

BENTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

July 11, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.

ORCHARD BEACH ROAD, CHEBOYGAN, MI 49721

The July 11, 2023 board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call: Present was 3 board members: Supervisor Bruce Brandt, Treasurer Jayne Passeno and Trustee Ron Fenlon. In addition, Commissioner Mike Newman and Vickie Rodriguez, Deputy Clerk were present.

Additions & Deletions: Bids for Roads - 2% Deposit. Supervisor Bruce Brandt noted Trustee Redmond requested cost of upgrade for 700' road repair by recycling. Estimate at \$102,100. Treasurer Jayne Passeno commented that a section was a mud hole and Supervisor Bruce Brandt recommended gravel. In addition, Jayne suggested obtaining some large boulders to keep people from driving through that section.

Minutes and Bills: Treasurer, Jayne Passeno made a motion to accept minutes for the June 6, 2023 with a provision to include the special meeting additions. Trustee, Fenlon supported and carried by all.

Correspondence: None

Board Comments: Treasurer, Jayne Passeno discussed CD's and budget and submitted documentation on all financials.

Discussion between Treasurer Passeno and Supervisor Brandt regarding \$25,000 from Road Commission for Hackmatack. Bruce responded that the County Road Commission \$25,000 would not be allocated for the Carter Road project. Supervisor, Bruce Brandt provided a list of other roads covered by the township and not the county. Bruce also noted a few special assessment district areas, Orchard Beach, Snow Apple Court and Vanyea (Primary Road) and suggested that a letter be sent requesting County Road support and added to the next projected road improvements.

Supervisor Bruce Brandt provided an update on the bid for Carter Road (M-33 through Hackmatack Road). Original estimate of \$215,000. Bid submitted by Reith Riley at \$178,823 for the section of road M-33 through Hackmatack Road. A separate bid was submitted to include the 4-way intersection for an additional \$17,000. Trustee Ron Fenlon suggested rather than doing the 4-way intersection, use the additional funds to continue to road straight through to the lake (McDonald Road) and possibly repair some of the larger dips in the road.

Supervisor Bruce Brandt made a motion to approve the \$215,000 road repair for Carter Road and Trustee, Fenlon supported it. Motion carried.

Treasurer Jayne Passeno provided an update on the Tennis Courts, pickle ball and basketball courts to be resurfaced for 2024 from Hentco. Jayne also searching for a camera company for surveillance. Supervisor, Brandt recommended contacting Blarney Castle for company recommendations on cameras.

Treasurer Jayne updated on Metro Funds and noted that the check was 60% less than the previous year. Jayne found that AT&T had spreadsheet issues and the checks for issued incorrectly. Some townships may have been overpaid and if so, may have to refund the overpayment.

Treasurer Jayne updated on Michigan Class - \$120K CD for Township improvement.

Supervisor Brandt provided an update on new cement work for Community Center. Cement work completed by Matt Barber. Also updated that 3 new springs were ordered for playground equipment - Cost \$1275.

Library Liaison: Brice Bush is the new Director for the library. Mark Bronson has retired and Brice will be filling his position. A new part-time custodian was hired, John Battice. The library upgraded their Internet from 30mp to 60mp. The library has also purchased a new document scanner that will scan a full size newspaper. Budget \$503,225.

Fire Chief: Trustee Ron Fenlon stated that all trucks are back in the shop. Some have been under repair since January of 2023. They will continue to rotate repairs as needed. Trustee Fenlon has not received and update on the ISO Rating. Trustee Fenlon stated that they are having trouble with fueling at Dave's Place and needs a credit system in place with Blarney Castle. Supervisor Brandt said he would follow up with Blarney Castle.

Grounds Keeper: Doug stated that all Fire Extinguishers are labeled and redistributed. Received a few complaints that the small dumpster by the Pavilion was full. Recycle also full

Old Business: Supervisor Brandt wants to verify the spending limit per board member. Currently \$1,000. Stated the example of the Springs for the playground were \$1275 and recommended an increase to handle these types of purchases.

Supervisor Brandt stated that there were six (6) Blight Complaints and officers are working on the complaints. Some have improved but there are two that very little has been done to clean up and will need to be followed up on again.

Supervisor Brandt provided a list of items for ARPA funds:

Supervisor Brandt requested that the ARPA filing be amended and resubmitted. Submission needs to be in before August, 2023.

Supervisor Brandt made a motion to submit to ARPA for reimbursement before August and Trustee Fenlon seconded.

New Business: Update from Mike Neuman on Mental Health facility opening 8/1/23. Noted that the red concrete area facing the river will be removed. Mike was updated by the Board of Commissioners that MDOT has a grant for bridge repair but must be submitted by 8/21/23. Mike also stated that 911 has 2 companies they are reviewing for new software.

Bills to Pay: Treasurer, Jayne Passeno motioned to pay bills and Supervisor, Bruce Brandt second the motion.

Dates given for MTA 7/27/23 at 6:00 and Board of Review Meeting (Special Assessments) 7/24/23 at 6:30.

Supervisor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and was supported by Trustee Fenlon. The motion was carried by all.