

**BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**May 12, 2025 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 May 12, 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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Adding Public Comment to end of agenda was motioned by Karen and seconded by Neal.

Roll Call Karen – Yea, Gary – Yea, Carah – Yea, Chris – Yea, Dave – Yea, Scott – Yea, Neal \_ Yea

Adding Potterville Drain to agenda was motioned by Karen and seconded by Chris. Motion passed unanimously.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the Board meeting on April 14th, 2025 were presented. Chris made the motion to approve, supported by Gary. Motion passed unanimously.

**RECOGNIZE VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Bashor, Dennis Miller, Jake Arndt, Connie Arndt, Marissa Arndt, Kelly Coburn` Harris, Carol Bemis, Garie Bemis, Lynn Forell, Karen Forell, Amy Forell, Blayne Frey, Zack Drake Dennis Miccer, Richard Barry, Dean Butler, Jennifer Lennema, and other unnamed visitors.

Public comment was heard.

**REPORTS TO BOARD: Sheriff's Report:**

82 events were listed, 25 Traffic Violations, 24 Traffic Stop, 3 Property damage crash.

Report will be put on file.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

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

**FIRE DEPARTMENT BILLS:**

Was approved of \$113,792.86, Chris made the motion to approve, supported by Karen. 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 April were paid \$11,114.69

Payroll was approved, Payroll for April were paid \$11,013.20 Chris made the motion to approve both payroll and bills, 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.

April showed a surprising interest in the May 6<sup>th</sup> Election with a 60% return of Absentee ballots, 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.

Reconciled bank accounts except for the General Fund Updated financial report. Signed and mailed checks. Signed Fire Department checks Answered calls and walk ins for zoning, cemetery inquiries and general questions. Deposited all township funds into appropriate accounts Continue to monitor investments Started prepping documents for new auditors Treasurers. **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, worked on the budget, processed and Board of Review -public meeting. Attended Planning commission meeting was cancelled. Township Board meeting on 4/14/2025  
**Supervisor report will be put on file.**

**ASSESSORS REPORT:** Report was provided by Gary.

2 Building Permits issued, 0 bank foreclosures, 1 recent Mortgage Company sale.  
**Report will be put on file**

**PLANNING AND ZONING:** Report was provided by Gary.

Which included 14 phone/email discussions, 2 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed, 2 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**

**REPORT OF EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE:** Nothing to report.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Dissolve exploratory committee was motioned by Scott and seconded by Karen. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Postponed All public meeting items to be posted to the Township Website for time to look into cost. Was motioned by Chris and seconded by Dave. Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah-Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

**Paying off Drains at large bill was motioned by Chris and seconded by Gary Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave-Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Public comment was heard.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:29 P.M.**

**Carah Spadafore, Clerk**