

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2026 7:00 PM

The Benton Charter Township Board meeting was held at the Township Hall, 5136 Windsor Hwy, Pottersville, MI 48876 at 7:05 PM on September 14th, 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, Robert Hipple-Treasurer, Dave Falsetta, Russ Mowan, Scott Hoornstra, Chris Tennes- Trustees

RECOGNIZE VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Bemis, Helen Schneider, Stacy Pierce, Lera Lowrie, Brian and Frances Hannold, Kevin Christiansen, Regina Hipple, Brian Drocha, Marissa Bivens. Public comment was heard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chris moved to approve the Agenda with amendments. Robert supported.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Fire Report was given by Fire Chief Kevin Christiansen.

Report will be put on file.

Fire Department Report and Bills. Chris motioned to approve. Seconded by Dave.

Roll Call: Russ– Yea, Gary – Yea, Carah – Yea, Chris – Yea, Dave – Yea, Scott – Yea, Robert – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Regular meeting minutes of August 10, 2026

Special Board meeting minutes of August 13, 2026

Clerk's Report

Treasurer's Report

Assessor's Report

Planning and Zoning Report

Motion to approve was given by Chris and seconded by Gary.

Roll call vote: Scott-yea, Russ-yea, Robert-yea, Gary-yea, Carah-yea, Chris-yea, Dave-yea. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Chris motioned for approval of August Bills. Gary seconded. Roll Call VOTE: Dave-Yea, Chris-Yea, Scott- Yea, Gary-Yea, Carah-Yea, Robert-Yea, Russ -Yea. Motion Carried unanimously.

CLERK REPORT:

Attended Clerks meeting at Eaton County
Updated website
Assisted with tax calls
Tax requests to be referred to Treasurer
New Cemetery lot and burial requests
And other required duties under the clerks position
Clerk report will be on file

TREASURER REPORT:

Responded to FOIA requests
Implementing one new Benton Charter Township Treasury Procedures:
ACH payments and transfers (approved by Board in August)
Continued Receiving Property Tax Payments
Disbursed tax receipts to taxing authorities
Read-only bank account access to Fire Chief and Clerk
Made General Fund, Fire Department, and Tax Fund bank deposits
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
Treasurers report will be on file.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Work with Tammy on planning and zoning issues
Zoning applications calls and counter encounters.
Received ordinance complaints and violations
Prep work for meetings
Statutory duties of the office and more
Bids for asphalt maintenance at office and cemetery work
Attended: township board meeting - 8/10/26
Supervisor report will be put on file.

ASSESSORS REPORT:

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

PLANNING AND ZONING:

Which included 11 phone/email discussions, 3 new Zoning Compliance Permits processed 1 Land Division,
1 Zoning Board of Appeals Petitions

CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gary motioned for approval of ITC High Power Lines Meeting at Township hall. Seconded by Russ.

Roll Call VOTE: Chris-Yea, Dave-Yea, Scott-Yea, Russ-Yea, Robert-Yea, Gary-Yea, Carah-Yea.

Motion Carried 7 Yeas - 0 Nays

Gary motioned for approval Fire Department Budget Adjustment of 13,287.26 from Reserves. Seconded by Chris.

Roll Call VOTE: Scott-Yea, Russ-Yea, Robert-Yea, Gary-Yea, Carah-Yea, Chris-Yea, Dave-Yea.

Motion Carried 7 Yeas – 0 Nays

Chris motioned for approval of Maintenance to front East and West entrances of the Cemetery gates. Seconded by Dave.

Roll Call VOTE: Dave-Yea, Scott-Yea, Russ-Yea, Robert-Nay, Gary-Yea, Carah-Yea, Chris-Yea

Motion Carried 6 Yeas – 1 Nays

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was heard.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:45 P.M.

Carah Spadafore, Clerk