

## BENTON TOWNSHIP

The 2nd of January, 2018 Benton Township Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Five board members were present: Supervisor Andrew Archambo, Treasurer Ann Couture, Clerk Jayne Passeno, Trustee Charles Beckwith and Trustee Mike Charboneau. In addition Commissioner Mike Newman and 10 electorates were present.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Supervisor Archambo was unable to meet with Doug Damm regarding the breakdown of the per land owner cost for paving West Black Lane & Canton Road, therefore, the discussion will be postponed until the February 2018 meeting.

MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes with the exception of removing the information from the Tax Checking account was made by Trustee Beckwith supported by Trustee Charboneau.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter from Cheboygan County Humane Society to thank Benton Township for the \$2000.00 appropriation. The History Center of Cheboygan County sent a letter with a synopsis of the last year accomplishments and a request for a donation. It is not appropriate for Townships to donate municipal funds for private or non corporation activity. A letter from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury regarding the change of frequency for filing Sales, Used and Withholding Tax to a quarterly basis vs. a monthly basis.

REPORTS: Treasurer Couture reported that the collection of property tax has been slow. Clerk Passeno reported on the preparations for the end of the year. Mileage has increased to .545 cents per mile and minimum wage has increased to an hourly rate of \$9.25. Clerk Passeno, Supervisor Archambo and Trustee Beckwith asked permission to attend the MTA Conference in April. A motion by Treasurer Couture and support by Trustee Beckwith for Board members to attend the conference was approved by all.

Library Liaison Mary Ellen Enos reported that the Library will not pursue the tax capture exemption with Inverness Township but is now exempt from the City of Cheboygan capturing a portion of the library millage, beginning with the 2017 Winter taxes. The wi-fi service has been updated. The library has experienced a 16% increase in patronage since July. Mel Enos, Library Public Relations Manager will retire in October 2018. The current balance for the library account is \$90,051.77.

Fire Chief Gary Williams was unavailable. Captain Pat LaCross reported on the recent ice rescue training, a few false alarms, otherwise it has been fairly quiet.

Groundskeeper, Doug Felmlee reported on the continuing process of clearing snow. The air vents were moved so the pilot lights on the stove blew out again. Doug will install a different vent to prevent this issue. Doug replaced the furnace filters at the Community Center and Hall. Supervisor Archambo authorized contacting Werner's Plumbing and Heating to redo the duct work for easy installation of filters. Doug forwarded a picture of the sign that has been installed on the Beebe Road end, stating that public swimming and loitering is prohibited. Supervisor Archambo will contact the Cheboygan County Road Commission to remove the sign. Doug will follow up with the Sheriff Dept. regarding contacting the offenders who have dumped household waste in the recycle bins.

OLD BUSINESS: Treasurer Couture made a motion to approve the property split for Leroy & Lois Ormsbee with the contingency of the summer 2017 property taxes being paid. Trustee Beckwith supported the motion and the motion was carried by all.

Treasurer Couture offered a reminder of the annual budget meeting on January 9, 2018 at 6:00pm and the Board should review the two grants that are available.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT : Commissioner, Mike Newman reported that it has been quiet at the county building. Doug Felmlee inquired about the bridge replacement on trail to Mackinaw City. Trustee Beckwith reported that the bridge should arrive from Negaunee on Thursday. The DNR has spent over \$31,000.00 on outside engineering on this project. Transfer station attendant, Marv Smith reported that he is doing well after his recent surgery.

Supervisor Archambo requested a letter from the doctor authorizing his return to work and any physical limitations. A discussion ensued regarding non-employees offering assistance at the transfer station.

MTA will be hosted by Grant Township Hall on January 25, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

BILLS: Clerk Passeno presented a list of bills for the Boards approval. A motion by Treasurer Couture and supported by Trustee Beckwith was approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Treasurer Couture and supported by Supervisor Archambo to adjourn the November Benton Township meeting at 7:35 pm. Motion carried.