

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 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 October 9, 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 Hoornstra, Charles Meddaugh, Chris Tennes, Dave Falsetta - Trustees .

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Board meeting on September 11, 2023 were presented. Scott moved to approve the minutes supported by Chris.. Motion was passed unanimously.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT: Benton Township Fire Department representatives Chief Tim James, Chad Chambers, Jeffrey Murphy, Marissa Arndt, Jason Arndt, Amy Forrell, Don Buck, James Bethea, Roy Gilbert, Rick Sullivan, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Bob Bashore, Nancy Meddaugh, and others unknown not signing the Sign-In Sheet .

REPORTS TO BOARD:

Sheriff's Report: Report was given by Gary Suits and Scott Hoornstra 77 events were listed, including 24 traffic violations/stops, 4 traffic hazard, 4 motorist assist. Report will be put on file.

Fire Department Report –Chief James, gave the Fire Department Report orally.

Bills. Bills for August were paid \$15,630.00, Payroll \$10,820.72 Motion to accept bills made by Charles supported by Scott. Roll Call VOTE: 7 Yea 0 Nay

Clerk Report: Joy gave report. Work included continued training of new deputy clerk, and assisting with the collection of tax payments. Paid Bills, contractors and staff. Cemetery requests for burials, foundations, and burial spaces. Prepared publications. Worked on ballot applications, mailings, issuing ballots and other election related tasks for 11/23 election. Statutory duties of the office performed. **Clerk report will be put on file.**

Treasurer Report: Karen made the report. Continued to collect summer 2023 taxes. Paid tax liabilities to county, school, township and RESA. Completed Bank recs with the exception of General Fund which is waiting for entries to be completed. Answered calls and walk ins regarding cemetery, burial, and zoning questions. Collected absentee applications and ballots. Deposited cash and checks into corresponding accounts. **Treasurer Report will be on file.**

Supervisor Report: Gary gave report. Attended Planning Commission Meeting, 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. Work with Zoning Administrator. Solicited, prepared, and sent out bids for painting at cemetery. Worked on FEMA damage assessment reports for the county and work on damage claims for insurance company. Performed statutory duties of the office. **Supervisor report will be put on file.**

Assessors Report: Report was provided by Gary. 6 building permits were issued, 2 bank foreclosures, and 1 recent Mortgage Company sale.

Planning and Zoning: Report was provided by Gary which included 18 phone/email discussions, 2 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed, 0 Zoning Board of Appeals Petition land division, 1 Special Use Permit, 1 Site Plan Permit, and 2 zoning amendment applications. **Planning and Zoning Report on file.**

Ordinance Enforcement: Report was provided by Gary & Robert Bashore. Robert Bashore working to address complaints at 6 sites. Activity included 1 violation ticket issued. **Report will be put on file.**

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business

New Business:

Painting Bids for the Cemetery were presented by Gary. Charles made the motion to accept the bid from Integrity Painting, supported by Gary. Roll Call vote was taken with 7 Yeas) Nays.

Appointment of a new Fire chief was presented by Gary. Gary made the recommendation of Jason Arndt. Chris made the motion to appoint Jason Arndt as Fire Chief supported by Charles. Roll Call vote was halted by lengthy discussion by the public and board on qualifications of the applicants and the interview process. Chris made a new motion to table the appointment of Fire Chief for two weeks for a special meeting to let Supervisor finalize research and to meet in a special meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023. Dave supported. Roll call vote was 7 Yeas 0 Nays

Public Comment Chief Tim James gave his thoughts on the hiring process for a new Fire Chief.

Adjournment: Charles made a motion to adjourn, supported by Joy. All board members voted Yea.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

Joy Suits, Clerk