

# **GARDEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**March 16, 2020**

The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. by Township Supervisor, Richard Pichette.

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

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Remove the Resolution to adopt the Garden Township Budget Appropriations Act. This should be covered in the Annual Budget Meeting immediately following this meeting. Approval of the minutes should be for regular meeting held on February 11, 2020, and for budget meetings held on February 26, 2020, and March 3, 2020.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**MINUTES:** Lisa made a motion, seconded by Tyler, to approve minutes for meetings held on February 11, 2020, February 26, 2020, and March 3, 2020, with corrections. Ayes: 5, 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 submitted by the Clerk. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS:**

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT:** Assessor Report was received and a copy will be placed on file.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Farley gave his report. The paperwork for the 2% grant is now completed and the paperwork will be mailed by the clerk. Richard and Keith met with Cloverland Electric regarding the Michigan Energy Optimization Program to see if there are areas that could be changed to bring the usage down. The LED lights may not save the Fire Department as much as predicted. The electric heaters may be the biggest issue because they are old and haven't been cleaned. If they can't be serviced, the heaters may need to be replaced. Keith requested the purchase of a hot water pressure washer to sanitize equipment which includes turnout gear and hoses. It may also be used to wash the fire trucks and the Transfer Station may use it to wash their truck. Pro-Towing will order it at a price of \$1,800.00 and they normally sell for around \$2,599.00 or more so it would be a large savings for the fire department. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Tyler, to purchase a hot water pressure washer from Pro-Towing in the amount of \$1,800.00 to be paid from their Besse Equipment funds, provided it isn't received and invoiced until April 1, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann -yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes and Richard – yes. Motion carried. There is money for Garden Township's Fire Department from Hiawatha Forest, Title III Funds, controlled by Delta County. There is approximately \$79,243.86 with a possibility of an additional \$15,000.00 for 2019. This money may only be used for certain purchases because of restrictions and if it's not spent, it may be lost. Keith requested the current brush truck be replaced because the current truck is very old, a 1985 model and is owned by the Department of Natural Resources. The current 1985 brush truck may not be sold and must be returned to the State of Michigan if it is replaced. Keith got a quote for a 2020 Ford, crew cab, for \$122,000. If the township purchases a new truck, a loan would be needed in addition to the Title III funds. Lisa made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann, for Keith to start the process to utilize the Title III money from the Hiawatha National Forrest funds to obtain a new brush truck for the fire department. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried. Richard and Keith will work on a letter to send to Delta County requesting the funds. The new fire sign has been received.

**CLERK/CEMETERY REPORT:** The presidential primary went well. Brenda will put an ad in the Advisor to remind people to remove items from graves so that Archie can get it cleaned up. Brenda also stated that the township needs to come up with a plan to get the cemetery cleaned up better than it has been in the past because complaints were received last year. Brenda and Richard will meet with Archie and come up with a plan.

**TREASURER/TOWNSHIP HALL:** The Clerk and Treasurer accounts balance.

**TRANSFER STATION:** Delta Door is the only vendor that Richard could find that installs door openers. Price quoted by them was ~~\$1,016.00~~ \$1,316.00 which does not include installing the electric line but Richard said he and Bill would be able to install the electric. Mary Ann made a motion, seconded by Lisa, to install a door opener from Delta Door in the amount of ~~\$1,016.00~~ \$1,316.00. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried. Richard had a meeting with Bob Burnham of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on March 3, 2020. There was no survey done before the building was constructed and is located on property owned by the State of Michigan. Mr. Burnham is going to speak with his supervisor to see if the DNR is willing to donate that acre of land.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Lisa is still trying to find original photos to use for the murals because the photos were scanned using a very low resolution. It was recommended to ask Tana Leckson if she's willing to allow the township to use her sketches. If good quality, original photos cannot be located, generic photos will need to be used.

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:** Richard updated the board regarding several various meetings he attended. Richard received an email from Jody Norman regarding road work. When things calm down (COVID-19) he will let Richard know. Delta County Township Association is still waiting on more money for the fire signs and Garden Township is still waiting on a bid from the contractor to give the township a bid. Jean Peterson, the Director of 911 Central Dispatch, stated there's a commission in Delta County that is looking at how new roads are numbered but Richard doesn't believe the current numbers will be changed. Letter of agreement with Tri-Star is now complete and is posted on the township's website.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Hall Septic & Drain Field:** Richard spoke with A-1 Septic and they will let the township know when they will schedule the installation.
- **Fence for Drain Field:** Still on hold.
- **Fire Signs Update/Payment of \$5,000.00:** Updated during Supervisor Comments.
- **Murals:** Covered under Parks and Recreation.
- **Exterior Painting of Hall:** Two bids were received for painting the hall. One was from Taylor Painting for \$10,180.00 and the other was from High Park Painting for \$35,300.00. Oscar Nixon also submitted a bid for \$29,000.00 but later declined. Brenda stated the roof should be inspected to make sure it doesn't need any repairs before it's painted. Richard will talk to the painter, whoever the board decides, to see if they would do any repairs if needed before it's painted. Since there is such a difference in estimates, the board needs to know if contractors will be doing the same type of service and what type of paint Taylor will be using. Also need to know if either of the vendors will guarantee their work. Tyler and Richard will contact the vendors with the board's questions and concerns. Tabled until the April meeting.
- **Propane Tank:** Will be moved in the spring.
- **Garden Township Hall Policy:** Tabled until April.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Transfer Station Door Opener:** Updated during Transfer Station Report.
- **Shelving for Elections:** The storage room for elections needs to be cleaned out and is in need of shelving to store records. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann, to purchase after April 1, 2020, the shelving unit from Menards made by Edsel Manufacturing that is 77 inches wide, 72 inches tall, and 24 inches deep for the price of \$159.00. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.
- **Meeting Dates for FY 2020/2021:** Brenda made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann, to approve the fiscal year 2020/2021 meeting dates as presented by the Clerk. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried
- **Fire Hall electrical audit:** Covered in the Fire Report.
- **Transfer Station Building on DNR property:** Covered in the Transfer Station Report.
- **Tri-County Fire Department Payment:** Motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Mary Ann, to approve payment of \$500.00 to Tri-County Volunteer Fire Department. Roll Call Vote: Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried.
- **Fireworks Contribution:** A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Tyler, to contribute \$1,200.00 to Peninsula Pioneers for the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks to. Roll Call Vote: Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, Lisa – yes, Mary Ann – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion Carried.

- **Park Invoice for Village of Garden Park:** Invoices were received from the Village of Garden for a fence topper and a park bench totaling \$1,982.00. A motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Lisa, to do a **budget amendment** for Local Stabilization Revenue and Culture & Recreation Miscellaneous Other Expense by increasing both accounts an additional \$1,200.00. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes. Motion carried. Motion was made by Lisa, seconded by
- **Paybacks to General Fund:** Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Lisa, to have the Fire Department pay the General Fund their share of expenses for Assessor for \$2,556.37, Administrative Payroll for \$3,500.00, Newsletter for \$122.40, and Township Office Expenses \$900.00. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes, motion carried. Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Lisa, to have the Transfer Station pay the General Fund their share of expenses for Assessor in the amount of \$5,325.77, Administrative Payroll for \$7,545.50, Newsletter for \$255.00, and Township Office Expenses for \$2,500.00. Roll Call Vote: Mary Ann – yes, Lisa – yes, Tyler – yes, Brenda – yes, and Richard – yes, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Richard made a motion, seconded by Lisa, to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Lester  
Garden Township Clerk