

**GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
June 11, 2019

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m. by Township Clerk, Brenda Lester.

**Present:** Tyler Lucas, Brenda Lester, and Mary Ann LeBresh. Lisa and Richard Pichette were absent.

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Under new business Village of Garden user fee and Heritage lease extension was added. Also added under Old Business was Fire Department Lighting/2% Grant.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**MINUTES:** Tyler made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on April 9, 2019. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:** A motion was made by Mary Ann, seconded by Tyler, to approve the bills as presented by the Clerk. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Tyler – yes, and Brenda – yes. Bills approved.

**REPORTS:**

***ASSESSOR'S REPORT:*** Colleen Maki presented the assessor's report to the board and a copy will be placed on file. Board of Review will meet on July 16, 2019, around 10:00 or 10:30 at the township hall. The purpose of the meeting is only for clerical errors and corrections.

***FIRE DEPARTMENT:*** Chief Farley stated May was quiet and everything is going well. The township was informed the 2% grant for LED lighting for the fire hall has been approved. The money has already been received and has been deposited. Richard called Kobas Electric to contact Keith but he hasn't heard from them yet. Keith also stated that he applied for a grant with Heritage for the purchase of more foam and wild land gear. The money from Heritage has been received as well. The Fire Department received three donations in memory of Nancy Dalgord. Mashkeek Lake Club also sent a donation of \$200. Letter was received from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians regarding the \$6,500 that was granted from their 2% money stating that the money must be spent on the LED light project only. Keith stated that he thought the bid from Kobas will be slightly over that amount so it's unlikely the township will need to return any money to the tribe. Keith will follow up with Kobas Electric for an estimate.

***CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT:*** There were four spring burials so far. The opt out ordinance for marihuana was published in the Daily Press on June 8th and will take effect on June 18, 2019.

***TREASURER/TOWNSHIP HALL:*** The Treasurer and Clerk accounts balanced and there are no concerns with township hall right now except for the septic system replacement.

***TRANSFER STATION:*** No report.

***PARKS AND RECREATION:*** No report.

***SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:*** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- ***American Legion Hall Use:*** Richard sent an email to the Michigan Township's Association with the question regarding if the township should allow the Legion to use the hall with no charge and if so, is it considered a donation to them. Currently the township does charge some other groups. Michael Selden of the M.T.A. responded by email stating, "Yes, if your policy for hall rental/use

requires a \$75.00 payment and you don't charge a certain group or organization, it would be considered a donation, as you are essentially donating that amount that you charge for rental to the group. If the board looks at it as a non-profit and wants to not charge a them for the use of the hall, that could possibly be done if you incorporate that into your policy; however, all non-profits would need to be treated the same way, you couldn't allow some and not others." Brenda made a motion, seconded by Tyler, to table the American Legion hall use topic until the July meeting. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

- **Hall Septic:** Ian from the Health Department did come out and initially stated the township needed a bigger field; however, they compared Garden Township to Wells Township with the type of field they have and the amount of water they use and decided that the township could probably get a deviation/variance and have that reduced. Before they proceed the township needs to send them the application with a payment of \$138.00 which would cover the cost of the deviation/variance application and the pressure design fee, \$69.00 each. The property lines need to be marked for the properties of First Bank, Charlie and Karen Paulson, the Village of Garden, and Garden Township. This is in the works and all have been contacted. A legal easement would also need to be created which needs to be recorded on the property for the Village of Garden and Garden Township. This would require the attorney to get this done, as far as Richard knows. The deed requirements do not have to be completed before the permit is issued. The requirement will be in the permit stipulations and approval of the system would not be granted until it was accomplished. The township is not able to get a price on the drain field and the tank until the request for the variance/deviation fee and the fee for the pressure distribution design fee is submitted and approved; therefore, a check for \$138.00 must be sent with the application as soon as possible. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Mary Ann, to submit the application and a check for \$138.00 to the Health Department. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Fire Department Lighting and Grant:** Covered in the Fire Department report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Village of Garden User's Fee:** The township received a letter from the Village of Garden stating the \$2,000.00 user's fee is now due. After it was paid last year, prior Township Supervisor, Morgan Tatrow, said he checked with the Michigan Township's Association who said if the Village of Garden does not charge their residents to use the park, then they shouldn't be charging the township for their residents to use the park. Brenda said she'd like the township to get written clarification from the Michigan Township's Association before a decision is made. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Tyler, to table the decision on the user's fee payment to the Village of Garden until clarification is received from the Michigan Township's Association. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion carried.
- **Heritage Lease Extension:** Heritage has requested another lease extension through September 30, 2019, for the fire hall. Tyler made a motion, seconded by Brenda, to extend the Heritage lease with the fire hall through the end of September, 2019. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

Motion made by Brenda, seconded by Mary Ann, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester  
Garden Township Clerk