

## BENTON TOWNSHIP

The December 5, 2017 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: Treasurer Ann Couture, Clerk Jayne Passeno, Supervisor Andrew Archambo, Trustee Charles Beckwith and Trustee Mike Charboneau. In addition Commissioner Mike Newman and 9 electorates were present.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Clerk Passeno added a letter from PIE&G Co-Op to correspondence. Supervisor Archambo added Census Liaison to New Business.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Beckwith to accept the minutes from the November 7, 2017. Support was offered by Trustee Charboneau and the motion was carried by all.

CORRESPONDENCE: State of Michigan Notice of Hearing for the Electric Customers of Consumers Energy Company Case #U-18402 requesting approval of a Power Supply Cost Recovery plan and for authorization of monthly PSCR factors for 2018. A State of Michigan Notice of Hearing for the Natural Gas Customers of DTE Gas Company Case #U-18999. DTE request Michigan Public Service Commission for authority to increase its rates, amend its rate schedules and rules governing the distribution and supply of natural gas and for misc. accounting authority. DEQ conditional approval of a 48' x 6' dock with a 18' x 6' L for Alexander Passeno on Black River. PIE & Gas Co-Op regarding the natural gas rates effective January 1, 2018.

REPORTS: Treasurer Couture reported that the Winter 2017 property tax bills were mailed on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Clerk Passeno reported that Jeff Chevalier checked the server and no issues were found. Marv Smith was in the hospital and unable to work at the transfer station on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> and Keith Fenlon stepped up to cover the shift. MCG Website Development has completed the update of the Benton Township website. Clerk Passeno is working with BSA to complete the State mandated Chart of Accounts line item number update. A new format for the monthly check register was approved. Clerk Passeno shared the information from the MTA Accounting/Payroll Seminar that was held in St. Ignace. Internal control policies, such as, who balances the monthly statements, mandated online payment of the state withholding tax, dual control of authorizing ACH payroll entries and F-65 filed yearly by a third party.

Library Liaison, Mary Ellen Enos was unable to attend due to the inclement weather.

Fire Chief Gary Williams was unable to attend. Pat LaCross reported on the various activities of Fire Department including a structure fire, numerous power lines down due to the high winds and the increase in training to twice a month.

Groundskeeper, Doug Felmlee reported that the Sheriff's Dept. will contact the people that have repeatedly dumped garbage in the recycling bins. Unsuitable materials are continuing to be placed in the recycle bins. A discussion regarding the large amount of electronics (TV's) that are taking up dumpster space, propane tanks for heating and bathroom facilities are a few improvements that could be made at the transfer station.

OLD BUSINESS: Treasurer Couture suggested a review of the Par Plan Grant program in the spring and a DEQ recycling infrastructure grant program that is due in March.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion by Treasurer Couture to accept the property split for Ruth Lowe was supported by Trustee Beckwith. Motion carried.

A split for Leroy and Lois Ormsbee will be tabled until next month when the Board has had a opportunity to review the application.

Trustee Beckwith made a motion to approve The Cheboygan County Humane Society contract for animal control services. Support was made by Supervisor Archambo and the motion was carried by all. Supervisor Archambo made a motion to renew the 30 year electric franchise ordinance with Consumers Energy Company. Support was made by Clerk Passeno and the motion was carried by all.

Treasurer Couture will update the list of financial institutions and sign the Benton Township policy for Automated Clearing House (ACH) electronic deposit of funds.

A motion by Supervisor Archambo and support by Trustee Charboneau to adopt a resolution to authorize the use of ACH & EFT transactions was approved by all:

**Resolution to Authorize Use of Automated Clearing House (ACH) Arrangements and Electronic Transactions of Funds**

WHEREAS, Electronic payments of public funds are required for some federally mandated transactions of public funds, and electronic payments have become a commonly accepted practice by banks and other financial institutions, and

WHEREAS, Public Act 738 of 2002, effective December 30, 2002, authorizes townships to make electronic transactions involving public funds by electronic payment, debit, or credit transfer processed through an automated clearing house, and

WHEREAS, PA 738 authorizes a township treasurer to enter into an ACH arrangement for a national and governmental organization that has authority to process electronic payments (ACH), including, but not limited to, the national automated clearing house association and the federal reserve system, and

WHEREAS, The Benton Township Board deems that it is in the best interest of the township to make certain township financial transactions by electronic payments as described in PA 738.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That the Benton Township Board authorizes the Township to utilize electronic transactions in compliance with the written procedures and internal controls developed and adopted by the Treasurer as the Township's ACH policy and presented to the Township Board on December 5, 2017.

The foregoing resolution offered by Supervisor Archambo  
Second offered by Trustee Charboneau

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

"Aye": Treasurer Couture, Clerk Passeno, Supervisor Archambo, Trustee Charboneau and Trustee Beckwith

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

The 2018/2019 Budget meeting will be held on January 9, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

There was a discussion on the cost of Canton Road and West Black Lane.

Supervisor Archambo requested a Board Member volunteer as a liaison for the upcoming census. Trustee Beckwith will assist Supervisor Archambo.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Mike Newman reported on the area veterans requesting that the Cheboygan County Commissioners reconsider the selling of the Armory. Keith Fen lon inquired about the wage for filling in for Marv Smith at the Transfer Station which will be the same as Marv's monthly wage.

MTA will be hosted by Benton Township Hall on December 7, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion by Clerk Passeno and supported by Trustee Beckwith to adjourn the December Benton Township meeting at 8:07pm. Motion carried.