

**BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**

**January 9, 2024**

PRESENT: Supervisor Chad VanSyckle, Treasurer Melissa VanSyckle, Clerk Jana Bishop, Trustee Aaron VanSyckle, Trustee Jake Ypma.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor VanSyckle.

**Pledge of Allegiance** to the flag was recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Stephanie Hester commented on the 2A Sanctuary County Resolution, Gary White addressed the 2A Sanctuary County issue as well as the hiring of health officers by the health department and their positions in the school system.

**MINUTES:** Without objection or correction, the Regular Meeting minutes on December 5, 2023 were approved. Moved by M. VanSyckle, supported by C. VanSyckle. All ayes. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

General Fund:	\$527,230.31
Receipts:	\$ 86,430.92
Disbursement/Bills	\$ 58,151.56
Balance	\$555,509.67

Money Market – December

	Interest	Total
10 month CD @ Lake Trust	\$388.27	\$107,449.46
6 month CD @ Lake Trust	\$177.04	\$ 52,288.84
Savings @ Lake Trust	\$ 2.65	\$ 64,570.05
9 month CD @ HCB		\$100,000.00

No discussion - Treasurers Report was approve – Moved by C. VanSyckle and seconded by M. VanSyckle. All Ayes

**CLERK’S REPORT:** Clerk requested consideration for 2024/25 budget to include funding to make the cemetery records electronic.

Public accuracy testing for election equipment will be held February 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am

Budget Development meeting will be held March 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am with approval meeting to be held March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Consider posting township agenda one week before the meeting – need to discuss where to post.

**APPROVE WARRANTS:** Moved C. VanSyckle and supported by A. VanSyckle, to approve payment for checks #13286-13313 in the amount of 16,698.14. No discussion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Solar Ordinance discussion – Bruce Campbell – County will be having a meeting on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> a 6pm at Hastings HS performing arts center. Commissioner Campbell suggested the best action to take at this time is to work toward getting the existing law signed by Gov Whitmer repealed in November.

**OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

There was a motion made to have Catherine Kaufman (township attorney) attend a public meeting 1 hour before the next township meeting to get further constituent input and options. M. VanSyckle made a motion to have the public meeting, A. VanSyckle seconded. Roll Call M. VanSyckle – yes, A. VanSyckle – yes, C. VanSyckle – yes and J. Bishop – yes. J. Bishop will contact attorney to advise of meeting and post to let constituents know of this meeting.

Fire Department Issues – Birch is considering turning fire coverage over to City of Hastings. Discussed options of Johnstown covering some of the township. Need to consider costs and response time. Some discussion of having our own Fire Department, however cost would be very high. C. VanSyckle announced the next Birch meeting will be held Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm at the fire barn. Looking to get more information at that time about the future of Birch. Motion made by A. VanSyckle to pay the 1.25 mils in the coming year to Birch, seconded by C. VanSyckle pending the February Birch Meeting.

Request for the township board to support the resolution to make Barry County a Sanctuary County in support of 2A. C. VanSyckle made a motion to sign the resolution, M. VanSyckle seconded the motion. Roll call vote: M. VanSyckle – yes, A. VanSyckle – yes, C. VanSyckle – yes, J. Bishop - yes

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Lumberjack provisional store had another attempted break in New Years Eve.

Discussion regarding whether trustees should get paid if they are not present for a township meeting. M. VanSyckle was to work on a policy.

Notice was giving to the township that Clerk Bishop was served a summons on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The matter has been turned over to our Insurance Company and Catherine Kaufman for review and action. The topic of the suit is FOIA.

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT** – Bruce Campbell spoke about both the Solar Energy issue as well as the 2A Sanctuary County proposal.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Gary White spoke in favor of Sanctuary County resolution  
Kelly Case spoke in favor of Solar Ordinance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad VanSyckle, Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jana Bishop, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date