

Baroda Township Board Meeting March 20, 2017

The Baroda Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday March 20, 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 4 audience members. Supervisor James Brow opened the meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Officer Jim Howell reported for the Baroda-Lake Police Department that in February there had been a total of 154 calls answered. Of the 154 calls, 21 were in Baroda Township and 17 calls in the Village. He reported there had been, some larcenies and a case of Identity Theft in the Village, and 1 Breaking and entering on Singer Lake Rd. He reported that three tickets had been written in the Township and one in the Village last month.

Chief Larry Klug reported that the Fire Department answered 2 calls in February. One was for a grass fire and the other was a smell investigation which turned out to be fumes from strong cleaning fluids. He reported the firemen completed 182 training hours during the month. He presented a very thorough annual report produced by Doug deBest, and showed a book produced in conjunction with Rosenbauer South Dakota of the production and features of the new fire truck # 234.

David Wolf moved seconded by John Harner to appoint Larry Klug as Fire Chief for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. After discussion, Vote – All Yes. Motion Carried.

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 February 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 February 28, 2017 are as follows; General Fund \$20,214.15, Library Fund \$45.69, Baroda Police \$35,396.89, Fire Maintenance Fund \$16,723.99, Fire Equipment Fund \$58,927.47, Rubbish Fund \$13,055.43, Building Fund \$14,173.31, Water Fund total of all accounts \$117,364.18, and Tax Fund \$854,605.05. Brenda Troxell also presented a cash flow report for the fiscal year.

Wendie Shafer reported that the Planning Commission had moved the date of the March Planning Commission to March 27th at 6:30 p.m. There will be two public hearings held on that date. One is for the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment regarding signs. The other Public hearing is for a Special Land Use application for a Tourist Home on Holden Rd.

Wendie Shafer moved, seconded by David Wolf to amend the Baroda Township Budget as follows; increase General fund expenses by \$1298, increase Building Fund revenue by \$2200, increase Building Fund expenses by \$1925, and increase the Fire Equipment Fund expenses by \$10,700. After discussion, vote – All yes. Motion Carried.

She reported that the Berrien County Record is soliciting municipalities to publish legal ads in their newspaper, and that an annual subscription costs \$40. She said if we wish, they will put out a newspaper stand in the Township for free. David Wolf moved, seconded by Brenda Troxell to approve publishing Township legal notices in the Berrien County Record. After discussion, Vote- All Yes. Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business - There was no report regarding a Water/Sewer agreement with the Village of Baroda.

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.

Brow said that he has called an electrician to have the light on the pole at the park repaired.

Jim Brow reported that an alternate member of the Baroda Township Board of Review has been found. Jim Brow moved, seconded by Brenda Troxell to appoint David Schultz to the position of Alternate Member of the Board of Review for a three year term beginning April 1, 2017. After discussion, vote – All Yes. Motion carried.

Jim Brow closed the Regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing on the 2017-2018 Budget.

The 2017-2018 General Appropriations Act was discussed and corrected. A member of the audience said he was glad to see the Firemen are getting a pay raise. There being no further public comment, the Public Hearing was closed. Jim Brow re-opened the regular meeting.

David Wolf moved, seconded by Brenda Troxell to adopt the 2017-18 General Appropriations Act as corrected. Voting Yes – John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell and Wendie Shafer. Voting No – None. General Appropriations Act Resolution 17-05 declared adopted.

Wendie Shafer presented a request by the Baroda Lions Club to hold their annual “White Cane” fundraiser on the intersections of Cleveland and Shawnee and Cleveland and Lemon Creek on April 28 & 29th and May 6th.

David Wolf moved, seconded by John Harner to approve the Lions Club fundraising dates and locations as presented. After discussion, vote – All yes. Motion Carried.

David Wolf moved, supported by Wendie Shafer to adopt a resolution to set the Township Supervisor’s salary at \$24,000.00 for the Fiscal year 2017-2018. After Discussion, Voting YES – John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell and Wendie Shafer. Voting NO – None. Resolution 2017-06 declared adopted.

Brenda Troxell moved, supported by Jim Brow to set the Baroda Township Trustees’ salaries at \$3,250 for the Fiscal year 2017-2018. Voting YES – John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell and Wendie Shafer. Voting NO – None. Resolution 2017-07 declared adopted.

David Wolf moved, supported by John Harner to set the Baroda Township Treasurer’s salary at \$12,000 for the Fiscal year 2017-2018. After discussion, Voting YES – John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell and Wendie Shafer. Voting NO – None. Resolution 2017-08 declared adopted.

David Wolf moved, supported by Brenda Troxell to set the Baroda Township Clerk’s salary at \$25,500.00 for the Fiscal year 2017-2018. After discussion, Voting YES – John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell and Wendie Shafer. Voting NO – None. Resolution 2017-09 declared adopted.

Brenda Troxell presented a resolution to provide for the collection of the customary 1% Administration fee on property taxes. Brenda Troxell moved, Supported by David Wolf to adopt a resolution to collect a 1% Administration fee on property taxes collected by the Township. After discussion, Voting Yes – John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell and Wendie Shafer. Voting NO – None. Resolution 2017-10 declared adopted.

Brenda Troxell presented a resolution to provide for the collection of a 3% penalty on delinquent property taxes paid to the Township after February 14th and before March 1st. Brenda Troxell moved, Supported by

David Wolf to adopt a resolution to collect a 3% penalty on delinquent property taxes paid after February 14th and before March 1st. After discussion, Voting Yes – John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell and Wendie Shafer. Voting NO – None. Resolution 2017-11 declared adopted.

David Wolf moved seconded by John Harner to approve the office closing schedule for 2017-2018 fiscal year as presented by Jim Brow. Vote – All Yes. Motion Carried.

Brenda Troxell Moved, seconded by Wendie Shafer to approve the 2017-2018 Township Board meeting schedule as presented. Vote – All Yes. Motion Carried.

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.

Supervisor Comments 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. The question was asked “What if one person owns 90% of the property on the road? Would their vote count differently than the other property owners? It was thought that an assessment district would need to take into consideration the amount of road frontage owned by the property owners in the district.

Jim Brow reported the 2017 March Board of Review had been held. He reported that two applications for poverty exemptions had been heard, three disabled veteran exemptions had been approved, a correction for personal property on a business that moved out of Baroda had been made, and five protests on taxable valuation had been considered.

Jim Brow reported that he would begin training workshops in July for the 2020 Census taking.

The next General Board meeting is April 17, 2017 at 7:00 pm when annual reports will be presented. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Wendie Shafer,
Baroda Township Clerk