

BENGAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

April 10, 2024 -7:00PM

Township Hall, 6586 West M-21 St. Johns MI

Regular Board Meeting

The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the meeting commenced at 7:01.

Call to Order – Roll Call – present: McDonald, Sillman, Boak, Solomon; absent – Bassette.

Supervisor McDonald presented the **agenda** for review and proposed the additions of the Assessor's Report from Dr. Mark Holly and item d. Email Addresses under Unfinished Business. Trustee Boak motioned to approve the agenda with the additions. Motion supported by Trustee Sillman, motion carried.

Minutes from the February 14, 2024 meeting were not yet available for approval.

Trustee Sillman motioned to approve the **March 13, 2024 meeting minutes** as submitted, seconded by Trustee Boak; motion carried.

Trustee Sillman motioned to approve the **March 20, 2024 Budget Meeting Minutes** as submitted, seconded by Treasurer Solomon; motion carried.

No Public Comment on Agenda Items.

Scott Darragh from St. Johns Public Schools provided **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** in regards to the bond proposal the school district has and reminded of the upcoming election on May 7th to vote on the matter, and also advised absentee ballots are currently available. The district has more information on their website. David Smith also provided public comments on non-agenda items regarding the details of the school bond as well, giving statistics on the school debt load and other items to consider for voters. Mr. Smith also spoke on a petition for the state wind/solar ordinance to come back to local control and advised of intent to get that issue on the ballot. Josephine Smith supplied comments regarding resources Clinton Transit offers and reminded of their service hours from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. Monday through Friday and 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. on Saturdays.

REPORTS

Commissioner Pohl gave the **Commissioner Report** discussing the increase in ridership on Clinton Area Transit Service has surpassed the pre-pandemic levels; the CATS Board requested a millage of 0.70 mills for 4 years on the August 6th Ballot, which was approved by the County Board of Commissioners; Clinton County received notice they were awarded the Robin grant of \$15 million dollars for fiber optic broadband for unserved and underserved homes, farms and businesses, and the county and Frontier will also contribute funds towards this improvement; the Board of Commissioners approved boiler replacements in the Courthouse; an updated solar energy ordinance was approved by the Board of Commissioners, although the wind ordinance will be discussed in the near future; there was an approval for personnel requests to add a couple dispatchers for training as two current associates have planned retirement this year; the County Health Care plan was renewed with a slight increase; and the juvenile court system is reorganizing after a longtime employee resigned.

Assessor's Report – Dr. Mark Holley gave a brief assessor's report letting us know there was only one case for the Board of Review last month.

Planning Commission Report – Trustee Boak stated there were no updates at this time; the next meeting is April 24, 2024. Supervisor McDonald briefly mentioned the resolution for a joint planning commission with Essex was distributed as necessary.

Sheriff Report – Deputy Stehlik advised there was not much to report specific to Bengal Township. Residents may notice deputies have new uniform pants, and there are two Ford F-150s that have been put into service.

Delegate Report – Delegate Lynda Roof advised she received calls inquiring why there was a change in voting location for May election as post cards were sent out to constituents advising of the change; the board advised it is primarily a cost saving measure for the township and is fairly standard practice to combine with other townships in similar situations.

Treasurer Report – Treasurer Solomon advised the general account beginning balance was \$678,661.26 with an ending balance of \$760,428.55 with nothing out of the ordinary; restricted funds beginning balance \$784,737.17, ending balance \$1,056,040.58. Trustee Sillman made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented, supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

Clerk Report – n/a

Treasurer Solomon presented the **bills to be paid**. Trustee Sillman made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$7,288.05 supported by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Road Commission Update – Trustee Sillman motioned to approve the chloride contract with an amount of \$68,284.56; seconded by Trustee Boak, motion carried.

The board discussed **Coronavirus SLFRF reporting by April 30th, 2024/25**.

Hall Rental Revisions were tabled until next month

Township Email Addresses were discussed as Supervisor McDonald advised on additional research he completed. Another vendor, Quantum Services Group, provided an estimate on servicing township email addresses, although the difference was minimal compared to a local estimate. Research is ongoing.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor McDonald provided the **St. Johns Fire Department Annual Report** for informational purposes.

The **Bengal Township Annual Report** was provided with Supervisor McDonald pointing out the date change for the March 2025 Budget Meeting as March 19th rather than the historical last Wednesday of March.

Board Comments – n/a

Motion of Excused Absence – Trustee Sillman motioned to excuse the absence of Clerk Bassette due to a family tragedy, supported by Treasurer Solomon. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Treasurer Solomon.

Approved 5/8/2024