

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2024

7:03 PM

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy., Potterville, MI 48876 at 7:02 PM on February 12, 2024.

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, Joy Suits, Clerk, Scott Hoornstra, Charles Meddaugh, Chris Tennes, Dave Falsetta – Trustees Treasurer Karen Miller was absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: . Charles moved to accept the Scott supported. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Board meeting on January 8, 2024 were presented. Scott moved to approve the minutes supported by Dave. Motion was passed unanimously.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT: Chief Tim James, Jake Arndt, Connie Arndt, Chad Chambers, Melissa Ardt and other representative of the fire department, Commissioner Brian Dorsha, Enforcement Officer Robert Bashore, and other unnamed visitors

REPORTS TO BOARD:

Sheriff's Report: Report was given by Gary Suits. 77 events were listed, including 9 Follow ups, 8 traffic Hazards, and 7 Traffic stops. Report will be put on file.

Fire Department Report –Fire Report was given by Tim James.

Bills. Bills for January were paid \$11,378.01, Chris made the motion to approve, supported by Scott. Roll Call VOTE: 6 Yea 0 Nay

Clerk Report: Joy gave report. Update on the training of election workers. Work included continued Training a deputy clerk, and assisting with the collection of tax payments. Paid Bills, contractors and staff. Took Cemetery requests for burials, foundations, and burial spaces. Prepared publications. Preparing for 2024 election and mailed voter forms. , Statutory duties of the office performed. Clerk report will be put on file.

Treasurer Report: Collected tax payments, paid tax liabilities for the month, reconciled bank accounts, apart from the General Fund. Assisted with phone or walk in for funeral, election and zoning questions. Collected absentee ballots. **Treasurer Report will be on file.**

Supervisor Report: Gary gave report.

WORK WITH TAMMY ON PLANNING AND ZONING ISSUES ZONING APPLICATIONS CALLS AND COUNTER ENCOUNTERS. WORKED ON ORDINANCE COMPLAINTS AND VIOLATION AND WORK WITH BOB REGARDING PROBLEM PROPERTIES PREP WORK FOR MEETINGS STATUTORY DUTIES OF THE OFFICE. RESEARCH AND LEGAL COUNSEL RE: BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND DUTIES.

Supervisor report will be put on file.

Assessors Report: Report was provided by Gary. 5 building permits were issued, 3 bank foreclosures, and 1 recent Mortgage Company sale.

Planning and Zoning: No report was given.

Ordinance Enforcement: Nothing to report

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Unfinished Business:

Status update for Exploratory Committee for Fire Department Station.

New Business:

Conducted interviews for new Fire Chief.

Gary made a motion to hire Robert Vogel as new Fire Chief, supported by Dave:

Roll Call vote 6 Yea 0 Nay

Chuck made a motion to approve new Fire & EMS Ambulance fee schedule supported by Dave :

Roll Call vote 6 Yea 0 Nay

Chuck made a motion to approve new FY 2024/25 Fire Department budget supported by Scott:

Roll Call vote 6 Yea 0 Nay

Chris made a motion to approve purchases and setup of additional computer for election work overload supported by Chuck: Roll Call vote 6 Yea 0 Nay

Gary made a motion of participation with the AFG (Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant) with Charlotte Fire Department supported by Scott: Roll Call vote 6 Yea 0 Nay

Chuck made a motion to accept letter of resignation of Joy Suits as Township Clerk supported by Scott: Roll Call vote 6 Yea 0 Nay

Dave made a motion to appoint Carah Spadafore as new Clerk of Benton Township supported by Chris: Roll Call vote 6 Yea 0 Nay

Public Comment Commissioner Drosha gave an update on park grants and others offered appreciation and best wishes to township employees leaving .

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

Meeting Adjourned at 10:02 P.M.

Carah Spadafore, Clerk