

BARODA TOWNSHIP  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 18, 2017

The Baroda Township Board met on Monday December 18, 2017 in the Baroda Municipal Building. Present were Board Members Jim Brow, John Harner, Wendie Shafer, Brenda Troxell and David Wolf. There nineteen audience members. The meeting was opened with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Jim Brow introduced Diane Mensinger, Co Chairman of the Baroda Blossom Queens Committee. She introduced the 2018 Baroda Queen, China Stockbarger, her court and Mr. Baroda, and Jeremy Wolf.

Supervisor Jim Brow introduced County Prosecutor Michael Sepic who provided printed materials and spoke for several minutes regarding the effects Marihuana has on communities where it has been legalized. He recommended to the Township Board not to allow Marihuana facilities in Baroda Township.

Sheriff Bailey also provided printed materials and spoke for several minutes against allowing Marihuana facilities in the Township. He described that workers who use Marihuana and are subject to random drug testing are jeopardizing their jobs and the welfare of their families, by making themselves unemployable. He asked why we would to be “part of the problem” regarding drug use rather than being part of the solution. He adamantly recommended the Township Board not allow Marihuana facilities in the Baroda.

Tony Dommer, Son-in-law to Nick Stama spoke for the “need” of Marihuana production and said that any facility would be strictly regulated by the State. He gave other reasons why he thinks approving a Marihuana Ordinance and allowing Marihuana growing facilities would benefit the Township.

Mindi Logan asked many rhetorical questions of Mr. Dommer and spoke of studies regarding the effects Marihuana use by children causing changes in the brain, making it difficult to concentrate school activities. She also mentioned that since the use of Marihuana as currently considered illegal by the Federal Government, Townships approving the facilities could be at jeopardy of losing the opportunity to apply for Federal grants for road projects and the like.

David Wolf suggested the Board members give their individual opinions on whether to adopt an ordinance allowing Marihuana facilities in the Township. Jim Brow asked each member in turn what their thoughts were on the issue. Every board member said they do not want to allow Marihuana facilities to operate in Baroda Township.

Baroda-Lake Township Police Chief Shawn Martin reported that department in November had attended 40 calls in the Township and 18 calls in the Village. He said most of the calls had been accidents due to the first snow covered roads of the season. He reported the Department has attended 2613 to date in 2017. He reported incidences of counterfeit money being passed in

the Bridgman and Baroda area. He also reported a construction site on Linco Rd. had been broken into and equipment had been stolen.

Fire Chief Larry Klug called Donnie Johnson and Andrew Adkin to the front of the room. He reported that the two firemen had each completed over 226 hours of coursework and, with the help of Supervisor Jim Brow, presented a plaque to each for their completion of Fire Officer III Courses. He reported the Fire Department had attended 7 calls in November. One call was for an assist on a structure call, two were mutual aid calls, 2 were false alarms and two were electric wires down. He said the Fire Department members trained 140 hours in Nov.

David Wolf reported that the Fire Board has received proposals for architectural design services for a new fire station. He recommended scheduling a budget meeting in January to get the expense budgeted for the 2016-2019 Fiscal year. A budget meeting was set for Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. He reported the Fire Board would like to get a bond proposal ready by May to have it put on the August 18 Primary Ballot.

Wendie Shafer reported Planning Commissioners Tom Shafer and Ed Heyn have terms expiring . She reported that the two gentlemen have each agreed to serve another three year term on the Planning Commission. Wendie Shafer moved, seconded by Brenda Troxell to appoint Tom Shafer and Ed Heyn each to another three year term on the Baroda Township Planning Commission. Vote – All Yes. Motion carried.

Wendie Shafer presented a proposed amendment and letter from the Baroda Township Planning Commission recommending the approval of the proposed amendment to Section 13.03 – Basis of determination. David Wolf moved, seconded by John Harner, to approve the amendment as presented. After discussion by Roll Call Vote – Voting to approve – John Harner, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Brenda Troxell and Wendie Shafer. The Resolution to approve amending Section 13.03 of the Baroda Township Zoning Ordinance declared approved. The amendment is to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Berrien County.

Jessica Enget from the Lincoln Township Library reported on the activities of the Library. She reported the Library will be closed December 23-25<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Christmas Holiday and will be closed from December 30 – January 1 in observance of the New Year Holiday. She reported that Baroda Residents had used the services or programs of the Library 1051 times in November.

Brenda Troxell gave the monthly Treasurers report. She reported that as of November 30, 2017 the Funds had cash balances as follows: General Fund - \$95,666.26, Library Fund - \$41.99, Baroda Police Fund – \$77,648.36, Fire Maintenance Fund - \$30,669.12, Fire Equipment Fund - \$135,525.91, Rubbish Fund - \$68,694.19, Building Fund - \$20,936.34, Water Fund - \$123,142.54, and Tax Fund - \$37,437.67.

Wendie Shafer presented a thank you letter from Miss Baroda, China Stockbarger, thanking the Township for supporting the Baroda Queens Committee. She presented a request to pay annual dues to the Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce for \$295. There was no action.

Wendie Shafer moved, seconded by David Wolf to approve a budget amendment increasing General Fund expenses by \$831.52 and increasing Fire Maintenance Fund expenses \$4500. After discussion, Vote – All Yes. Motion carried.

The Village Water/Sewer agreement was tabled due to ongoing questions.

David Wolf moved, seconded by John Harner to purchase 6 sets of steel picnic table frames and to pay the shipping costs for less than \$80 more than previously voted upon. Vote – All yes. Motion carried.

Action on roofing for the Municipal building was tabled.

Jim Brow opened discussion on sharing the cost of purchasing new lightweight tables for the Township Hall and meeting room. It was discussed that the need for tables became apparent during the set up for the Christmas in the Village program. Prices quoted from several local companies were provided. It was noted that several of the tables in the Hall are in poor condition and in need of replacement. It was suggested to check the State of Mich. Surplus Program to see what might be available. John Harner moved, seconded by Brenda Troxell to purchase 6 eight foot plastic top/metal frame tables for use in the Township Hall and meeting room. After discussion, Vote – All Yes. Motion carried.

Jim Brow reported that the Michiana Recycling and Disposal, the Rubbish Hauling Company with which Baroda Township has contracted for rubbish services is planning to increase their rate from \$14 to \$14.50. The current contract which ends in December of 2018 has pricing dependent upon the consumer index. No action was taken regarding the increase in order to study whether there is a need to increase the rate charged to Township customers.

Jim Brow presented the Consent Agenda (Minutes of last meeting, Treasurer's Report and Bills) for approval. David Wolf moved, seconded by Jim Brow to approve the consent agenda. After discussion, Vote – All Yes. Motion carried.

Jim Brow reported that the Township Offices will be closed on December 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

There being no further audience comment, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Township Board is scheduled for January 15, 2018. A Budget meeting was set for Thursday January 11, 2018.

Respectfully submitted

Wendie Shafer,  
Baroda Township Clerk