

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 09, 2024 7:00 PM

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy, Pottersville, MI 48876 at 7:05 PM on September 09, 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, Carah Spadafore-Clerk, Karen Miller-Treasurer, Scott Hoorstra, Chris Tennes, Dave Falsetta, Charles Meddaugh - Trustees

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Board meeting on August 12, 2024 were presented. Charles moved to approve the minutes supported by Chris. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT: Chris Richlman, Connie Sobie, Melissa Ballard, Blake Mulder, Richard Barry, Amy Fonell, Rick Sullivan, Robert Bashor, Dean Butler, Heather Chambers, Chad Chambers, Scott Rice, Jayne Hoxie, Natasha Hoxie, Arden Hoxie, Jake Arndt, Kelly Coburn` Harris, Marissa Arndt, , James Betha, Kathy Pierce, and other unnamed visitors.

REPORTS TO BOARD:

Sheriff's Report: 83 events were listed, 16 Traffic Violations, 7 Traffic Stops, 5 Check wellbeing. **Report will be put on file.**

Fire Department Report: Fire Report was given by Jake Arndt **Report will be put on file.**

Bills: Were approved, Bills for August were paid \$10,915.42 Chris made the motion to approve, supported by Scott. Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris - Yea, Karen-Yea., Gary- Yea, Carah-Yea Charles-Yea . Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Clerk Report: Carah gave report.

We had a successful election in August due to a phenomenal team thankful for those who have served for many years and new election workers who have joined our team here at Benton Township. Finalized Auditors edits and completed our Audit of fiscal year of 2023/2024. Assisted with tax calls, tax payments, tax statement requests, zoning inquiries, and payroll, paid bills, contractors and staff, sent publications/postings to paper. Cemetery requests for burials, foundations, and burial spaces, prepared packets for meetings, ran errands, ordered supplies, and other statutory duties for the position.

Clerk report will be on file.

Treasurer Report: Karen gave report.

Continued to collect tax payments, distributed liabilities associated with tax payments, signed and mailed township checks, signed Fire Department checks, assisted with zoning, cemetery and election inquires, followed up with auditors with post audit entry issues.

Treasurer Report will be on file.

Supervisor Report: Gary gave report.

Worked with Tammy on planning and zoning issues, zoning applications, calls and counter encounters, worked with bob on ordinance complaints and violations, prep work for meetings, statutory duties of the office and more exploratory committee duties/engineer at fire department.

Supervisor report will be put on file.

Assessors Report: Report was provided by Gary.

1 permit issued 1 bank foreclosures and 1 recent Mortgage Company sale.

Report will be put on file.

Planning and Zoning: Report was provided by Gary.

Which included 12 phone/email discussions, 4 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed, 0 Zoning Board of Appeals Petition land division, 0 Special Use Permit, and 0 Site Plan Permit.

Report will be put on file.

Ordinance Enforcement: Report was provided by Bob Bashor. **Report will be put on file**

Reports of Special Meetings Audit report was given for fiscal year of 2023/2024 Agreement of Audit was motioned by Charles and seconded by Scott. Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris - Yea, Karen-Yea., Gary- Yea, Carah-Yea Charles-Yea . Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Unfinished Business:

No information on EMS proposal with Potterville.

New Business:

A motion was made that when interviews are made for new fire chief they will be conducted by Western Michigan Fire Chiefs Association. motioned by Dave seconded by Chris.

A motion was made to offer Gary Spalding the position of interim Chief with the opportunity of permanent fire chief if he is willing. Motioned by Dave and seconded by Karen. Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris - Yea, Karen-Yea., Gary- Yea, Carah-Yea Charles-Yea . Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

A motion was made to authorize Jake Arndt, New Chief and Interim to use Benton Charter Township Credit card to be used for Fire Department. Motioned by Gary seconded by Charles. Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris - Yea, Karen-Yea., Gary- Yea, Carah-Yea Charles-Yea . Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

A motion was made to retroactive prorate Chiefs salary to Jake Arndt and Rick Sullivan for their time filling in Chiefs position. Motioned by Gary and seconded by Dave. Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris - Yea, Karen-Yea., Gary- Yea, Carah-Yea Charles-Yea . Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

A Motion was made to move forward with on call applicants to whoever is in training by interim fire chief. Motioned by Chris and seconded by Charles. Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris - Yea, Karen-Yea., Gary- Yea, Carah-Yea Charles-Yea . Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

**A motion was made to adopt a new Post Audit policy motioned by Charles and seconded Gary.
Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris - Yea, Karen-Yea., Gary- Yea, Carah-Yea Charles-Yea . Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Public Comment

Public comment was heard

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:49 P.M. Carah Spadafore, Clerk