

BEARINGER TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
17034 Town Hall Highway
Millersburg, Michigan
February 10, 2015

Supervisor J.G. Malaski called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Present for the meeting were Board Members, Supervisor John G. Malaski, Treasurer Keitha Malaski, Clerk Beverly Rossetto, Trustees Kay Dowker and Archie J. Patterson and Assessor Trever Most. Others in attendance were Emilie & Tom Stawiarski, Irv Dedow, Bob Hartmann, Jim McKindles, Nancy Shutes, Cindy and Don Matthews, Gale & Doug Phelps and Doris Parker.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Malaski requested that the Onaway Ambulance Board report be added under old business. Motion was made by Keitha Malaski to approve the agenda as amended, supported by Kay Dowker. Five aye votes, no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Motion was made by Archie Patterson and seconded by Kay Dowker to approve the Consent Agenda and pay the bills. Five aye votes, no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: January 13, 2015. Treasurer Malaski stated that the reported total taxes collected as of January 7, 2015 was incorrect; Archie Patterson suggested striking the complete sentence from the minutes. Motion was made by Kay Dowker and supported by Keitha Malaski to approve the January 13, 2015 minutes as amended. Five ayes votes, no nays. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Clerk Rossetto reported that two (2) letters were received:

1. Presque Isle Electric & Gas notification of a Public Hearing in Lansing, MI, March 25, 2015.
2. Upnorth Prevention requested that Bearinger Township proclaim April as Social Host Awareness month. After a brief discussion to determine if this topic was township business, motion was made by Clerk Rossetto and supported by Supervisor Malaski to sign and return the document to Upnorth Prevention. Four aye votes, one nay vote. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Keitha Malaski reported that the Swampland tax deposit this year of a little over \$20,000.00 is larger than years before. Taxes are coming in heavily as the deadline approaches, there is still approximately \$260,000.00 to be collected.

1. General Fund - Savings Account	\$159,635.28
2. General Fund - Checking Account	3,452.90
3. CD (Savings) Account	104,769.77
4. EMS Money Market Account	<u>15,546.47</u>
Total (All Accounts)	\$283,404.42

Clerk's Report: Clerk Rossetto reported that copies of the January 13, 2015 Minutes, Check Register, Balance Sheet and the Amended Budget Report ending January 31, 2015 are available.

Assessor's Report: Trevor Most reported that he has been working on tax reports, and that we may be receiving a letter from the state of Michigan requesting more information in regards to the audit. The Board of Review meeting will be held in March. Trevor stated that he will no longer be our assessor by the end of May 2015; as a replacement he recommended, Sheri Staffan, an assessor from Cheboygan. He stated that he is willing to help and work with whoever we select as a new assessor. Clerk Rossetto made a motion to put a help wanted ad in the local papers advertising for an assessor, Trustee Dowker supported the motion. Roll call vote: Kay Dowker – yes, Keitha Malaski – yes, John Malaski – yes, Archie Patterson - yes and Beverly Rossetto – yes. Five yes votes, motion carried.

Supervisor Malaski gave the following dates and time for the March 2015 Board of Review meetings: Organizational meetings, March 3, 2015 at 2:30 p.m., Board of Review meetings March 10, 2015, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and March 11, 2015, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Trustee's Report: Archie Patterson reported that the Rogers City Area Ambulance Authority is moving right along to get a contract with Cheboygan Life Support Systems before the Allied contract ends.

Kay Dowker read her minutes of the December 17, 2014 Onaway Area Ambulance Service, as work continues on the addition they need the property description and have been working with the inspector on the need for a sprinkler system.

Supervisor's Report: John Malaski reported that he and the Clerk have been working on the budget for 2015/2016; the regular March meeting will include the Public Hearing to review and adopt the budget. The Supervisor said that we must be aware of all the cuts in taxes that may affect the township.

Old Business: Onaway Area Ambulance Service, Kay Dowker reported that on January 29, 2015, a budget meeting was held for budget year, 2015/2016. The county share raise, falls \$7,780.00 short. Bearinger Townships share of that amount will be \$750.00, which will be paid by Presque Isle County, and there will be no billing to the township.

New Business: Resolution 2015-01, Bearinger Township 2015 Poverty Exemption Resolution. Clerk Rossetto read the changes for the 2015 Poverty Exemption, one change was made in the asset guidelines: "The principal residence shall not exceed 3 acres; excess land will be considered an asset and reviewed for exemption reduction". Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2015 assessments

are:	Number of persons residing in the principal residence:	Poverty Guidelines Annual Allowable Income:
	1 Person	\$11,670.
	2 Persons	\$15,730.
	3 Persons	\$19,790.
	4 Persons	\$23,850.
	5 Persons	\$27,910.
	6 Persons	\$31,970.
	7 Persons	\$36,030.
	8 Persons	\$40,090.

Each additional person – add \$4,060.

The Poverty Exemption Resolution was offered by Clerk Beverly Rossetto and supported by Trustee Archie Patterson. Roll call vote: Voting aye, Archie Patterson, Keitha Malaski, Kay

Dowker, Beverly Rossetto and John Malaski. No nay votes. Supervisor, John G. Malaski, declared the resolution adopted, February 10, 2015.

Resolution 2015-02, Adjustment in the salary of the office of Trustee: Clerk Rossetto read and offered the resolution: “Whereas, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Trustee is warranted, now be it resolved that as of April 1, 2015 the salary of the office of township Trustee shall be \$2,400.00 per year”. Keitha Malaski supported the resolution. Roll call vote: Voting yes were John Malaski, Beverly Rossetto, Keitha Malaski and Kay Dowker. Voting no was Archie Patterson. Four yes votes and one no vote. Supervisor Malaski declared the resolution adopted February 10, 2015.

Resolution 2015 – 03, Adjustment in the salary of the office of Treasurer; Clerk Rossetto read the resolution: “Whereas, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Treasurer is warranted, now be it resolved that as of April 1, 2015 the salary of the office of Treasurer shall be \$10,000.00 per year. Resolution offered by board member Kay Dowker and supported by board member John G. Malaski. Roll call vote: Voting yes were John Malaski, Beverly Rossetto, Kay Dowker and Keitha Malaski. Voting no was Archie Patterson. Four yes votes and one no vote. Supervisor Malaski declared the resolution adopted February 10, 2015.

After a discussion of financing support for the Fire Department, Archie Patterson thinks a separate fund should be set up to support the Fire Department, Kay Dowker agrees with setting up a separate fund. John Malaski talked about the number of people who will benefit from a special assessment district. Beverly Rossetto talked about how important the Fire Department First Responders are to our community. Archie Patterson informed everyone that we have three (3) fire fighters in training and they will be certified soon. Motion made by Beverly Rossetto, seconded by Kay Dowker to proceed with resolution 2015-04 to establish a special assessment district to be known as the “Bearinger Township Fire Protection Special Assessment District No. 2015-01”. A public hearing on any objections to the improvements, the estimate of costs, and to the Special Assessment District proposed to be established for the assessment of the cost of such improvements, shall be held at a special meeting of the Bearinger Board on Tuesday, February 25, 2015 at the Bearinger Township hall commencing at 6:00 p.m. Clerk Rossetto is instructed to give the proper notice of such hearing by mailing and publication in accordance with law and statute provided.

Clerk Beverly Rossetto offered the resolution for the “Bearinger Township Fire Protection Special Assessment District No. 2015-01”. Kay Dowker supported the resolution. Roll call vote: Voting yes was: Kay Dowker, Archie Patterson, Beverly Rossetto, Keitha Malaski and John G. Malaski (five yes votes, no nay votes). Supervisor John G. Malaski declared the resolution adopted February 10, 2015.

Beverly Rossetto announced that the Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Board, Ocqueoc Township and Bearinger Township has scheduled a Tri-Board meeting to review and adopt the 2015/2016 Fire Department Budget, March 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station, 14127 Town Hall Hwy.

Public comments: Irv Dedow stated that he disagrees with the asset guidelines that the principal residence shall not exceed 3 acres. Trevor Most agrees that if a person needs a poverty exemption and has to sell other assets it would involve extra expense of splitting land and a survey would be required.

Gale Phelps asked if we were going to discuss and adopt the township budget at the same meeting. Gale thanked Trevor Most for his service to the township and stated that it had been a pleasure working with him in the past.

Jim McKindles requested a copy of the Special Assessment District resolution.

Mr. McKindles cited the Constitution and stated that as a township board we have no right to declare April as Host Awareness Month and it is not the township business to discourage underage drinking.

He stated that no one should be getting a raise. Supervisor Malaski explained that he has done research regarding township salaries and found that Bearinger Township salaries are pretty low on the chart.

Cindy Matthews stated that she has seen and knows how much work the Treasurer's job is. Keitha Malaski said that wages should have been increased all along.

Next regular Township Board meeting will be held, Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Archie Patterson and seconded by Kay Dowker that this meeting be adjourned. Five aye votes, no nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by,

Beverly Rossetta

Beverly Rossetto, Clerk