

BENTON TOWNSHIP

The November 13, 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 8 electorates were present.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

MINUTES: A motion to accept the October 2, 2018 meeting minutes and bills paid in the month of October was made by Trustee Beckwith and supported by Treasurer Couture. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS: Clerk Passeno reported on the record voter turnout of 1,686 voters (63.1%) which included 563 absentee ballots. The election workers did an awesome job and were commended for their dedication and great service after 18.5 hours of processing ballots. The new tabulators photographs both sides of the ballot and processing time is almost one minute per ballot which created a long line at the tabulator. Clerk Passeno inquired about the purchase of an additional tabulator. The State of Michigan and County Clerk advised against purchasing another tabulator. Challengers were present throughout the election process. The issue of paying the election workers immediately was addressed. A question of whether a motion approving the rate of pay was debated. A motion to approve the rate of pay for the support staff wages was made by Trustee Beckwith and supported by Supervisor Archambo. Motion passed. Per suggestion of 1st Community Bank and legal counsel at MTA, the checking account should have the Deputy Clerk and Treasurer signatures on file in case of an emergency situation. The Certificates of Deposit and tax account should have both the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer signatures. Treasurer Couture will update the signature cards with the banks. The purchase of ice blockers for the Community Center roof was deemed to be ineffective for protecting the landscaping under the eaves. Doug Felmlee will then replace the shrubs with rocks or other landscaping in the spring. A \$80.00 invoice from Emmet County Dept. of Public Works for contamination of a recycle bin due to unrecyclable items in the bin was approved. The paperwork for the illegal dumping of household waste in the recycle bins this past summer, has been filed with the Prosecutors Office for remuneration. Clerk Passeno reported on the procedure to place a "no wake" buoy on the Black River by Meyer's Creek. A DEQ permit is required and the Sheriff Dept. does not place or remove the buoys for the season as previously reported. The purchase of buoys will not be pursued. Republic Services has been purchased by GFL Environmental Services and the incorrect invoicing and unscheduled pick-ups was addressed. The 2019/2020 Budget workshop has been scheduled for January 2, 2019 at 6:00 pm. The Board was informed of the unsatisfactory condition of the Community Center after the rental on November 10th and the security deposit will not be refunded.

LIBRARY LIAISON: Mary Ellen Eno stated, with the passing of the Library millage the hours of operation will be extended. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, Thursday 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. A substitute employee and high school student have been hired to cover the new open hours and a new employee to replace Linda Tallman who is retiring. The Library participated in the Halloween celebration by handing out books and they will have a float in the Christmas Parade on December 1st. Comic Con is coming to the library in February. The bank balance is \$104,075.89.

GROUNDSKEEPER: The Kubota has been converted for snow plowing. A motion was made by Couture to purchase a back blade for the tractor, to assist with moving heavy snow, if the price is within the budget limit for the 2018/2019 line item. Support was made by Trustee Beckwith. Motion carried. The halyard on the flag pole broke and has been replaced.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: A motion to accept the Board Resolution to Adopt the Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test for 2019 was made by Beckwith and supported by Passeno. Motion carried.

Benton Township Board Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test for 2019

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, the township board is required by Section 7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u), to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, that Benton Township, Cheboygan County, adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and board of review to implement.

The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax-credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year.

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
 - 2) File a claim with the supervisor or board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year of a signed State Tax Commission Form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit.
 - 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all person do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- Maximum assets shall not exceed as listed per size of family.
- 4) Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.
 - 5) Produce, if requested a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
 - 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body, providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
 - 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Benton Township Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Meet additional eligibility requirements as determined by the township board, including:

Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions	
Size of Family Unit	2019 Poverty Guidelines
1	\$ 12,140
2	\$ 16,460
3	\$ 20,780
4	\$ 25,100
5	\$ 29,420
6	\$ 33,740
7	\$ 38,060
8	\$ 42,380
Additional Person	\$ 4,320

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the board of review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the, policy and federal guidelines and these are communicated in writing to the claim and supported by Board Member.

The foregoing resolution offered by Trustee Beckwith and support by Clerk Passeno.

Upon roll call vote, the following vote:

"Aye:" Charles Beckwith, Mike Charboneau, Andrew Archambo, Jayne Passeno and Ann Couture.

"Nay:" None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

One bid for trash removal was submitted by Local Sanitation. Supervisor Archambo made a motion to accept the three year bid with Local Sanitation and supported by Trustee Charboneau. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT : Commissioner Mike Newman thanked the public for their support in his re-election as Commissioner for the 3rd District. Newman reported on the progress of the County Building jail addition from 80 beds to 103 beds with in-house kitchen facilities will be completed at the 1st of the year. The County Building storage building is complete with the exception of electric and gas service. Inverness Township has four new board members being sworn in at their monthly meeting tonight. The proposal for the CCE Emergency Service Radio millage passed but it will take a few years to become fully operational.

MTA will be hosted by Beaugrand Township on December 6, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Archambo and supported by Couture to adjourn the November Benton Township meeting at 8:23 pm. Motion carried.

