

BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

February 11, 2025

PRESENT: Supervisor Chad VanSyckle, Treasurer Kelli Case, Trustee Aaron VanSyckle, Clerk Jana Bishop.

ABSENT: Trustee April Taggart

Meeting called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Supervisor VanSyckle.

Invocation led by J. Bishop

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MINUTES: Without objection or correction, the Regular Meeting minutes of January 14, 2025 were approved. Moved by C. VanSyckle, supported by A. VanSyckle. All ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

General Fund: Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2025	\$ 623,925.63
Receipts:	\$ 56,611.24
Disbursement/Bills:	\$ 34,066.21
Ending Balance as of January 31, 2025	\$ 646,470.66

Money Market Accounts – January 2025

	Interest	Total
12 month CD @ Lake Trust	\$405.37	\$112,897.94
12 month CD @ Lake Trust	\$197.02	\$ 54,857.83
Savings @ Lake Trust	\$ 2.74	\$ 64,607.85

CLERK'S REPORT:

ARPA Funds: Funds need to be spent by the end of the calendar year. Need plan from Jim Dull.

May Election – Delton Kellogg: Election will be held on 5/6/25. Public accuracy test is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. 4/5/25.

Cemetery Update: New signs have been delivered and ready for installation at Striker Cemetery. Waiting for delivery of camera. Grant funds are available.

School Agreements: Attended two meetings regarding upcoming school elections.

Snow Plowing Contract: The snow plowing contract is out for review. Tabled until next month. J. Bishop is working on the lawn care RFP.

Supervisor Laptop Upgrade: Received a quote of \$1,339.95. Will hold until next fiscal year.

Grants: Will use grant money for cemetery camera equipment and to purchase election equipment. J. Bishop moved to move \$3,000 from the General Fund into the election budget for collapsable bins. The grant will cover \$1,000 of the expense. Supported by K. Case. Roll call vote: K. Case: yes, C. VanSyckle: yes, J. Bishop: yes, A. VanSyckle: yes.

MARIJUANA REPORT: A. VanSyckle and J. Bishop are finishing the auditing of the files. Tabled until next month.

LIBRARY REPORT: Laura of Dowling Library thanked the township for their support. The new budget is approximately \$79,000, \$1,000 over last year.

ASSESSOR REPORT: No report. The organization meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on 3/4/25. Hearings will be held the week of 3/9/25.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Jordan reported that calls are increasing, most of them are medical related. They are working on the free smoke/co detector distribution program and asked the township assistance in promoting it. The new fire engine was commissioned on 1/8/25. They currently have 19 on-call staff and two full-time staff. Discussed the fire insurance claim process and cost recovery policies. Asked the board for the cost recovery ordinance.

APPROVE WARRANTS: J. Bishop moved to increase the Fire line item from the General Fund for \$12,105. Support by A. VanSyckle. Motion passed. Motion by C. VanSyckle to pay the bills as presented, supported by K. Case. All ayes. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Phone: Each board member has their own cell number. They are listed on the website. Switching the primary township number to C. VanSyckle's cell number.

Road Commission Report: The annual meeting was held 1/17/25.

Planning & Zoning: K. Case has established a committee to gather additional information and solicited for additional volunteers. Tabled until next month.

Accounting Firm Quotes: K. Case noted that all questions have been addressed. Discussion about switching to new firm. Decided to table to next month until the book reconciliation is complete.

Township Pavilion: C. VanSyckle discussed the opportunity to build a 30x40 pavilion. A resident has offered to donate \$10,000 and assist with labor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Barry County Central Dispatch Board: C. VanSyckle announced the retirement of Earl Willison.

Tax Allocation Board: C. Vansyckle announced there is an open seat on the board.

Earned Sick Time Act: Takes effect on 2/21/25. J. Bishop will research it.

SEMCO Energy: J. Bishop discussed the SEMCO Energy ordinance.

Assessor: J. Bishop reported that the assessor wages have been increased per the budget.

County Introductions: Eric Zuzga, the new County Administrator, introduced himself. Jeff Keesler, the new Planning Director/Zoning Administrator, introduced himself. He discussed the upcoming update zoning ordinances project and asked to meet with the board and discuss how they can work together.

Discussion about marijuana payments/funds. Discussion about public input into the ordinances plan. Chris Mennell, county Enforcement Officer, introduced himself and discussed his duties.

Budget Meeting: The township budget planning meeting is scheduled for 3/1/25 at 9:00 a.m.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: B. Campbell discussed county commission activities including: Opioid Settlement Funds RFP, appointments to several boards, update on spongy moth survey, Branch County jail visit and the jail feasibility study.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Discussion about area cemetery vandalism.

C. Jordan commented on the ballot secrecy sleeves.

B. Campbell expressed opposition to the 25% hold of insurance recovery costs.

M. VanSyckle reported that she had created a Baltimore Township Facebook page to livestream board meetings.

Discussion about the Barry County Planning/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Chad VanSyckle

Chad VanSyckle, Supervisor

3-12-25

Date

Jana Bishop

Jana Bishop, Clerk

3/12/25

Date