

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 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 September 8, 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: Absent, Karen Miller-Treasurer, Dave Falsetta, Neal Rohrs, Scott Hoornstra, Chris Tennes- Trustees,

RECOGNIZE VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Drosha, Jake Arndt, Connie Arndt, Marissa Arndt, Kelly Coburn` Harris, Carol Bemis, Garie Bemis, Tim Hybo, Lisa Graham, Ray Graham, Marlana Bernheisel, Jason Strotheide, Melissa Strotheide, Sue Deer Denbowski, Arden Hoxie, Jayne Hoxie, Josh Kosbar, Terrie Kosbar, Dennis Miller, Mark Ewing, Dairus Reihnet, Jerry LaBreck, Ryan Wilkinson, Jan Brace, Gary Vorce, Nancy Meddaugh and other unnamed visitors. Public comment was heard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA CONSENT AGENDA

Chris moved to accept the Agenda and Consent Agenda Dave supported.

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Minutes from the Board meeting on August 11, 2025 , with corrections

Bills for August were paid

Payroll for August were paid

CLERK REPORT:

August was a busy month, beginning the first preparation for the November election, ordering suppliesfor election mailings, and reviewing ballot information to be correct with Eaton County. Assisted with tax calls, tax payments, tax statement requests to be referred to the 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. My baby boy was born August 28th almost 10 pounds. September begins my maternity leave as I recover and nurture our precious baby.

Clerk report will be on file

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Worked 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 8/11/25

Report will be put on file

ASSESSORS REPORT: Report was provided by Gary.

5 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 17 phone/email discussions, 5 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed Land Division, 3 Combination or lot line adjustment applications processed, 1 Zoning Board of Appeals Petition, 0 Special Use Permit, and 0 Site Plan Permit.

Report will be put on file

TREASURER REPORT: Karen gave report.

Reconciled bank accounts except for the General Fund. 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 collect tax payments. Paid out liabilities for taxes. Collecting and processing tax payments. **Report will be on file**

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT BILLS:

Was approved of \$108,350.34, Karen made the motion to approve, supported by Scott.

Roll Call VOTE: Scott - Yea, Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Carah- Absent, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea.

Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion to postpone the approval of the cemetery price list until the Board can see the other townships that were used in making the price determination, made by Neal and seconded by Chris. Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Scott- Yea, Carah- Absent, Karen-Yea, Neal -Yea. Motion carried 6 Yeas - 0 Nays

Motion made to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan given by Ryan Wilkerson by Chris and seconded by Neal. Dave- Yea, Scott- Yea, Neal- Yea, Karen- Yea, Gary- Yea, Chris-Yea, Carah-Absent

Postpone Planning Commission recommendation for fee schedule until the Board has comparison information was motioned by Chris and seconded by Dave Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to pass the Consumers Energy Agreement was motioned by Karen and seconded by Chris. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to postpone for one week in order to hold a special meeting to interview before the Board the top three candidates for the Fire Chief position was made by Karen and seconded by Neal. ROLL CALL: Karen-Yea, Gary-Nay, Carah-Absent, Chris-Nay, Dave-Nay, Scott-Nay, Neal-Yea. Motion did not carry. 2 Yeas – 4-Nays

Motion to approve hiring of new Fire Chief by offering the job to top candidates until chief is hired was made by Scott and seconded by Dave. ROLL CALL: Gary-Yea, Carah-Absent, Chris-Yea, Dave-Yea, Scott-Yea, Neal-Nay, Karen-Nay. Motion carried. 4 Yeas – 2 Nays

Motion was made to remove all financial documents, bills, financial reports, etc. from the Consent Agenda was made by Neal and seconded by Karen. ROLL CALL: Chris-Yea, Dave-Yea, Scott-Yea, Neal-Yea, Karen-Yea, Gary-Yea, Carah-Absent. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was heard.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:05 P.M.

Carah Spadafore, Clerk