

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND JOINT MEETING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION

January 13, 2025 7:02 PM

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy, Potterville, MI 48876 at 7:00 PM on January 13, 2025

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 Hoornstra, Dave Falsetta, Neal Rohrs, Chris Tennes- Trustees

CALL TO ORDER: FOR PLANNING COMMISSION:

Benton Charter Township Planning Commission Roll Call, Present: Roger Harris, Ben Kudwa, Jeff Locke, Maureen Sorbet, Chris Tennes, Barbara Wickerham, Absent: Jack Temsey

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chris moved to accept the Agenda with amendments Carah supported. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Board meeting on December 9th, 2024 were presented. Scott moved to approve the minutes supported by Gary. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Bashor, Zack Drake, Tammy Foster, Dennis Miller, Darius Raynnet, Maureen Sorbet, Rick Sullivan, Brian Droscha, Jake Arndt, Nick George, Connie Arndt, Marissa Arndt, Kelly Coburn` Harris, Tonya Anzaldua and other unnamed visitors.

REPORTS TO BOARD: Sheriff's Report:

34 events were listed, 11 Traffic Violations, 3 Traffic Stops, 3 Cars in Ditch. Report will be put on file.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Fire Report was given by Nick George Report will be put on file.

Motion to start EMS employee Ann Austin full time pay in December was motioned by Dave seconded by Scott. ROLL CALL VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Motion to waive a portion of EMS call fee was motioned by Karen seconded by Chris. Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

BILLS: Were approved, Bills for December were paid \$37,426.64

Dave made the motion to approve, supported by Scott. Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

CLERK REPORT: Carah gave report.

The recount for Benton Charter Township was a success with a very grateful recount team for our organized ballot bags, and they found no issues with our Election from 11/05/24. Assisted with tax calls, Tax payments and statement requests. Paid bills, contractors and staff. Sent publications to County Journal. Took care of 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.

Collected tax payments, paid tax liabilities for the month, began reconciling bank accounts, all complete except for entries for interest. Once entered they will be completed. Updated financial and investment spreadsheets, signed and mailed checks, answered calls and walk ins for zoning, cemetery inquiries.

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 with Bob on ordinance complaints and violations. Prep work for meetings. Statutory duties of the office and more. Worked on the budget. Supervisor report will be put on file.

ASSESSORS REPORT: Report was provided by Gary.

2 Permit issued 0 bank foreclosures and 1 recent Mortgage Company sale.

Report will be put on file.

PLANNING AND ZONING:

No Report was given.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT: Report was provided by Bob Bashor. Report will be put on file

REPORT OF EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discipline was dismissed motioned by Neal and seconded by Dave. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made to approve Township meeting dates, motioned by Chris seconded by Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made to approve Planning & Zoning meeting dates, motioned by Gary seconded by Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made to approve Post Audit Policy, motioned by Chris seconded by Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made to approve Poverty and Exemption Resolution for 2025 motioned by Chris seconded by Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made to approve Agenda Clarification motioned by Chris seconded by Dave. Motion passed 6-years, 1-nays.

Motion was made to Clarify Township response for FOIA and Information requests motioned by Gary seconded by Chris. Motion passed 6- yeas, 1-nays.

Motion was made to nominate Kelly Coburn` Harris for Planning and Zoning Commission motioned by Gary seconded by Chris. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to open a closed meeting session at 8:37pm was motioned by Gary and Seconded by Scott Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Motion to end closed meeting session at 9:37pm was motioned by Chris and Seconded by Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made to explore Fire Authority opportunity for Benton Township Fire Department was motioned by Chris and Seconded by Gary. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made to suspend Fire Chief Hiring for Benton Township Fire Department was motioned by Scott and Seconded by Chris. Motion passed unanimously.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:00 P.M. Carah Spadafore, Clerk