

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP
JANUARY 8, 2019
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; and 46 guests in the room and approximately 7 guest in the hall. There were at least two who complained that the room wasn't big enough and left.

Minutes - Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Cargill, to approve the minutes of last month's regular board meeting and special board meeting of 12-19-18. All yes, the motion carried.

Public Comment: (Please forgive any misspelled names.)

- Mary Hubel asked for the day of the April meeting and also wanted to look into options to fix the lake instead of a sewer.
- Linda Chapman asked about the progress made on the sewer.
- John Conklin asked about the cost of phase 2 of the sewer and also voiced concerns of Hunter Creek polluting the lake.
- Elizabeth Helgrin stated that they do not need a sewer system on Upper Silver Lake and also questioned if the religious campgrounds would also pay.
- Mark Beaudoin asked to take Upper Silver Lake off the sewer plans.
- Patty Hammond stated that the grants did not pan out and that other options should be vetted.
- Eric Hubel said he representing 590 families and read from a six page report he gave the board.
- Mark Houghton thought a study should be done concerning the sewage on the dunes.
- Scott Holistic thought that the businesses should put in the sewer if they wanted it.
- Sue Johnson said she had a business and she did not want a sewer.
- David Doxey wondered if the state would connect to the sewer and also concerned that grand money is not available to help with the cost.
- Norm Hawley stated that older people would help volunteer to help with the sewer issues and that he himself has seen sewage on the ground in many places in Silver Lake in the past years.
- Tom Hartman asked if phase one pays for phase one.
- Bob Jones wanted to know who pays for year round upkeep to keep the sewer working with non-users all around him in off season.
- Chad Crock asked how the sewer is assessed.
- Jason Hendricks questioned the thought that the cost is shared evenly as "everyone" uses the lake.
- Wayne Van Huis questioned if the sewer system will help the lake.
- Terry Puffenburger stated that they had a new septic system already.
- Connie Van Huis asked that the meeting be in the evening or on Saturday.
- Deb Jackie stated that she did not want a sewer.

Correspondence:

1. Sewer Letters

The Treasurer read the Financial Report. The ending balance in the Fund as of January 8, 2019 was as follows: General Fund \$88,518.18; Road fund \$188,843.72; Fire Fund \$4,601.42; Park/Recreation Cash

Fund \$4,390.00. Note: Money from some accounts have been put in an investment Fund to earn interest and it has acquired \$481.03 as stated on the December statement.

Investment funds: Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mr. Walsworth to approve moving funds to the investment fund and back out as needed. All yes, the motion carried.

Bills: Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Cargill to pay check numbers 17704 through 17734, and EFT 107 in the general fund for the amount of \$56,785.67. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

Zoning Report: There were 97 permits last year. Rental permits for 2019 are coming in.

Parks Report: The DNR Trust Fund Acquisition Grant was approved for Golden Township for \$67,500 which is 50% of the accusation for the land.

Fire Report: None

Planning Commission: Public hearing for transitional message signs will be held in the January 29, 2019 Planning Commission meeting.

Road Report: Focus will be on Deer Road this year.

Sewer Report: An April meeting is planned. Date and time to be announced.

Assessor Report: None.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Re-Zone Val Du: Rezone 12.29 Cottonwood Creek from a PUD to Resort/Commercial. All Yes, the motion carried.

Poverty Exemption Resolution: Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Cargill to approve the following Federal Poverty Exemption for 2019. All yes the motion carried.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
OF
GOLDEN TOWNSHIP, OCEANA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of Golden Township, Oceana County, Michigan Duly called and held on the 8th day of January 2019, there being present: Supervisor Fuehring, Clerk Iteen, Treasurer Cargill, Trustee Walsworth

Absent: Trustee Beggs

The following resolution was offered:

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR EXEMPTION
FROM PROPERTY TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the township board; and

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under Public Act 390, 1994(MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, Golden Township, Oceana County adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and board of review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the supervisor or board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in a current year.
- 3) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested, if requested.
- 5) Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
- 6) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review.
- 7) The guidelines apply to individuals and not to corporations, partnerships, associations or trusts. In the event that a partnership, association, or co-owners apply, the guidelines apply to the total assets of all individuals involved.
- 8) The guidelines apply to both an owner of a life estate and all remainder interests together.
- 9) Several factors will be weighed in order to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an exemption. Factors analyzed will include the following:
 - A. Income levels
 - B. Total value of liquid assets
 - C. Total non-homestead real property
 - D. Total acreage owned
 - E. Non-essential personal property
 - F. Total value of all assets
 - G. Gifts made within 10 years
 - H. Employability
 - I. Retirement account value, IRA, 401K, etc.
 - J. Other factors suggesting an individual's worth, including but not limited to life insurance, businesses, lawsuits, judgments due, etc.
- 10) Total liquid assets must not exceed the value of \$10,000. Assets beneath \$10,000 shall be considered together with other factors in order to determine eligibility. Liquid assets shall be considered cash, unrestricted deposits and accounts, securities, bonds, promissory notes, stocks, and other similar type of assets.
- 11) Total non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural real property shall not exceed the value of \$10,000.

- 12) The non-essential personal property shall not exceed \$5,000. Non-essential personal property includes but is not limited to horses, snowmobiles, boats, motorcycles, jet skis, all terrain vehicles. The purpose of this factor is to exclude from poverty consideration those individuals who have purchased recreational, hobby or sporting property which is not related to essential needs.
- 13) Total net assets must not exceed \$50,000. Total net assets below \$50,000 shall be considered together with other factors in order to determine eligibility.
The following are the poverty thresholds as of Dec. 31, 2018 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2019 assessments:

Size of Family Unit	Annual Household Income
1	\$12,140
2	\$16,460
3	\$20,780
4	\$25,100
5	\$29,420
6	\$33,740
7	\$38,060
8	\$42,380
For each additional person, add	\$4,320

Poverty Exemption Resolution Cont'd

- 14) The guidelines include employability of the individual applicants as well as other adults living in the residence. Factors here include but are not limited to attempts to find employment; physical, mental and experiential abilities, voluntary loss of employment or employment opportunities, etc.
- 15) The guidelines shall include an analysis of all gifts given by the applicants within ten (10) years. An applicant cannot divest him or herself of assets and then claim poverty. No fixed amount is set as a factor as each applicant must be handled on a case by case basis.
- 16) It is possible for an applicant to qualify under each separate factor but not qualify when all factors are considered together. The following are examples of how a combination of factors may disqualify a person:
- A. An applicant has a total asset value of \$40,000 but gave away \$20,000 within the last ten years.
 - B. An applicant qualifies under income or asset factors but recently spent \$10,000 for a life insurance policy with his or her children as beneficiaries.
 - C. The applicant qualifies under the asset or income levels but voluntarily quit from a well-paying job.
- In addition to weighing the individual factors, the Board of Review and Supervisor shall evaluate all of the factors together in order to determine if the applicant is in a poverty condition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the board of

review determines that there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and those are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Walsworth, and supported by Board Member Cargill. Upon Roll Call vote, the following voted:

Aye: Fuehring, Cargill, Iteen, Walsworth

Nay: None

Absent: Beggs

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Rachel Iteen, Township Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned and duly qualified and acting clerk of the Golden Township, Oceana County, Michigan (the "Township") do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board at a regular meeting held on January 8, 2019, the original of which is on file in my office and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have affixed by official signature this 8th day of January, 2019.

Rachel Iteen, Township Clerk

Reappoint BOR: Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mr. Walsworth to re-appoint the following members for Board of Review: Helen Lefler, Ron Thatcher, Monica Owens, and as alternates: Gary Grey and Todd Brandel. All yes, the motion carried.

Alternate March Board Of Review: Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Iteen to approve the following alternative dates for BOR. Roll call all yes, the motion carried.

**GOLDEN TOWNSHIP
COUNTY OF OCEANA, STATE OF MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-02

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALTERNATIVE DATES IN MARCH FOR THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW

Board Member Walsworth, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Board Member Iteen:

WHEREAS, Act No 194 of the Public Acts of 2003 permits a township to authorize alternative starting dates for the second meeting of the March Board of Review; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board has determined that alternative dates for the second meeting of the Board of Review is in the Township of Golden's best interest.

Now, therefore, it is resolved that:

1. The March Board of Review will meet on March 15, 2019 at 3 pm until 9 pm and on March 16, 2019 at 9 am until 3 pm.

YEAS: Fuehring, Cargill, Iteen, Walsworth

NAYS: Beggs

ABSTAIN: None

ADOPTED this 8th day of January, 2019

Signed: _____
Rachel Iteen, Clerk

Clean Up Day: The 3rd Saturday in May.

Moratorium on Electric Signs: Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mr. Walsworth to extend the moratorium until the next meeting on February 12th. All yes, the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel Iteen
Golden Township Clerk