

**Bridgeton Township**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Monday, March 14th, 2022**

*The purpose of this meeting is to conduct Township business. Comments from the audience will be limited to times when the Supervisor opens the meeting to public comment. When public comment is allowed, please limit your responses to 3 minutes so everyone gets a chance to speak. Please refrain from speaking when the Board is conducting their business. If you find that you have comments/suggestions/questions that need further discussion, please call the Supervisor at 231-747-0416 to set up an appointment to talk in length. Also, communication forms are available by the door that you may fill out to continue the conversation.* I. Routine Business

- A. Call to Order / Pledge – Supervisor Barnhard calls to order the meeting with the pledge.
- B. Roll Call – All Board Members present
- C. Approve Agenda – Homes motions, Dore seconds. 5-0 passes
- D. Approve February 14th, 2022 meeting minutes – Holmes motions, Barnhard seconds. 5-0 passes

II. Action Items

- A. Consent Agenda: Treasurer's, Assessor's, ZA's reports, Planning Commission November 2021 Minutes – Thompson motions, Barnhard seconds. 5-0 passes
- B. B. Clerk's report: Update on overdue tax bill.

-Budget amendments:

Transfer \$150 from 101-253-801 to 101-253-730

Transfer \$150 from 101-702-730 to 101-702-713

Transfer \$3,118 from 101-253-801 to 101-101-802

Barnhard motions to move the funds, Thompson seconds 5-0

Transfer \$450 from 101-265-806 to 101-101-803

Holmes motions to transfer funds, Dore seconds 5-0

Transfer \$20,000 from 204-446-801 to 206-336-801

Barnhard motions to transfer funds, Dore seconds. 5-0

-Holmes motions to approve Clerks Report, Barnhard seconds 5-0 passes

- C. Bridgeton Township resolution to oppose Charter Township status  
Motion made by, Szczepaniak, seconded by Barnhard to Oppose becoming a Charter Township

-Thompson votes- Aye

-Dore votes - Aye

-Barnhard votes- Aye

-Holmes votes- Aye

-Szczepaniak votes- Aye

- D. Creating additional office and storage space in hall.

-Barnhard gave background on ideas presented to do updating to the hall to create more working office space. Use of ARPA Funds to do the update work. Bids will be taken hopefully starting early April with work to start after.

- Hall rentals: limited occupancy

-Barnhard brought discussion up about restricting hall rentals in the future to clear room for constructing. Barnhard motions to restrict hall rentals starting the end of April, pending hall updates to be reviewed later, Holmes seconds.

Thompson abstains, Dore yes, Barnhard yes, Holmes yes, Szczepaniak yes. 4-0-1 passes

E. Automatic property tax payment receipt: Eliminate due to cost of stamps. Discuss alternatives.

-Barnhard and Holmes spoke about options that other Townships use to send out paid receipts. Including only offering upon request, only offering upon a self-stamped envelope received or fully eliminating the sending of receipts. Barnhard motions to eliminate automatic receipts for tax bills, only offering receipt upon self-addressed stamped envelope received, Dore seconds. 5-0 passes

F. Special Budget meeting: Truth in Taxation Hearing Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, Budget Approval @ 7:00pm on March 28<sup>th</sup>

-Holmes motions to set these dates as scheduled, Dore seconds. 5-0 passes

G. Planning Commission vacancy.

- Chairperson VanBelzen will be resigning due to work conflicts. Posting for interest in the position will be advertised. Barnhard motions to approve funds for advertising the position, Holmes seconds. 5-0

H. Mowing contract: Aaron Hyland wants to renew existing contract, with one mowing added to the beginning of the season.

-Barnhard motions to accept Aaron Hyland as lawn caretaker, for a second year with no pay raise; but an additional cutting each year, Seconded Thompson. 5-0 passes

I. Upcoming election: need to approve hiring of 4 election inspectors and pay for training in White Cloud.

-Election workers to be hired by the Election Board, to be held later, will be advertised.

J. Adding Accounts Payable to Elisha's software (Banyon Accounts Payable)

-Discussion of Items J, K, and L was had here. Supervisor Barnhard brought to the board the ideas of either paying for the software for check printing to the Township Clerks laptop, or alternatively using a Township Debit card for online bill payment, with pre-approval of utility bills. The use of a township debit card would result in less expense throughout the year, as brought up by Clerk Szczepaniak, eliminating use of envelopes, stamps, checks and ink.

K. Township debit card so online bill payment can be set up.

-Board discussed the pros and cons of allowing use of a debit card for payments of bills as a way to cut costs incurred by the Township for mailing out checks and bills. Szczepaniak motions to begin using a debit card for the township only allowing Clerk Szczepaniak and Treasurer Holmes access. Barnhard seconds. 5-0 passes

L. Motion to pre-approve all utility bills.

-Thompson motions to pre-approve utility bill payments, including Consumers, Frontier and AT&T, Barnhard seconds. 5-0 passes

M. Purchase and installation of mailbox at hall.

-Discussion of a variety of mailbox options offered to the board for use were reviewed. Holmes motions to approve up to \$250 for the mailbox installation and \$100 for the ballot box to be cemented and attached, Barnhard seconds. 5-0 passes.

N. Installation of ballot box at hall.

-Action Item and Vote combined with Action Item M

O. Tablets for Trustees so Board can go paperless.

-Discussion to be moved on to April to allow for more time to investigate options.

P. Installation of extra video surveillance camera in hall.

-Supervisor Barnhard brought up the addition of an extra camera for a price point of \$200, to be added to the hall. Dore motions to install the 12<sup>th</sup> camera, Barnhard seconds. 5-0 passes

Q. BS&A Record Card look-up. Two options for website.

-Barnhard spoke about the different options for BS&A lookups to be added to the website. Option #1 is free to the user/townfolk but costs the Township Board to put it on. Option #2 is free to the Township and Townsfolk but would cost for access to relators. Szczepaniak motions to go with Option #2 which is free to use for Bridgeton, Thompson seconds. 5-0 passes

### III. Information Items

A. Bob Dore: Planning Commission overview

-Meeting Canceled. No minutes

B. Bryan Kolk: County Commission report

-Court funding has been added to the county agenda for October, Dispatch report of 72,000 incidents for the year. EMS to be working with schools to update the emergency action plans. 988 for National Suicide Prevention hotline access number, 6 call centers to be added to Michigan.

Kolk answered questions about the EMS contract updates.

C. Jodi Nelson: Sexton/Parks Manager

- Boat launch passes now available for purchase at hall.
- Launch workers to be hired at next months meeting.

D. Newaygo County Road Commission: Projects need to be scheduled soon.

- Filbert and Fitzgerald need ditched.
- Dickinson Hill needs work.
- Flashing lights at stop signs.
- Options for potential road work shown and discussed how urgent the options are.

E. Cemetery software

-Clerk Szczepaniak discussed ideas about price quoting and creating a cemetery software to help update cemetery records. To be discussed later.

F. Upcoming dates: BOR dates are Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

1:30 pm to 7:30pm

March 21<sup>st</sup> Planning Commission Meeting at 6:30pm, training with Ryan Coffee after.

Tax Meeting and Budget approval on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and 7:00pm

IV. Future Items for Consideration

V. Board Comments

Additional Items for hall repairs brought up by Thompson. Back door exit light damaged and missing lights.

VI. Public Comment:

Comments about the pending work on the Maple River project as well as road work along Maple Island and 128<sup>th</sup>, answered by Barnhard and Deputy Supervisor Tony A.

Comment on the ARPA Funds meeting to be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Newaygo County.

VIII. Adjournment: Thompson motions to adjourn at 8:57pm, Seconded by Dore. 5-0 passes.