

GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
December 10, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:04 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 Jenna, seconded by Sue, to approve the meeting agenda for December 10, 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 November 12, 2024, and special meeting held on November 21, 2024. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: A motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Craig, 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.

BOARD & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS: Resignation was received from Tom Lang effective December 31, 2024, from the Planning Commission. Kathy made a motion to appoint Deanna Manke to Planning Commission effective January 1, 2025, with term ending June 30, 2025. Supported by Jenna. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. An alternate is still needed for the Zoning Board of Appeals. A motion was made by Kathy to appoint Meghan Kelly, Tana Leckson, and Steven Freeman to the Board of Review; and Janet Feenstra Daasch and Gary Sporer as alternate members for the Board of Review effective January 1, 2025. Seconded by Brenda. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORTS

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief, Keith Farley, was not present. No report.

TRANSFER STATION: It was proposed to charge gas at Foxy's and get a charge card for Circle K. Sue made a motion, seconded by Craig, to go back the old way and buy our fuel on the road, gas and diesel. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Jenna – no, Craig – yes, Brenda – no, and Kathy – no. Motion failed.

CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT: Clerk gave her report. Jenna made a motion to accept the Clerk's financial report, seconded by Jenna. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

TREASURER: The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balance for November, 2024. Winter taxes and newsletters were mailed. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to accept the treasurer's report for November. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Jenna – yes, Craig – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP HALL: The board needs to approve someone to assist Arnold Weaver to install drywall and cabinets in the hall. This will be resolved at the January, 2024, meeting. Sue already picked up insulation for the attic. Old chimneys will be knocked down to a level below the ceilings.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Recreation committee will meet in April, 2025. Park is closed until spring.

PLANNING COMMISSION: The Planning Commission is still working on the master plan and a link is now on the township's website so people can view its progress. There will be some interim zoning ordinances for them to consider at the next planning commission meeting concerning renewable energy.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: December Board of Review was held on December 10, 2024. Some Board of Review members will need training. Kathy requested a new Board of Review Guide. Brenda stated we have two books a few years ago. Kathy will look to see if she can find them. Motion was made by Sue, seconded by Craig, to order a book titled "Breaking the Zoning Code" from the Michigan Townships Association for \$43.00. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried. The charge account at L & M Fleet the Fire Department requested will not be pursued due to the fact they require social security numbers, background checks, and references for each person on the account.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Transfer Station – Tanks Vs. Charging of Gas and Charge Card:** Covered under Transfer Station Report.
- **Drywall Wall for Township Hall:** Covered under Hall Report.
- **Reinstallation of Cabinet for Township Hall:** Covered under Hall Report.
- **Proposed Interim Zoning Ordinance Amendments, Overlay District:** The following parcel numbers were presented to the board for recommendation to the Planning Commission of an overlay district for renewable energy for a proposed interim zoning amendment: 010-054-009-00, 010-054-008-00, 010-054-008-20, 010-054-008-10, 010-054-013-00, 010-054-012-00, 010-054-015-10, 010-053-004-00, 010-053-005-00, 010-059-007-00, 010-059-009-00, 010-059-004-00, 010-059-005-10, 010-059-005-00, 010-059-006-00, 010-053-004-00, 010-053-005-00, 010-060-006-00, 010-060-005-00, & 010-060-007-00. The township must accommodate enough acreage for at least one 50-megawatt facility. The proposed overlay district contains an approximate total of 640 total acres which should be more than necessary. The current solar and wind projects on those parcels that are already established are included. Consideration of the following criteria for the overlay district are:
 1. proximity to existing transmission lines and existing substations
 2. proximity to and in areas that already contain renewable energy production
 3. areas with low population densities
 4. areas that are least likely to cause an adverse impact to the township, its residents, and other resources.

Jenna made a motion to recommend the list of parcels as presented to the township board to the Garden Township Planning Commission as the overlay district for renewable energy, supported by Brenda. Roll Call Vote: Sue – yes, Craig – yes, Jenna – yes, Brenda – yes, and Kathy – yes. Motion carried.

- **Delta Solid Waste Fee Increase:** Increased rate for Garden Township will be \$48.00 per ton effective February 1, 2025, not \$75.00 per ton.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Letter of Support – Highline Internet:** A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Sue, to complete a letter of support for Highline Internet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was received.

A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Jenna, to adjourn. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lee Lester
Garden Township Clerk