

SUBMITTED: 3-21-24

APPROVED: 4-15-2024

**BINGHAM TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 18, 2024, 7:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

Midge Werner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Midge Werner, Supervisor	Present
Kathy Morio, Clerk	Present
Sandra Grant, Treasurer	Present
Jeff Layman, Trustee	Present
Todd Stone, Trustee	Present
<i>Quorum Present</i>	

In attendance: Steve Patmore, Zach Marano, Brendan Mullane, Greg Mikowski

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Additions: Discussion of the blight ordinance (9a) and bids for concrete work at Parks (9b) to be put under Old Business.

Grant/moved, Stone/supported to approve the agenda as presented and amended.

Motion carried.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST -None

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 19 2024

Stone/moved, Grant/supported to approve the minutes of February 19, 2024. Motion carried.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

8. OLD BUSINESS –

a. Discussion of blight ordinance – Todd Stone

An ordinance was drafted in 2016 but was not approved. Stone has written a starting point for an ordinance. It is well written and defines types of “junk”. The Township attorney has read it. A violation of the ordinance is treated as a municipal civil infraction (MCI). A violation does not require a complaint by a citizen. There was concern expressed about the subjectivity of Board in determining a violation. What one person feels is junk is not the same perception of another. That is where the definitions are helpful. This is a

nuisance ordinance but does not include noise or light pollution. These could be addressed separately. Currently, the Township addresses some of this in the event ordinance. The Township would have to have someone to enforce the ordinance.

One way to handle a junk problem is to issue a MCI with a 30 day window to start the process of cleaning up. If it isn't done, another MCI is issued. It is definitely a subjective process. A help packet could be put together, giving the recipient resources to help with the clean-up, disposal, and psychological needs if needed. The Township is not obligated to prosecute everything in their ordinance. Grant thought that the sample ordinance is stricter than what can be enforced. She would want to regulate only extreme junk, however that is to be defined. She doesn't want to take away the rights of the property owner. Stone will put together a draft of what constitutes a junk, blight, or health hazard.

b. Concrete bid for Parks Port-a-potty's Pad

Patmore looked over the concrete bid. The work will need a soil erosion permit, which the contractor can get. Buzz Long of the Leelanau Conservation District could be called to ask if we need a permit. The Township could ask Kurtis Graham if he could do it. Patmore thought it might be good to stake it. Stone was planning to go out to the site with the contractor to discuss. Stone would be the contact person. The Board agreed that Todd should go ahead and get proposals.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Annual County Road Commission Report – Brendan Mullane

Mullane went through a power point annual report of the Road Commission (RC). Several culverts were converted to bridges over roads in the Glen Arbor area. The cost was about 6 million and was funded by 7 or 8 different entities. Culverts restrict the flow of rivers and streams and are not good for aquatic wildlife.

Primary roads are numbered roads. PASER is the rating system used to rate the condition of primary roads and local roads. Bingham's primary roads are in good condition compared to other townships. Mullane explained the graph used to show the condition of the roads in Leelanau County. In the graph, green bars are the number of roads that are in good condition, yellow bars indicate roads needing attention, and red indicates roads that are in bad condition. Roads in the red range are expensive to repair. Yellow roads are much less expensive to repair. The goal is to repair or maintain roads before they are rated in the red range.

Mullane explained the different processes that are used to repair and maintain roads. The RC does a lot of chip seal.

Mullane explained the budget breakdown for 2023 and the proposed budget for 2024. State law requires that the RC can only spend 50% of the cost to repair local roads (not primary roads). Given the budget, the RC is focused on primary roads and cannot fund work on local roads at this time. The RC is in the process of a long-term plan for road repair.

Mullane went over the fleet and facilities. A fleet asset management plan was formalized in 2022. In 2027, emission control laws will change for large cars and trucks manufactured in 2027. They will be required to have zero emissions. This will greatly impact the Road Commission.

An RC project list was discussed by Mullane.

Per questions from the Board, different maintenance processes and work on M22 were discussed. Crossings of the TART trails were also discussed.

- b. Clean-up Day, May 18, 2024, contract with GFL
Morio/moved; Stone/supported to accept the GFL contract as presented for May 18th Clean-up Day and authorize the Supervisor to sign the proposal. Motion carried.

- c. A. Rink Architects Inc. final draw for Township Hall addition
The final payment for Andy Rink Architects, Inc. for \$2,800 is due pending the certificate of occupancy from the Building Department.
Grant moved/Morio supported to approve payment of \$2,800 to A. Rink Architects, Inc. pending the certificate of occupancy. Motion carried.

10. COMMITTEE, STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Parks and Recreation Committee – Todd Stone
There was not a meeting this last month.

- b. Building and Grounds Committee – Kathy Morio
The new room will be painted tomorrow and the office area will be painted on Wednesday and Thursday. The rooms will need to be cleared out.
Kurtis was asked if he could sound proof the women’s restroom. Kurtis thought it could be done for less than \$500. The consensus of the Board was to soundproof the restroom. Werner also discussed a new toilet for the women’s restroom. Werner will ask Kurtis about that.
Morio and Werner will be getting samples for flooring. Carpet would be warmer and will absorb sound better than wood floors or laminate flooring. The consensus of the Board was to go with carpeting.

Grant/moved; Stone/supported to allow Morio and Werner to make the decision about the type and color of the carpeting; Motion carried.

- c. Cemetery Committee – Werner hopes to have a meeting in the next month. On the agenda would be the walkway that was previously discussed. A flag standard is needed for veterans’ graves. The new flag holders that were purchased are not as sturdy as the old ones and the flags flip out of the holder in the wind. Werner will talk with the committee about the flag holders.
- d. Zoning Administrator/STR Administrator – Steve Patmore
A written report was submitted. The ZBA will be meeting on a variance. Patmore has received over 70 STR registrations. A lot of questions are coming in. Patmore issued a permit for a solar array in Whispering Hills. Solar arrays are treated as an accessory structure. Roof mounted (flush) solar arrays do not need a Township permit but they do need a county permit.
- e. Planning Commission – Steve Patmore, Jeff Layman
No report - meeting cancelled because of a lack of quorum.
- f. Fire Authority (documents emailed) – Sandra Grant
No report
- g. Assessor’s Quarterly Report (January, April, July, October)
No report. There is not a replacement for Angela Friske as of yet. There will be a dinner for Angela prior to the next meeting on April 15, 2024.
- h. Treasurer
The Township has settled with the county.
Changing the June 17, 2024 Annual meeting at 5:30 pm and Regular township board meeting at 7 pm, to June 24, 2024 was discussed.
Werner/moved; Layman/supported to change the date of the Annual and Regular township board meeting to June 24, 2024. Motion carried.
- i. Trustee – No report
- j. Clerk - No report
Vendor and Payroll Reports
Sandra moved/ Stone supported to approve a payroll balance of \$17,832.65 and a vendor balance of \$16,657.96. Motion carried.

The Township's current election computer needs to be upgraded to meet election requirements. Morio has a list of parameters needed, which will require a new computer. Morio would like to order the computer from Netlink, to have before the May 7th election. The next board meeting is April 15th.

Grant/moved; Layman supported that Morio contact Netlink to purchase a new computer for elections. Motion carried.

k. Supervisor

The office will be closed March 20 and 21 for painting. The MTA conference is coming up on April 23 and 24 and will be at the Resort in Acme. The Township has funds to go to the conference if anyone wants to go.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kacin
Recording Secretary