

SUBMITTED: 2-21-24

APPROVED: 3-18-24

**BINGHAM TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**February 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Midge Werner called the meeting to order at 7:01 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, Jim O'Rourke, John Popa

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**Todd/moved, Sandra /supported to approve the agenda for February 19, 2024 as presented. Motion carried.**

**5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST - None**

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES Correction:** p.4, cost of Enterprise should be \$47 for one year and \$83.00 for a 2-year subscription.

January 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

**Sandra/moved, Jeff/supported to approve the minutes of January 15, 2024 as presented and amended. Motion carried.**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim O'Rourke - Deb Allen has resigned. They are looking for someone to be an administrator and the head of Finance. The installation of solar panels at the Government Center is not in the 2024-25 budget.

John Popa – He is opposed to the 8-foot vertical banners that businesses are using for advertising. The vertical banners are a distraction to driving. He urged the Board to tell the people that the vertical banners are illegal.

He is in favor of bringing the junk ordinance back.

He likes the new addition to the Bingham Township Hall.

The Road Commission will be coming to a Bingham meeting soon to give a presentation.

FYI - There is a bill introduced that allows others to sue government employees individually rather than sue the group they work for. It will cause people to not want to work for the government.

Midge Werner asked about the number of people working at the Road Commission. They have about 8-9 people working in the building. There is a shortage of workers to plow the roads.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Parks & Rec Policy on Memorial Gifts, Todd Stone

The policy of acceptance of memorial gifts was reviewed by the Parks and Rec committee. It now says that the Board has the final say on the placement of memorial gifts. The gift cannot include any religious or political connections.

**Midge/approved, Sandra/supported to approve the Parks and Rec. Policy on Memorial Gifts as presented. Motion carried.**

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution

This came from the Emergency Management office. Matt Ansorge could come to give an explanation if necessary. Federal government/FEMA says we have to have a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. The County has put one together and Townships can use it.

**ACTION: Jeff/moved, Todd/supported to approve the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution, 2024-02-19.**

<u>Voice Roll Call</u>	
Midge Werner	Yes
Kathy Morio	Yes
Sandra Grant	Yes
Jeff Layman	Yes
Todd Stone	Yes

***Motion Carried.***

b. Appointment to Suttons Bay-Bingham District Library Board

The Township received a letter from Dorothy Jean Coulter who is seeking re-appointment to the Suttons Bay-Bingham District Library Board. Her current appointment ends March 21, 2024. It is a 4-year appointment.

**Midge/moved, Sandra/supported to appoint Dorothy Jean Coulter to a four-year term on the Suttons Bay/Bingham District Library Board beginning March 31, 2024 and ending March 31, 2028. Motion carried.**

## 10. COMMITTEE, STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS

a. Parks and Recreation Committee – Todd Stone

The Committee continues to work on the 5-year plan. They will be losing Heather Jordan at the end of July. The Committee can have up to 11 members; the Committee currently has 5 members. They will be looking for people to serve on the Committee. A member attends a meeting once a month, is expected to steward one park and attend clean-up days. There may be some background work to do. A parks clean-up date will be set next month. The Committee meets on the second Monday of the month.

- b. Building and Grounds Committee – Kathy Morio  
The addition is coming along well; about 90% done. It needs interior painting and flooring. The parking lot light is working again. The flagpole rope will be put back on. The Board needs to pick a paint color for the office area and the new area.
- c. Cemetery Committee – Midge Werner  
The cemeteries will need some tree removal.
- d. Zoning Administrator/STR Administrator – Steve Patmore  
There were no permits in January. There is a pending appeal on the BOA. There were 64 short-term rental applications. 86 is our limit. Most are renewals. Some members went to a workshop on flood plain and renewable energy. The law would require 500 acres to meet the threshold of the law for a solar array.
- e. Planning Commission – Steve Patmore, Jeff Layman  
A good meeting of goals and objectives was held. There will be no meeting in March. The next meeting in April 4, 2024.
- f. Fire Authority (documents mailed) – Sandra Grant attended the Fire Authority meeting. Nothing new to report.
- g. Assessor's Quarterly Report ( January, April, July, October)  
Angela Friske is retiring April 14, 2024.
- h. Treasurer  
This is tax season. The last day to pay the taxes is February 29, 2024.
- i. Trustee reports  
There is concern about not having a junk ordinance. Todd will look up what is there and bring it to a Board meeting to discuss. A home that was previously a concern is not being remedied. Steve Patmore volunteered to talk to the owner and Midge will call the Health Department. There are a few places that need to be addressed. The

Board would have to write an ordinance. There was a discussion about who would do the enforcing. The cost of enforcing an ordinance would be a concern.

j. Clerk Report

**Sandra moved/ Todd supported to approve a payroll balance of \$11,396.28 and a vendor balance of \$8,115.04. Motion carried.**

606 absentee ballots have been issued. Bingham will have a May election.

k. Supervisor

The Board received a letter regarding new housing legislation from Betsy Coffia that was forwarded to the Board members.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Kacin  
Recording Secretary