

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2025 7:03 PM

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy, Potterville, MI 48876 at 7:01 PM on July 14, 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, Dave Falsetta, Neal Rohrs, Chris Tennes- Trustees, Scott Hoornstra-absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Adding Public Comment to end of the agenda and removing duplicated line #10 was motioned by Chris and seconded by Karen. Motion passed unanimously.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the Board meeting on June 9th, 2025 were presented. Chris made the motion to approve, supported by Neal. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNIZE VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Drosha, Dennis Miller, Jake Arndt, Connie Arndt, Marissa Arndt, Kelly Coburn` Harris, Dean Butler, Carol Bemis, Garie Bemis, Mike Walker, Sarah Vandenboss, Amy Forell, Rick Sullivan, Donna Sweet, Jan and Rudy Bruce, Steve Daudison, Chuck Meddaugh, Nancy Meddaugh, and other unnamed visitors. Public comment was heard.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

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

Chris made the motion to approve Allocated Funds of 146,390.00 to be paid to the fire department, supported by Carah. Roll Call VOTE: Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays. Scott absent

FIRE DEPARTMENT BILLS:

Was approved of \$123,370.23, Dave made the motion to approve, supported by Chris.

Roll Call VOTE: Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays. Scott absent

BILLS: Were approved, Bills for June were paid \$82,368.98

Payroll was approved, Payroll for June were paid \$10,433.45 Chris made the motion to approve both payroll and bills, supported by Gary. Roll Call VOTE: Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal - Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays. Scott absent

CLERK REPORT: Carah gave report.

The MAMC conference Tonya and I attended at the beginning of the month of June was well worth the time and effort, we learned very important information required for Benton Township to function according to state law. A few samples have been provided in your packets of some possible changes that can be made to better serve our township. Assisted with tax calls, tax requests to be referred to Treasurer, 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. 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. Printed and mailed 2025 summer tax bills.
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 violations. Prep work for meetings. Statutory duties of the office and more. Attended: planning commission meeting- cancelled, township board meeting - 6/9/25
Supervisor report will be put on file.

ASSESSORS REPORT: Report was provided by Gary.

3 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 4 phone/email discussions, 1 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed Land Division, 4 Combination or lot line adjustment applications processed, 0 Zoning Board of Appeals Petition, 1 Special Use Permit, and 0 Site Plan Permit.
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 one month was motioned by Neal and seconded by Karen.

Roll Call VOTE: Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays. Scott absent

NEW BUSINESS:

Using consent agenda for next meeting. Dave motioned to approve seconded by Gary, Motion carried unanimously.

Karen motioned to be trained and given access to updating website seconded by Neal.

Roll Call VOTE: Dave-Nay, Chris-Nay, Gary-Nay, Carah-Nay, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion Denied 2 Yeas - 4 Nays. Scott absent

Search for hiring new Fire Chief with the interim Fire chief and a surrounding area fire chiefs handling interviews (pending that it's legal) with recommendations brought to the board and also posting that we are looking for a chief. motioned by Chris seconded by Dave. Motion carried unanimously.

Authorization of Fire Department to purchase air bottles was motioned by Gary seconded by Dave. Roll Call VOTE: Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays. Scott absent

Approval of New Fire Department Manual was motioned by Carah seconded by Neal.

Roll Call VOTE: Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas -0 Nays. Scott absent

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was heard.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:39 P.M.

Carah Spadafore, Clerk