

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP
JANUARY 16, 2018
MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Golden Township Board was called to order by Chairman, Carl Fuehring, at 7:30 p.m. in the Golden Township Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present: Carl Fuehring, Connie Cargill, Rachel Iteen, Richard Walsworth

Absent: Gary Beggs

Also present: Rob Draper, Zoning Administrator; Ed McNeely, Township Lawyer; and 15 guests.

Minutes - Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Iteen, to approve the minutes of last month's regular board meeting with corrections – New ZBA member, Jane Deaudoin, last name begins with a B not D. All yes, the motion carried.

Correspondence: Chelsea Wilson asking about availability of a meeting room.

The Treasurer read the Financial Report. The ending balance in the Fund as of January 15, 2018 was as follows: General Fund \$155,044.52; Road fund \$62,542.83; Fire Fund (\$11,116.14); Park/Recreation Cash Fund \$7,864.90.

Bills: Motion by Mrs. Iteen, supported by Mrs. Cargill, to pay check numbers 17214 through 17254 and EFT 95 in the general fund for the amount of \$74,116.91. Roll call vote, all yes, the motion carried.

Budget amendment: Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Cargill to approve the budget amendment entries. All yes, the motion carried.

Zoning Report: There were 104 permits last year and 26 were new homes. 500-600 people rent cottages and so far 76 rental applications have been received.

Park Reports:

Golden Township Park at Silver Lake Sand Dunes: A donation for an adult swing set has been donated by Shelby Olsen. The Park Committee has applied for two grants one for land acquisition, and the other for restrooms. Harbor Design's Jeremy Horton designed an engineering proposal for restrooms.

Engineering Proposal: Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mr. Walsworth to approve the \$2100 for engineering proposal for the Golden Township Park at Silver Lake Sand Dunes by Harbor Design. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

Fire Report: New online training program has been purchased making it easier for all fire fighters to get trained. A grant was received for \$3500 covering half of the cost for new helmets.

Planning Commission: There was a special meeting on Ord. # 51 Rental Ordinance and also a solar panel committee meeting.

Road Report: No parking ordinance for north of Hazel and West of 34th is in progress. Transferring jurisdiction of Fox Road by the dune entrance to the State Park is to be completed by April 1. New owners of Dune Land were questioning entrance of duners to their business and people on Beachwood questioned access to Fox Road once jurisdiction to the DNR State Park is complete.

Assessor Report: Assessor, Barbie Eaton, has had her baby and will return to the office around January 29, 2018

New Business:

PC and ZBA Members: Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Cargill to approve the reappointment of the following: Planning Commission Members serving the rest of Term (two more years)
Reappointment: Chad Coker, Robert Fong, & Jake Whelpley term ending 12-31-2019; Mike Cook reappointment term ending 12-31-2020. ZBA Members Reappointment: Mark Borst, & Robert Ramlow term ending 12-31-2020.

Erik Johnson: Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mrs. Iteen to approve a \$50 gift certificate for the Christmas decorations that beautify the village of Mears. Roll Call vote all yes, the motion carried.

Public Hearings: Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Cargill to set the date concerning two DNR Trust Fund Grants one for the acquisition grant and the other for the Trust Fund Development Grant for restrooms. Both grant hearings will be held on February 13, 2018 at 7 pm and the Budget Hearing at 7:15 pm on the same date. All yes, the motion carried.

Replace Ordinance #51: Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Cargill to replace ordinance 51 with ordinance 52 with some requirement clarifications and the addition of section 4.4 Violations and Remedies. All yes, the motion carried.

Election Equipment: Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mr. Walsworth to approve the purchase of an ICX Cart for handicapped voters. Roll call vote all yes, motion carried.

Poverty and Asset Test: Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mrs. Iteen to approve the adoption of the 2018 Poverty and Asset Test and guidelines. All yes, the motion carried. Changes for 2018 as follows:

Township of Golden, Oceana County Parcel Number

GUIDELINES FOR POVERTY TAX EXEMPTION

IV. Income Guidelines

The income guidelines used by the Board of Review have been established in accordance with P.A. 390 of 1994 and shall be adhered to unless accompanied by special circumstances. In determining qualifications for tax exemption, the Board of Review shall consider every variable on the application, including total household income, the nature and duration of the income stream, the state equalized value of the subject property, the quality and accuracy of the information submitted and any other such evidence as they feel appropriate in making their decision. In general however these guidelines shall assist the Board of Review in their decisions.

Income guide, as adopted annually by Township Board, based on Federal Income Levels provided:

STC Bulletin No. 24 of 2017 - Changes For 2018 - dated November 28, 2017

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$12,060
2	\$16,240

3	\$20,420
4	\$24,600
5	\$28,780
6	\$32,960
7	\$37,140
8	\$41,320
For each additional person	\$4,180

The income guidelines shall include, but are not limited to, the specific income for the person claiming the exemption, and should also include anyone else who is living at the claimant's household. According to the U.S Census Bureau, "income" includes:

- Money, wages, and salaries before any deductions.
- Net receipts from non-farm self-employment. (These are receipts from a person's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after deductions for business expenses.)
- Net receipts from farm self-employment. (the same provisions as above for self-employment.)
- Regular payments from social security, railroad retirement, unemployment, worker's compensation, veteran's payments and public assistance.
- Alimony, child support, and military family allotments.
- Private pensions, governmental pensions, and regular insurance or annuity payments,
- College or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, and assistantships.
- Dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts, and net gambling or lottery winnings.

This information taken from STC Bulletin 5 of 2012

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GUIDELINES FOR POVERTY TAX EXEMPTION

V. **Asset Guidelines**

As required by P.A. 390 of 1994, all guidelines for poverty exemptions as established by the governing body of the local assessing unit SHALL also include an asset level test. The following assets shall not be considered when applying an asset test to determine qualification for tax exemption.

- i. The value of the applicant's primary residence subject to the exemption request along with any contiguous residential land,
- ii. The value of all personal property, such as furniture and clothing.

Notwithstanding the value of property listed above, in order to be considered for tax exemption under MCL 211.7u, the value of all additional assets **shall not exceed five (5) times the annual household income* of the applicant. Applicant will own one car, all other additional vehicles and recreational vehicles will be included in additional assets as indicated above. Jewelry, artwork and antiques shall be considered assets.**

*Household income as described in Annual Federal Income Levels, as adopted by Township Board.

All asset information, as requested in the Application for Property Tax Exemption must be completed in total. The Board of Review may request additional information and verification of assets if they determine it to be necessary and **may reject** any application if assets are not properly identified.

VI. **Summary**

In conclusion, the Board of Review and the Township Supervisor by vote has been given exclusive jurisdiction over the granting of property tax relief due to financial hardship. The Board of Review and the Township Supervisor for the Township takes this task seriously and attempts to provide relief to all deserving residents within the Township. **The Board of Review and the Township Supervisor may deny any appeal, and/or regardless of income, and/or if the financial hardship appears to be self created by the actions of the person or persons making the application.**

The Board of Review reserves the right to modify these guidelines as necessary.

Phone System: Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Cargill to approve the purchase of a new phone system in the amount of \$3295. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

Rec. Plan: Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mrs. Iteen to approve the Rec. Plan Proposal submitted by Jake Whelpley with a fee of \$750. Roll Call vote all yes, the motion carried.

Public discussion:

-Tom Hartman asked about the transfer of Fox Road to the DNR State Park. Mr. Walsworth said it looks like five years with a two year notice to end agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm
Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel Iteen
Golden Township Clerk