

## **Baroda Township Board Meeting April 17, 2017**

The Baroda Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday April 17, 2017 in the Baroda Municipal Building, 9091 First St. at 7:00 p.m. Present were James Brow, Wendie Shafer, Brenda Troxell, David Wolf, and John Harner. There were at least 11 audience members. Supervisor James Brow opened the meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no report from Baroda-Lake Police Department.

Chief Larry Klug reported that the Fire Department answered 5 calls in March. There were two grass fires, two mutual aid calls to Lincoln Twp. and a personal injury accident on Shawnee Rd. He reported the firemen completed 141 training hours during the month. He reported that Lake Township had helped the Fire Department fight one of the grass fires. He reported the Jeff Gaul has completed the NIMS training parts 700 and 800. He reported that a resolution to approve a fireworks display needs to be done. Jim Brow read the resolution. David Wolf moved, Supported by John Harner to adopt a resolution to approve a fireworks display for July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 or alternate date. After discussion, by Roll Call Vote, voting to approve the resolution; John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell, and Wendie Shafer. Voting against approval; none. Resolution 17-12 declared adopted.

Wendie Shafer presented the Annual Building Fund Reports and the Annual Planning Commission report. She presented two letters to the Township Board from the Planning Commission recommending adoption of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to Section XI – Signs, and the adoption of the updates to the Master Plan pending sending the document to adjoining municipalities and County Planning Commission.

Brenda Troxell moved, seconded by David Wolf, to approve the amendments to the Baroda Township Zoning Ordinance section XI – Signs as corrected. After discussion Chairman Jim Brow called for a vote. By Roll Call Vote – voting to approve; John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell, and Wendie Shafer. Voting against approval; none. Resolution 17-13 declared adopted.

Wendie Shafer moved, seconded by David Wolf to approve the amendments to the Baroda Township Master Plan and to send the document to the neighboring communities and to the Berrien County Planning Commission for the required 42-day comment period. After discussion by Roll call vote. Voting to Approve; John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell and Wendie Shafer. Voting No; None. Resolution 17-14 was declared adopted.

Wendie Shafer reported that the Planning Commission approved a Special Land Use Permit for a tourist home on Holden Road in February and has scheduled a public hearing for another Special Land use Permit application for a tourist home on Spring Road and has received an application for a S.L.U.P. for yet another tourist home on Stevensville-Baroda Rd for which a hearing date has not yet been set.

Mary Hill from the Lincoln Township Public Library reported on the activities and projects planned for the Library. She provided a report of the number of Baroda Township residents who used the Library in some capacity during March 2017. The report accompanies these minutes.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Brenda Troxell and discussed. The Checking account

balances in the Baroda Township funds as of March 31, 2017 are as follows; General Fund \$105,266.92, Library Fund \$42,989.97, Baroda Police \$206,898.50, Fire Maintenance Fund \$117,761.05, Fire Equipment Fund \$144,601.45 Rubbish Fund \$184,976.84, Building Fund \$14,181.10, Water Fund total of all accounts \$117,374.15, and Tax Fund \$638.53. Brenda Troxell also explained that the Taxes collected in the winter had been disbursed into the various funds, ready for the new fiscal year.

Unfinished Business – Jim Brow reported having spoken with Village President Bob Getz regarding a Water/Sewer agreement with the Village of Baroda. Mr. Getz indicated he is in favor of such an agreement. David Wolf reminded the Board that he had understood from a conversation several months ago with Steve Carlisle of Wightman & Assoc. that Mr. Carlisle would create the agreement document for the Village. It was suggested that Mr. Carlisle be reminded of the project.

Jim Brow reported that Bob Demler had been out to inspect the roof, and would patch it when he had time for our small fill-in job.

Jim Brow said that Dennis Schutze the Park groundskeeper had determined that the pole light at the park needs a new sensor, and that some of the work had been accomplished this afternoon.

Wendie Shafer reviewed the 2016-17 budget explaining beginning balances, revenue and expenditures for each of the Township's funds.

Jim Brow opened discussion regarding the desire of some residents of Keehn Rd. to have the road paved. It was explained that the Road Commission would want to pave the whole mile length of the road, and that a special assessment district would need to be set up by the Township. It was explained that to establish a special assessment district, at least 51% of residents would need to agree to the assessments to pave the road. David Wolf presented a chart showing estimated footages and cost per property owner should the project be undertaken. Jim Brow opened the floor for discussion. Several Keehn Rd. residents and property owners spoke to the issue. Nearly every speaker related that Keehn road needs to be improved, but they do not want the road to be paved. Compliments were made regarding the application of crushed asphalt on the south end of Keehn Rd. paid for by Rich Hurst and done by the County Road Commission. It became obvious during the course of the discussion that land owners of more than 51% of the road frontage on Keehn Road would not vote to establish a special assessment to pave Keehn Rd. It was noted that Keehn Road does need to be improved. Most thought making the improvements should be the responsibility of the County Road Commission.

Jim Brow presented the Consent Agenda - minutes of the last meeting, the bills and the Treasurers report for approval. David Wolf moved, seconded by John Harner to approve the Consent Agenda. After discussion, Vote – All Yes. Motion Carried.

Shannon Thompson requested Board approval for the Lakeshore Football team to hold a fund raising drive on the Corners of Shawnee and Cleveland and First St. and Lemon Creek Rds. on June 24<sup>th</sup>. David Wolf moved, seconded by John Harner to approve the fundraising event for the football team to raise funds on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the intersections described. Vote – All Yes. M.C.

A resident of the Township reported having seen and heard a semi-truck use its engine brakes on Cleveland Ave. from Miller Rd. He requested a sign be put near the intersection prohibiting their use. Jim Brow volunteered to contact Milt Sluder, County Road Commissioner, about putting up a sign.

The need for weed control measures to be taken at Hess Lake was discussed. It was reported that the project is at the top of the Township's Capital Improvements Plan list.

Jim Brow reported that he had received an invitation to a ribbon cutting ceremony for a Yoga House in Baroda Township. He reported that the business is in violation of the Zoning Ordinance and will be required to apply for a Special Land Use permit for the business.

The next General Board meeting is May 15, 2017 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Wendie Shafer,  
Baroda Township Clerk