

BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

December 10, 2024

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

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Supervisor VanSyckle.

Invocation led by J. Bishop

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

LIBRARY UPDATE: Andrew of the Dowling Library provided an update on the library improvements and community spaces. Current membership is 270.

PLANNING & ZONING PRESENTATION: Attorney Catherine Kaufman discussed the process for Baltimore Township taking over the planning and zoning responsibilities. She presented a memo to the board and discussed the process including: board creation, timing, interim zoning ordinance, master plan and enforcement. She also discussed the use of restricted marijuana funds to cover the costs.

She discussed litigation regarding Michigan Public Service Commission green energy initiatives.

MINUTES: Without objection or correction, the Regular Meeting minutes of November 12, 2024 and the Special Meeting minutes of November 18, 2024 were approved. Moved by K. Case, supported by C. VanSyckle. All ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

General Fund: Beginning Balance as of November 1, 2024	\$ 622,508.06
Receipts:	\$ 2,281.99
Disbursement/Bills:	\$ 33,409.20
Ending Balance as of November 30, 2024	\$ 591,380.85

Money Market – November 2024

	Interest	Total
12 month CD @ Lake Trust	\$ n/a	\$111,699.96
12 month CD @ Lake Trust	\$ n/a	\$ 54,275.67
Savings @ Lake Trust	\$ n/a	\$ 64,599.72

CLERK’S REPORT:

Board of Canvassers: our election was approved.

Website: J. Bishop can make updates to township website. She will request a quote for new hosting contract.

Cemetery Updates: Little activity during the past month.

Guns in Voting Locations: Discussed the recently passed legislation regarding guns at polling locations.

Barry County Leadership Training: Interested in attending. Will contact the foundation about possible scholarships.

VCS: Discussed the need for an IT audit. She will obtain a quote.

Review of Accountant & Existing Agreement: J. Bishop presented a Rehmann Consulting & Outsourcing Service Engagement letter. Discussion about cost. K. Case will obtain additional quotes. Tabled until next month.

Discussed the special November 18 meeting regarding the clerk's salary. She also apologized for inappropriate comments made by the previous Treasurer at the November 12th meeting.

Marijuana Report: Tabled until next month.

Assessor Report: No report.

APPROVE WARRANTS: A. VanSyckle moved to pay the bills as presented, supported by A. Taggart. Roll call vote: C. VanSyckle: yes; K. Case: yes; J. Bishop: yes; A. VanSyckle: yes; A. Taggart: yes. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Snow Plowing: Currently Kern's is completing snow plow and lawn care services with no contract. Discussion about whether the board should enter into a contract. Board to consider other quotes and review at next meeting.

Treasurer Phone: Discussion about staff phones. A. Taggart to provide J. Bishop with recommendations for phones.

Road Commission Meeting: The annual meeting is scheduled for 7:30 AM on January 17, 2025.

Hall Rental for Amish: The Amish have inquired about renting the hall for regular meetings/events.

Hall Rental for Craft Show/Auction: J. Bishop will gather additional information. Tabled until next month.

Planning & Zoning: Tabled the discussion regarding the township taking over the planning and zoning responsibilities.

Board Meeting Time: Discussion about moving the start time for the monthly board meetings. Decision to leave the time at 7:00 PM.

Scott Adams/Josh Smallwood Holiday Giveaway: These folks will be giving away turkeys and hams on 12/20 from Noon until 3pm/ or until gone.

Birch Meeting: A. VanSyckle discussed the purchase of a new fire truck.

Board of Review: C. VanSyckle made a motion to establish poverty guideline exemptions per the federal guidelines for 2025. Supported by A. VanSyckle. All ayes. Motion passed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Bruce Campbell provided an update on county commission activity including committee appointments, salary approvals, county hires and job descriptions. Also announced the approval of the economic development services contract with the Barry County Chamber & Economic Development.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Maria expressed concern about the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion session in the Leadership Barry County program.

S. Willison asked about the need for additional audits.

J. Bishop asked for input regarding the planning and zoning proposal.

Tim discussed his experience with the county planning & zoning ordinances and enforcement.

R. Case discussed his concerns regarding county zoning ordinances.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

wa

ATTESTED BY:

Chad VanSyckle 1-20-25

Chad VanSyckle, Supervisor

Date

Jana Bishop 1-18-25

Jana Bishop, Clerk

Date