

**BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**June 9, 2025 7:01 PM**

**The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy, Potterville, MI 48876 at 7:01 PM on June 9, 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 Legal Council fees 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, Dennis Miccer, Mike Walker, Jayne Hoxie, and other unnamed visitors.**

**Public comment was heard.**

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

**37 events were listed, 9 Traffic Stop, 5 Traffic Violations 5 Traffic hazard.**

**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 \$84,269.95, Scott made the motion to approve, supported 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 May were paid \$166,708.00

Payroll was approved, Payroll for May were paid \$12,551.19 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.

May election was successful with a very large turnout from our residents. We were packed up and out around 9pm, our team was fantastic and grateful for the opportunity to serve Benton Charter Township during election. 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 Fun. 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 Begin working on 2025 Taxes

**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 bids for cemetery storm damage

**Supervisor report will be put on file.**

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

4 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 15 phone/email discussions, 3 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed,

4 Zoning Board of Appeals Petition land division, 1 Special Use Permit, and 0 Site Plan Permit.

**Report will be put on file**

**ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT:** Report was provided by Bob Bashor and gave his resignation.

**Report will be put on file**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** All public meeting items to be posted to the Township Website to be postponed was motioned by Neal and seconded by Carah

Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Neal -Yea, Karen-Nay  
Motion carried 6 Yeas - 1 Nays. Karen-Nay

**NEW BUSINESS:**

New hazard mitigation plan was discussed to have Ryan Wilkerson to give a presentation at the August 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 Board meeting and Scott motioned to approve seconded by Gary, Motion carried unanimously.

Procedure and timetable for a new Fire Chief search and hiring was discussed, and Chris motioned to postpone seconded by Scott, Motion carried unanimously.

Policy to raise Supervisor legal spending limit up to \$1,500.00 was motioned by Chris and seconded by Carah Roll Call VOTE: Scott- Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris- Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Neal- Nay, Karen-Nay Motion carried 5 Yeas - 2 Nays.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was heard.

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at 9:43 P.M.

Carah Spadafore, Clerk