

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 12, 2024**

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor, Katherine Young.

Present: Katherine Young, Brenda Lester, Susan Rochefort, Jenna Silkworth and Craig Potvin.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public was present. No comments were received.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to approve the meeting agenda for November 12, 2024. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Jenna made a motion, seconded by Sue, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on October 8, 2024 and special meeting held on October 21, 2024. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: A motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Sue, to approve payment of the bills as presented by the Clerk. Roll Call Vote: Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS

ASSESSOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS: Assessor was not present for his report. The report was received and a copy will be kept on file. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to accept the Assessor/Zoning Administrator's report for October. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief, Keith Farley, gave his report. A bid was received for the 2015 Polaris for \$14,000 from Eric Wozny. No other requests were received by the township. Sue made a motion to sell the side by side to Eric Wozny for his bid received in the amount of \$14,000.00, supported by Brenda. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried. The fire hall roof is leaking when there is a torrential rain storm. They can't figure out where the water is coming from. The beams are all metal so it's not a big problem. Keith requested the Fire Department get a charge account at L & M Fleet. Kathy will check into it. A motion was made by Jenna to approve the authorization to purchase a gas sensing monitor up to \$150.00, seconded by Brenda. Roll Call Vote: Kathy – yes, Jenna – yes, Craig – yes, Sue – yes, and Brenda – yes. Motion carried.

TRANSFER STATION: No report.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: Reimbursement was received from the State of Michigan for the Presidential Primary Election in the amount of \$2,692.80. The security camera cage has been ordered. A-1 Septic cleaned the filter for the septic at the hall. 4,000 people took advantage of early voting in Delta County for the November General Election. Election went well for Garden Township. There were two burials since the last meeting. Brenda made a motion to accept the Clerk's financial report, seconded by Jenna. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

TREASURER: The Clerk and Treasurer's balance of all funds for October, 2024, agree. Winter taxes will be mailed soon along with the newsletter. A motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Kathy, to accept the treasurer's report for October. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP HALL: The ongoing issue with the pickle ball net not being taken down was discussed. The board decided that if it becomes a problem again, they'll need to take it down each time they use it. Arnold should be starting on the repairs upstairs in the hall.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Tanks have been pumped at the park. Bathrooms at the Township Park were locked earlier this month.

PLANNING COMMISSION: The Planning Commission is still working on the Master Plan. C.U.P.P.A.D. is working on a link for the draft of master plan on the township's website.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Kathy updated the board about the street lights being out on Van's Harbor Road.

OLD BUSINESS

- ***Protective Cages for Security Cameras:*** The second cage has been ordered.
- ***Road Project with Delta County Road Commission –*** OO.25 Road project has been completed.
- ***Transfer Station Fuel Tank:*** Kathy made a motion to proceed with Bichler Concrete to install a concrete tank in the amount of \$625.00 with an installation fee of \$222.45 for the fuel tank, supported by Brenda. Roll Call Vote:

Kathy – yes, Sue – yes, Brenda – yes, Craig – yes, and Jenna – yes. Motion carried. Craig will talk to Bill Harris about prepping the area.

- **Side by Side:** Covered under Fire Department Report.
- **Drywall and Cabinets Repair for Township Hall:** Kathy talked to Arnold to get it completed.
- **Repair of 16.5 Road:** There's still a chance the township may still be able to obtain the rock early next summer.
- **Proposed Interim Zoning Ordinance Amendments:** Proposed draft interim zoning ordinance amendments were received for wind energy systems, renewable energy overlay district, solar energy, and regulation of utility-scale battery energy storage systems. Kathy will schedule a special board meeting with township attorney regarding the amendments.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Delta Solid Waste Fee Increase:** Delta Solid Waste is increasing their rates to \$75.00 per ton effective February 1, 2025.
- **Fire Hall Roof:** Covered under Fire Department.
- **Recommendation for Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Members:** Kathy made a motion, seconded by Brenda, to appoint Meghan Kelly for a two-year term on the Garden Township Planning Commission for the term ending June 30, 2026. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Kathy made a motion, seconded by Jenna, to appoint Meghan Kelly for a two-year term on the Garden Township Zoning Board of Appeals for the term ending June 30, 2026. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Kathy made a motion, seconded by Sue, to appoint Jenna Silkworth as the ex-officio member to the Garden Township Planning Commission for the term ending November 20, 2028 which corresponds with her time in office. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Kathy made a motion, seconded by Brenda, to appoint Roger Wolfe for a three-year term on the Garden Township Zoning Board of Appeals for the term ending June 30, 2027. Ayes: 1, Nays: 4. Motion failed. Kathy will invite Roger Wolfe to attend the next township board meeting in December to speak with the board. Kathy made a motion, seconded by Sue, to appoint Craig Potvin as the ex-officio member to the Garden Township Zoning Board of appeals for the term ending November 20, 2028 which corresponds with his time in office. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2024:** Brenda stated the approved minutes for September 10, 2024 listed the budget amendments that were approved at the August meeting in error. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to list the correct budget amendments that were approved at the September 10, 2024, meeting in the November 12, 2024 minutes. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. Budget amendments for September, 10, 2024, were:

General Fund

1. **Grants, Nongovernmental Revenue:** Increase from \$-0- to \$6,000.00
2. **Elections, Furniture & Equipment Exp.:** Increase from \$500.00 to \$2837.00, an increase of \$2,337.00
3. **Election Supplies Exp.:** Increase from \$1,000.00 to \$3,314.50, an increase of \$2,314.50
4. **Contingency Fund:** Decrease from \$124,855.41, to \$123,506.91, a decrease of \$1,348.50

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS: Newly elected officials and one commission member took their oath of office.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public were present; therefore, no public comments were received.

A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to adjourn. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lee Lester
Garden Township Clerk