

**BILLINGS TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2024**

Call to Order: Supervisor Tim Mester called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Tim Mester.

Members Present Per Roll Call: Tim Mester, Len Pytlak, and Brian Johnson. Linda McSweyn and Cindy Whittington were absent.

Public Comments: No public comments.

Approval of Agenda: Brian Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments (10: E OEO Report, 14: A Added parcels for removal, 14:H Republic Contract..., 14:I Farm PA 116 Gregory Leuenberger, 14: J Food Truck). 2nd by Len Pytlak. Motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: Brian made a motion to accept the January 8, 2024, Board Meeting minutes as presented. 2nd by Tim. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills to be Paid: Bills to be paid were unavailable due to the Clerk having car trouble on the way to the meeting. (She had them with her).

Treasurer's Report: Len mentioned that the tax account appears to have lots of money in there; but mentioned approximately 99% is not ours to spend. Tim made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. 2nd by Brian. Roll Call: Brian Johnson – Yes, and Len Pytlak– Yes, Tim Yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Tim mentioned that Billings Township scored well on assessment audit review from the State of Michigan. (Letter received from David Buick, Executive Director State Tax Commission, showing Certificate of Achievement. "This certificate acknowledges the Billings Township, Gladwin County for receiving a perfect score on their 2023 PA 660 Assessment Audit Review".)

Fire Chief's Report: Fire Chief Dale Rottman gave a report for the month of January 2024. Fire Department had 49 calls from January 1, 2024, to January 31, 2024. Training for the month of February will be **Air Boat & Ice Rescue Refresher**. The runs are now being put into the EPR system & going well. Still waiting on the new tanker spec, but it should be in soon. The dive team will be hosting a dive rescue class in July for divers to be rescue certified.

DPW: Per Jason Kumpelis the truck went in for service. He put it on his credit card. The tire fuse panel is corroded. Thanked Andy for loaning his truck. He's now on paid on call. The salt spreader is working good. Salt inventory is good for now, but using quite a bit.

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WWTP REPORT: Andy Gwizdala, Plant Manager, reported on behalf of Infrastructure Alternatives covering the operations, maintenance, and management of Billings Township Wastewater Treatment Facility, along with the collection system. This Monthly Operating Reports covers **January 2024**. The wastewater treatment plant performed well during **January** with no monthly NPDES Permit violations.

1.4 million gallons of wastewater was discharged from the wastewater treatment plant and was given full treatment during **January 2024**. The average daily flow during discharge from the wastewater treatment was 46,667 gallons. The maximum daily flow was 73,000 gallons. We had 3 alarm call outs this month (all related to power outages).

Constable: Liquor inspections were done at the following businesses with no issues: Eagles #3655, Sandy's Market, Nikki's Family Restaurant, Dollar General and Off the Hook Tavern. Wixom Lake Gas and Launch is inactive. Per report from Richard Schroeder dated 1-30-24.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Nothing to report.

Ordinance Enforcement: Sandy Streeter was unable to attend this meeting, but gave a lengthy typed report on all complaints, letters that were sent, citations issued, complaints on hold, complaints resolved, complaints dismissed, and court dates set. 118 total complaints (no duplication), 5 new complaints, 28 open complaints, 94 dismissed nuisance complaints: like dogs barking, loud music, etc., 3 encroachment/erosion issue, 5 on hold due to extensions for violations, -0- weed control complaints, 58 RESOLVED complaints, 11 citations issued, 1 court case, 1 pending court date.

Park and Recreation Report: Larry Woodard discussed that the park was looking into signs to post for the Blue & Gold veterans memorial. It will be discussed at the Parks & Recs meeting tomorrow. Estimated \$150. Tim asked about the power pole situation. Larry advised that Consumers Power responded to the pole down. Larry spoke about the community center grant regarding the application update from Friday. Mentioned that the state police were reviewing videos to find suspects for a problem over the weekend.

Sherry Bates talked about how successful the food distribution held on February 9, 2024 was. The number of households serviced 231. Approximately 490 people, including about 26 vets, 21 ages 0-5, 89 ages 6-17, ages 18-59 177, 60+ approximately 204. This is the first time it was over 150 and continues to grow each month. Sherry talked about the dynamics of the funding and the cost of the truck and how that affects how many people they can help. If their total continues to rise, they may have to work more with the larger food banks.

Road Report: No updates.

Commissioners Report/Guest Speakers:

Tami O'Donnell, District 3 Gladwin County Commissioner, was out of town and could not attend.

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Commissioners Report/Guest Speakers (cont):

FLTF/WLIB: Don Zacket talked about the meeting between Gladwin & Midland Counties on February 6th in which they approved a finance plan. He thought there was about 700 appeals with approx.. 1400 changes. He stated there was a 15 day window to appeal but residents must have appealed at a prior meeting. Appeals were to end by the end of February. He has not seen a legal appeal yet and won't speculate when something may be received. He can't speak of any legal appeals/issues but thought the window had closed. There is currently a shortfall of about \$217 million dollars. Each appeal change would affect how much each parcel's SAD would be. They are still trying to get more funding from the federal government and others.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Garbage Assessment Corrections: Len Pytlak submitted that four parcels should have their rubbish fees removed (with a cc to Mike Houserman). Motion was made by Tim and seconded by Brian to remove the rubbish fees from the following parcel #s:030-034-200-001-10, 030-115-010-030-00, 030-115-010-027-00, and 030-205-000-029-00.

Roll Call: Brian Yes, Len Yes, Tim Yes. Motion carried.

Assessor Wage: Billings Township Assessor, Mike Houserman, is requested from the board an increase in the per partial wages from \$15.00 to \$17.00 each starting with the next budget year. The current parcel count for the township is 3,234. Motion by Brian and 2nd by Tim to increase the assessor's wages per parcel-from \$15 each to \$17.00 each. Roll Call: Brian Yes, Len Yes, Tim Yes. Motion carried.

Lift Station Estey & Denton damage to land ground repair work needed: Tim mentioned the 4 x 4 Toro needs to be repaired. Andy will get bids and bring those back for the next board meeting.

Beaverton School tax collection: A letter to Tim Meister from the Beaverton School Superintendent, Joseph Passalacque, dated 12-14-23, is requesting that Billings Township collect the District's summer school property taxes levied upon property located with the boundaries of the Township. Motion by Tim, 2nd by Brian to continue to collect the taxes for the District's summer school property taxes. Roll Call: Brian Yes, Len Yes, Tim Yes, Motion Carried.

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West Shore emergency siren maintenance contract: Tim talked with Bob North regarding the siren maintenance located in Billings Township. It is the township's responsibility to maintain their own sirens. Billings has one siren. Motion by Tim and 2nd by Len to approve the \$450 annual maintenance agreement with West Shore Services, Inc . Roll Call: Len Yes, Brian Yes, Tim Yes. Motion Carried. (The agreement would be from 2024-2028).

Road Contract GCRC & (BTRC 3/5 year plan): Gladwin County Road Commission needs approval for the Township Participation agreement for Billings Township Road: Pine Street Limits: Estey Road North, Miles 2000' for township share of \$104,000.00. Motion by Brian, 2nd by Len to approve. Roll Call: Brian Yes, Len Yes, Tim Yes. Motion carried.

Republic Contract expires in June. Renewal of contract or request for bids: It was decided that Brian will get bids as soon as possible.

Farm PA 116 Gregory Leuenberger per phone call including Billings Township Assessor: Tim made a motion to give this to Mike. 2nd by Brian. Roll Call: Brian Yes, Len Yes, Tim Yes. Motion carried.

Food Truck: As of January, Gladwin #s are being met for 2 ½ meals per day per person. In March or April food trucks will now need to be paid for. A full semi is \$900-1,200 per truck every month. They would need \$9,900 and the 35 church members cannot afford that. Len suggested reaching out to more churches and others. Collaborate with the food banks.

Public Comment: 4th of July parade was discussed. A girl from the area, named Hannah, has volunteered with 3 others to bring the 4th of July parade back. Their goal would be to start at the township park and end at the Eagles. She would like to create a Facebook acct/page for a Billings Township Parade Committee. Larry W. suggested they come to the park's next meeting and work with them as well. Motion by Brian and 2nd by Tim to accept the offer of these volunteers to be recognized as Billings Township 2024 Fourth of July Parade Committee. All in favor. Motion carried.

Board Comments: None.

Adjournment: Tim Mester motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. 2nd by Brian. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Minutes taken by Tamara Yorks, Twp Resident/Volunteer

Minutes approved at Billings Township Board meeting _____

DATE

TIMOTHY MESTER, SUPERVISOR

LINDA J. MCSWEYN, CLERK