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Minutes of the Baroda Township Board Meeting September 19, 2011

The regular meeting of the Baroda Township Board was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Jim Brow, with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the meeting room of the Baroda Township Municipal Building, 9091 First St., Baroda MI. Those present: Jim Brow, Susan Newcomer, Wendie Shafer, Amy Hemphill and David Wolf, along with nine audience members.

GUESTS - Kevin Reed from the Berrien County Road Commission spoke concerning the changes made at the corner of Hills and Shawnee roads with the removal of roadside signs, brush, repositioning of the stop lines, adding lane lines and additional stop ahead signs and stop signs with higher reflectivity. The Board thanks the Berrien County Road Commission for their quick response to the concerns of the citizens of Baroda.

Robert Gerbel gave the Baroda Township 2010-2011 Audit Report, giving the Township a clean audit report saying that the Township has a 9 months reserve of operating funds. He reported that there are housekeeping issues that need attention and the Building Fund and Baroda-Lake Police funds showed deficit balances which have been reported to the State and corrective action plans have been developed to be reported to the State.

Steven Carlisle presented an updated plan for the proposed new pavilion to be built at the Township Park as part of the grant project. He reviewed the initial plan for the entire project.

Chuck Eckenstahler spoke concerning the framework plan developed by Andrews University Engineering Department as part of the way finding study funded by the Bridgman Economic Growth Alliance and I&M Electric Power Company. He requested the Township Board pass a resolution of support for the framework plan. The framework plan includes the development of signs containing QR Codes (codes that can be scanned by "smart phones" to connect to internet information). The resolution does not commit the Township to expending funds at this point.

DEPARTMENT REPORT – Police Chief Gary Ruhl reported that the investigation of the recent fatal accident at the corner of Shawnee and Hills is still open pending lab reports. He reported that the Police Department is continuing to investigate the death of Amanda Burgess. He reported that John Hopkins is in certification renewal training with Elmo (canine officer) for a few days.

LIBRARY REPORT – Mary Hill presented a report on the activities of the Lincoln Township Library and distributed the Library quarterly publication.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Amy Hemphill distributed and presented the Treasurers report. August 31, 2011 ending fund cash balances: She reported that 89% of the Township Summer taxes have been collected

General Fund – \$184,159.18

Rubbish Fund - \$46,077.50

Trust and Agency Fund - \$498.86

Water Fund – \$143,916.54

Baroda-Lake Police Fund – \$18,630.89

Summer Tax Fund – 240,377.59

Baroda Police Fund – \$114,323.14

Fire Maintenance Fund – \$188,992.46

Fire Equipment Fund – \$377,120.46

Building Fund - \$3,164.25

Baroda-Lake Drug Forfeiture Fund – \$26,949.32

Winter Tax Fund – 514.03

CLERK'S and PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – Wendie Shafer reported that the Planning Commission had not acted on any matters and that one building permit for a Deck on Landon Rd was reported. She noted that an e-mail message had been received that the State Primary election has been set for February 28, 2012.

OLD BUSINESS – Wendie Shafer presented a Baroda Township Policies and Procedures Manual for adoption by the Board. It was noted that there is room for expansion of the manual contents. Amy Hemphill moved, seconded by Susan Newcomer to adopt the Policies and Procedures manual as presented. After discussion by Roll Call Vote: Yes – Amy Hemphill, David Wolf, Susan Newcomer, Jim Brow and Wendie Shafer. No – None.

NEW BUSINESS – David Wolf moved, seconded by Jim Brow to accept the Shawnee Corridor Wayfinding Framework Plan Resolution as presented. After Discussion by Roll Call Vote: Yes – Amy Hemphill, David Wolf, Susan Newcomer, Jim Brow, and Wendie Shafer. No – None. Resolution adopted.

David Wolf moved, seconded by Amy Hemphill to pass a resolution to accept the 2010-2011 Auditor's report. After discussion by Roll Call Vote: Yes – Amy Hemphill, David Wolf, Susan Newcomer, Jim Brow and Wendie Shafer. No – None. Resolution Adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA - Copies of the minutes of the last Baroda Township Board meeting, and Baroda Township Bills for the month were distributed. A date correction was made to the August 2011 Minutes. After discussion, David Wolf moved, seconded by Susan Newcomer to approve the Minutes of the last Board meeting as corrected, the Treasurers' Report, and the Township Bills. Vote – All Yes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT- An audience member asked if the Park Plan included installing new playground equipment for toddlers. An audience member asked about the possibility of being able to put back a directional sign or a sign of some sort for their business near the Shawnee/Hills corner.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS – Jim Brow reported that he was visited by Durwood D'Agostino who now says that he owns the property containing both boat launch ramps at Singer Lake. He "gave" the Township three options to keep the ramp(s) open; 1. Buy the property, 2. Lease the property, 3. Trade for land at Hess Lake. Jim told Mr. D'Agostino to have his attorney call our attorney.

Jim reported that members of the Baroda-Lake Police board had attended a meeting in Lake Township concerning a possible merger of the Bridgman City and Baroda-Lake Police Departments. He said that Baroda Township Police board officers had not been invited to participate in the talks, but would be attending the meetings in the future.

Jim reported that Kim Fowler has sent out several ordinance violation letters to have junk cars removed from yards, or stored in enclosed buildings. He is also involved in trying to get an abandoned house owned by a bank in Texas cleaned up.

Jim reported that a combined meeting of Lincoln Township, AEP, MDOT, Berrien County Drain Commission and Berrien County Road Commission for a pre road construction meeting will be held on September 29, 2011 at 10 am.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. by Supervisor, Jim Brow. The next regular meeting of the Baroda Township Board is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2011.

Submitted by Wendie Shafer, Baroda Township Clerk