

BARODA TOWNSHIP
Board Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2018

The Baroda Township Board met on Monday February 19, 2018 in the Baroda Municipal Building. Present were Board Members Jim Brow, John Harner, Wendie Shafer, Brenda Troxell and David Wolf. There were four audience members. The meeting was opened with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Baroda-Lake Township Police Officer Jim Howell reported the Police Department had answered 250 incident calls in the month of January with 55 weather related crashes in the Township and 18 in the Village. He reported a couple incidences of property damage had occurred. He reported that the majority of the calls had been in Lake Township due to weather related crashes on I-94.

Fire Captain Doug de Best reported the Fire Department had answered 10 calls in January. Among the calls were 1 structure fire, 3 possible structure fires, 4 electrical lines down, 1 traffic obstruction with property damage and one investigation. He reported the department had provided one instance of mutual aid and had received mutual aid in three instances.

Doug deBest presented an addendum to the Mutual Aid Agreement with Lincoln Charter Twp. whereby Baroda will provide mutual aid only to those areas of Lincoln Township having no fire hydrants. David Wolf moved, seconded by John Harner, to approve the addendum to the Mutual Aid Agreement with Lincoln Charter Township Fire Dept. after discussion, Vote – All Yes. Motion Carried. Jim Brow signed two copies of the agreement. Doug deBest reported the Firemen had completed 276 man hours of training in December.

Doug deBest reported that a Grant is being worked on to provide new pagers to every firefighter in Michigan. Berrien County Firefighters Assoc. plans to provide the required 10% match for the pagers. He reported the Department had hosted as well attended meeting with the State Fire Marshall.

The full Fire Dept. report is included with these minutes. Doug reported that the Fire House Committee had met with Wightman and Assoc. and that the fire trucks had been measured etc. and a list was made of features required and desired for a new fire station. The assessment is to be completed by April. The Township Board will need to vote on whether to ask for a millage or bond to finance a new station.

Wendie Shafer presented a recommendation from the Baroda Township Planning Commission to approve a private Street to be constructed at 2000 Shawnee Rd. She explained that the property owner Mike Rose wishes to split some of the Commercial property into sellable lots and would need the proposed road for required frontage on new lots. Wendie Shafer moved, seconded by David Wolf to approve the application for a private street to be constructed by Mike Rose at 2000 W. Shawnee Rd. After discussion, Vote – All Yes. Motion Carried.

Jessica Enget, Lincoln Township Library Director was not in attendance to give a library report, but sent a written report which accompanies these minutes.

Brenda Troxell presented the Treasurers report. She reported that as of January 31, 2018 the Baroda Township Funds had cash balances as follows: General Fund - \$100,937.77, Library Fund - \$49.92, Baroda Police Fund - \$32,690.56, Fire Maintenance Fund - \$19,955.59, Fire Equipment Fund - \$117,758.13, Rubbish Fund - \$35,523.18, Building Fund \$23,562.82, Water Fund - \$121,850.76, and Tax Fund - \$526,402.71.

Wendie Shafer moved, seconded by John Harner to approve a budget amendment adding \$9190.39 income and \$4256.00 Expense to the General Fund, adding \$700 income and \$4150 Expense to the Fire Maintenance Fund, Adding \$4181 expense to the Fire Equipment Fund, After discussion, Vote – All Yes. Motion carried.

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

Jim Brow reported receiving a quote for a metal roof on the Municipal Building for over \$63,000 from a roofing company from New Buffalo. It was decided to get more quotes, since the estimate seemed quite high.

Brenda Troxell reported that since Michiana Recycling and Disposal has increased their rate for collection of rubbish and recycling to \$14.50 per roll cart, the Board will need to address raising the assessment because without raising the assessment the Township will not collect enough to cover costs of garbage collection and twice per year clean up. The current contract which ends in December of 2018 has pricing dependent upon the consumer index. She reported the raised fee will need to be applied on the 2018 winter tax bills which must be notified to the County in August.

The Board members briefly discussed further changes to the proposed 2018-19 fiscal year budget. Jim Brow discussed that Wendie is going off the Township health insurance which will cause the Township's insurance "group" to be dissolved, requiring him to look for an individual insurance carrier for himself. He has spoken to two carriers and will be making a decision soon.

Jim Brow reported having met with reps from Hartleb insurance agency to propose changing the Township's insurances over to their company. The Board members agreed to set up a meeting with the company reps for Tuesday March 6th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is to be posted.

Wendie Shafer opened discussion regarding changing the voting precinct from the Twp. Hall to the Municipal Building meeting room, the meeting room being more easily configured for a precinct. She explained that a new voter ID card would need to be sent to each registered voter. She reported that Printing Systems Company is able to supply, print, and mail the cards for just under \$1100. Wendie said it would cost about that much to do the printing and mailing from the Township office. Brenda Troxell moved, seconded by Dave Wolf to hire PSI to supply, print and mail the cards for no more than \$1100.

Wendie Shafer presented the request from Medic One to approve their 2018-19 budget which shows a \$2,269 annual increase in Ambulance service contribution for Baroda Township. It was reported that in the 17 years of service the price has gone down once due to a slight decrease in the population, but has never been raised. David Wolf moved, seconded by John Harner to approve the Medic One proposed 2018-19 budget. The increase is to be reflected in the Baroda Twp. Fire Maintenance budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Jim Brow presented the proposed 2017-18 Township meeting schedule and Office Closing schedule. He said the schedules will be posted on the outside bulletin board in the front of the building.

The Bills, minutes of the last meeting and Treasurers report (consent Agenda) were discussed and corrected. John Harner moved, seconded by Jim Brow to approve the consent agenda. Vote – All yes. Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Jim Brow at 7:56 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Township Board is scheduled for March 19, 2018. A Special meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Wendie Shafer,
Baroda Township Clerk