

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 12, 2026 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 January 12, 2026

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, Scott Hoornstra, Chris Tennes- Trustees,

RECOGNIZE VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Drosha, Jake Arndt, Connie Arndt, Marissa Bivens, Kelly Coburn` Harris, Carol Bemis Sarah Vandeboss, Steve Davidson, Ella Gardner, Greg Wezr, Julie Kramer, Jerry Sweet, Joan Valentine, and other unnamed visitors. Public comment was heard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA CONCENT AGENDA

Gary moved to accept the Agenda and Consent Agenda with removing the Treasurers report Chris supported. Roll Call: Karen - Yea, Gary - Yea, Carah - Yea, Chris - Yea, Dave - Yea, Scott - Yea, Neal - Nay Motion carried 6 Yeas - 1 Nays.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Minutes from the Board meeting on December 14th, 2025

Bills for July were paid \$95,339.30

Payroll for July were paid \$10,211.43

CLERK REPORT:

Completed new Pricing list for Cemetery, 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

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 Supervisor 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 20 phone/email discussions, 4 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed Land Division, 4 Combination or lot line adjustment applications processed, 0 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 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. Paid property tax liabilities. Collecting and processing tax payments. Cashed in CD for Equipment Replacement Fund. Will be requesting payment to Fire Department. **Report will be on file**

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT BILLS:

Was approved of \$88,685.88, Karen 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.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Leave the website content as is for the time being until we find out more on the ADA requirements and cost. was motioned by Chris and seconded by Gary. Roll Call VOTE: Dave- Yea, Chris-Yea, Gary- Yea, Scott- Yea, Carah- Yea, Karen-Nay, Neal -Nay. Motion carried 5 Yeas - 2 Nays

NEW BUSINESS:

Pricelist for cemetery was postponed was motioned by Chris and seconded by Neal Motion carried unanimously.

Carah motioned for Benton Township to have an Election assistant seconded by Chris.

Roll Call VOTE: Dave-Yea, Chris-Yea, Scott- Nay Gary-Yea, Carah-Yea, Karen-Nay, Neal -Nay. Motion Carried 4 Yeas - 3 Nays.

Carah motioned to appoint Mari Martin as election assistant seconded by Dave.

Roll Call VOTE: Dave-Yea, Chris-Yea, Scott- Nay Gary-Yea, Carah-Yea, Karen-Nay, Neal -Nay. Motion Carried 4 Yeas - 3 Nays.

Carah motioned for Benton Township to have a clerk administrative assistant seconded by Chris.

Roll Call VOTE: Dave-Yea, Chris-Yea, Scott- Nay Gary-Yea, Carah-Yea, Karen-Nay, Neal -Nay. Motion Carried 4 Yeas - 3 Nays.

Carah motioned to appoint Mari Martin as clerk administrative assistant seconded by Dave.

Roll Call VOTE: Dave-Yea, Chris-Yea, Scott- Nay Gary-Yea, Carah-Yea, Karen-Nay, Neal -Nay. Motion Carried 4 Yeas - 3 Nays.

Postpone Planning Commission recommendation for fee schedule was motioned by Gary and seconded by Chris Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was heard.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:57 P.M.

Carah Spadafore, Clerk