

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2023

7:00 pm

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy., Pottersville, 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 October 9, 2023 were presented. Scott moved to approve the minutes supported by Chris. Motion was passed unanimously.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT: Chad Chambers, Jeffrey Murphy, Marissa Arndt, Jason Arndt, Don Buck, Roy Gilbert, Rick Sullivan, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Bob Bashore, Nancy Meddaugh, Connie Arndt, Dairus Reynnet, Hannah Wright, Rodger Wickerham, and others unknown not signing the Sign-In Sheet .

REPORTS TO BOARD:

Sheriff's Report: Report was given by Gary Suits and Scott Hoornstra 86 events were listed, including 12 traffic violations/stops, 8 traffic hazard, 2 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 \$8,099.51, Payroll \$9,983.35 Motion to accept bills made by Dave supported by Gary. Roll Call VOTE: 7 Yea 0 Nay

Clerk Report: Joy gave report. Work included continued training of new deputy clerk. 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 reconciliations 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. Performed statutory duties of the office. **Supervisor report will be put on file.**

Assessors Report: Report was provided by Gary. 13 building permits were issued, 3 bank foreclosures, and 1 recent Mortgage Company sale.

Planning and Zoning: Report was provided by Gary which included 15 phone/email discussions, 3 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed , 1 Zoning Board of Appeals Petition land division, 1 Special Use Permit, 1 Site Plan Permit. **Planning and Zoning Report on file.**

Ordinance Enforcement: Report was provided by Gary & Robert Bashore. Robert Bashore working to address complaints at 2 sites. **Report will be put on file.**

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business

New Business:

Insurance options was presented by Gary. Chris moved to accept Trident for the next year and Chuck supported. Roll Call VOTE: included: Gary- yea, Karen-yea, Joy-yea, Scott-yea, Charles-yea, Chris-yea, Dave-yea. Motion carried 7 Yea 0 Nay
Gary made a motion to include fire board to receive a copy of the legal opinion to the township board Chris supported Roll Call VOTE: 7 Yea 0 Nay.

Gary Presented legal opinion to the township board.

Chris made the motion to adopt a policy that Fire Department personnel may not concurrently serve in more than one employed position for the Department without Board approval.

Roll Call VOTE: 7 Yea 0 Nay.

Gary made the motion to let Robert Bashore the chairman of the fireboard handle the posting of the Fire chief job and to postpone the Fire Chief interviews until December. All voted yes.

Gary made a motion to approve a special use permit for a Heavy Duty Repair shop pending Fire Chief's review and approval of the proposed site . Roll Call VOTE: 7 Yea 0 Nay.

Joy presented need for Election training for election workers Chris made a motion to approve payment of training. Roll Call VOTE: included: Gary- yea, Karen-yea, Joy-yea, Scott-yea, Charles-yea, Chris-yea, Dave-yea. Motion carried 7 Yea 0 Nay

Public Comment Dean Butler gave his comments on township government. Karen gave a statement regarding her voting. Chuck and Bob Bashore gave corrective statements regarding commentary. Gary brought the meeting to order. Don Buck gave his comments on township Government.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Joy Suits, Clerk