Adjournment: Gary made a motion to adjourn, supported by Scott. All board members voted yea. Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

Joy Suits, Clerk