

Minutes of the Baroda Township Board Meeting

March 21, 2011

The regular meeting of the Baroda Township Board was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Jim Brow in the meeting room of the Baroda Township Municipal Building with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present: Jim Brow, Amy Hemphill, Susan Newcomer, Wendie Shafer, and David Wolf, along with eleven audience members.

GUEST SPEAKER – Drain Commissioner, Roger Zilke introduced a representative from LSG Engineers who presented a slide program describing several alternatives for improving the drainage of the Williamson Drain on Cleveland and Linco Roads and the surrounding area. A board of determination had been petitioned by Lincoln Township to address flooding problems on Cleveland Avenue in Lincoln Township at the Barbott's Green Houses and the property across the street. Questions were answered and discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT- There was much public comment and discussion about the proposed Williamson Drain improvements.

LIBRARY REPORT – Mary Hill presented a report on the activities of the Lincoln Township Library. She noted that the teen's program is being emphasized to increase Library usage among that age group. She reported that audio books and music will soon be available to download from the Library's website. Ms. Hill said she has been tracking library use by Baroda Residents and will report the numbers at next month's meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Fire Chief Larry Klug reported on the Fire Department activities of the last month. He reported that the Department had lost one of its trainees for personal reasons and time constraints. He said that there are three students going to fire school and one student taking the training in High School. Chief Klug reported that the Firemen had taken a call to a chimney fire in recent days. Susan Newcomer had been present and commended the men on their great work. The Fire Dept. was unable to apply for a grant for the purchase of air packs this year, but plan to apply next year.

Police Chief Gary Ruhl reported on the activities of the Baroda-Lake Police Department. He reported that the Lake Township Board had adopted the Baroda-Lake Police Board budget for 2011-2012. Wendie Shafer asked if it would be possible to have a report showing the number of calls to Baroda and Lake Township. Gary said the numbers would be included in his annual report to be submitted in April.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Susan Newcomer distributed and presented the Treasurers report. She also presented a report which included the final amounts and of taxes collected for 2010.

Checking Account Totals:

General Fund – \$57,066.00	Baroda Police Fund – \$33,333.00
Rubbish Fund - \$3,838.00	Fire Maintenance Fund – \$14,038.00
Trust and Agency Fund \$2,961.00	Fire Equipment Fund – \$102,437.00
Water Fund – \$55,227.00	Building Fund - \$2,979.00
Baroda-Lake Police Fund – \$9,107.00	Baroda-Lake Drug Forfeiture Fund – \$7,335.00

CLERK'S and PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – Wendie Shafer reported that the Planning Commission heard a report on and discussed the Medical Marijuana Law. Based on the

fact that there are privacy issues that must be considered, the Planning Commission decided to take no action toward regulating this activity within the Township.

Wendie Shafer presented a budget report and a motion for amending the Baroda Township 2010-2011 budget. David Wolf moved, seconded by Amy Hemphill to amend the budget as presented. Vote – All yes. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE – a letter from Roger Zilke, Drain Commissioner was distributed to the Board members. Mr. Zilke questioned the reasoning for the formation of a Drain Review Committee within Baroda Township.

OLD BUSINESS – Jim Brow said that Steve Carlisle from Wightman and Associates has taken over working for the Township on the Park improvement grant process. He reported that the DNRE Park Grant has still not been officially granted, and the Township was advised to take no action toward beginning the planning of the improvements until we have the signed paper in our hand.

Wendie Shafer reported that a computer has been ordered for the Assessor and will cost about \$1,037. It is designed with enough memory capacity to operate the new BS&A program and software and other programs needed for the Assessor's job.

David Wolf presented a motion to reimburse Connie Miller for rubbish containers she did not receive for the period of October 2009 – February 2011 and a credit for March 2011 – Dec. 2011, an amount of \$544.00, to charge her for one roll cart, which Michiana Recycling and Disposal must deliver, and for the Township officers to request a refund or rebate from Michiana Recycling and Disposal for two carts that were paid for, but have not been delivered.

Wendie Shafer presented an amended agreement between the Village of Baroda and the Township of Baroda for Snow Removal and Landscaping/Lawn care. The amendment changes that termination notice interval from 90 to 30 days. David Wolf moved, seconded by Jim Brow to adopt the Service agreement for Snow removal and landscaping/lawn care with the Village of Baroda as presented. By Roll Call Vote – All Yes. Resolution Adopted.

NEW BUSINESS – Jim Brow reported that the Board needs to make its annual appointment of the Fire Chief. Amy Hemphill moved, supported by David Wolf to re-appoint Larry Klug as Baroda Fire Chief. Vote – All Yes. Motion Carried.

Wendie Shafer reported that the Board needs to re-appoint David Schultz to another three year term on the Baroda Township Planning Commission. Amy Hemphill moved, seconded by Susan Newcomer to re-appoint David Schultz to the Baroda Township Planning Commission. Vote – All Yes. Motion Carried.

Wendie Shafer presented the individual resolutions for the salaries of the Baroda Township Supervisor, Treasurer, Trustees and Clerk for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year. David Wolf moved, seconded by Amy Hemphill to set the Supervisor's salary at \$23,800 for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year. By Roll Call Vote – All yes. Resolution 2011-4 Adopted. Amy Hemphill moved, seconded by David Wolf to set the salary of the Baroda Township Treasurer at \$18,000 for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year. By Roll Call Vote – All Yes. Resolution 2011-5 Adopted. Susan Newcomer moved, seconded by Jim Brow to set the Trustees salaries at \$3,250 plus \$40 per

meeting for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year. By Roll Call Vote – All Yes. Resolution 2011-6 Adopted. Jim Brow moved, seconded by Susan Newcomer to set the Baroda Township Clerk salary at \$25,350 for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year. By Roll Call Vote – All Yes. Resolution 2011-7 Adopted.

Wendie Shafer presented a resolution to agree to collect summer taxes for the school districts having students who are Baroda Township residents. Susan Newcomer moved, seconded by Amy Hemphill to approve a resolution to agree to collect Summer Taxes. By Roll Call Vote – All Yes. Resolution 2011-8 declared adopted.

Wendie Shafer presented a resolution to approve an application from Melrose Pyrotechnics for a fireworks display on July 3, 2011. David Wolf moved, seconded by Jim Brow to approve an application for Melrose Pyrotechnics for a fireworks display on July 3rd, 2011 or alternate rain date. By Roll Call Vote- Voting YES: Amy Hemphill, David Wolf, Jim Brow, Susan Newcomer, and Wendie Shafer. Voting NO: None. Resolution 2011-9 Adopted.

Jim Brow opened a public hearing to hear comment on the proposed Baroda Township Budget and Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. After discussion the Public Hearing was closed. Wendie Shafer made corrections to the General Appropriations Act citing that she had forgotten to transfer corrected numbers to the summary list of the General Appropriations document from the budget. Amy Hemphill moved, seconded by Susan Newcomer to adopt the General Appropriations Act and Budget as corrected for the fiscal year 2011-2012. By Roll Call Vote, Voting YES: Amy Hemphill, David Wolf, Susan Newcomer, Jim Brow, and Wendie Shafer. Voting NO: None. Resolution 2011-12 declared adopted.

Wendie Shafer presented a list of organizations with which Baroda Township has made community promotion service agreements in the past. David Wolf moved, seconded by Susan Newcomer to keep the community promotion contracts at the same level as in previous years with the Baroda and Community Seniors receiving \$600, the Baroda 5KRun/Walk receiving \$500, the Miss Baroda Blossom time Committee receiving \$1100, the Baroda Fireman's Association (for Fireworks) \$1000, Barodafest receiving \$1000, the Baroda American Legion Post 345 receiving \$350. Vote – YES -4, NO-1. Motion Carried.

Wendie Shafer presented an item for discussion – Change order policy for the upcoming Park project. David Wolf noted that Wightman and Associates brings change orders to the Township Board for approval during a regular Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA - Copies of the minutes of the last Baroda Township Board meeting, the minutes of the March 2nd Budget meeting, and Baroda Township Bills for the month were distributed. After discussion, David Wolf moved, seconded by Jim Brow to approve the Minutes of the last Board meetings, the Treasurers' Report, and the Township Bills. Vote – All Yes. Motion Carried.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS – Jim Brow opened for discussion that Jerry Barefield had reported that 10 acres of Park land could be sold for the highest dollar amount if it were divided into small residential lots. Much discussion followed. Jim recommended Board members think about allocating funds to hire a surveyor to split the property into lots. No action taken.

Jim Brow reported on the Wayfinding meetings he has attended and showed a map of proposed destination sites to be advertised as a means of drawing people into the area.

Jim reported that the County Road Commission will host a meeting on March 24th concerning having a request for .5 mils placed on the November 2012 ballot for funding for work to be done on the County Roads.

Jim Brow reported that 20 people came to the Board of Review held on March 14 and 17th. He said that one application had been for a poverty exemption, and that nearly half of the protests were from people who did not understand about the taxable value becoming uncapped when property changes owners.

Jim reported that a 15 page document on the State budget by Rick Snyder was available online at www.michigan.gov/snyder.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Teri Freehling presented pictures taken of a drainage ditch along Cleveland Avenue that has caved in during the first year since it was dug out. Her concern is that the residents in the area will be charged additional assessments for cleaning out the drain so soon after it was done.

A resident asked what is happening with the Ron Ellsworth situation. Jim Brow said that Kim Fowler has been working with Mr. Ellsworth in continuing the cleanup process, but that progress appears to be quite slow. Jim Brow said he will contact Kim to see if things can be moved along more rapidly.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m. by Supervisor, Jim Brow.

Prepared by Wendie Shafer
Baroda Township Clerk