

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP  
JANUARY 14, 2020  
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

Absent: Gary Beggs, Richard Walsworth, deceased

Also, present: Rob Draper, Zoning Administrator; Ed McNeely, Township Attorney; Craig Mast, Sheriff and 25 guests.

**Minutes** - Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mrs. Iteen, to approve the minutes of last month's regular board meeting. All yes, the motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

-Patty Hammond asked the board to consider appointing to the board a resident from Silver Lake area and also one who does not have a personal agenda. She also wondered if that person could vote as a member of the board.

-Craig Mast, sheriff, stated that Mr. Richard Walsworth was missed already and that he was a great friend to the sheriff's office. Mr. Mast reported that their office is now teaching hunter safety, boater safety, and gave away 100 life vests. He also reported 2019 statistics for Oceana County.

-Mark Houghton asked about break ins.

**Correspondence:** Community Foundation, Robin Bradley Memorial Fund donated a bench for the S L Park.

**The Treasurer read the Financial Report.** The ending balance in the Fund as of January 13, 2020 was as follows: General Fund \$158,067.30; Road fund -\$428.29; Capitol Savings Fund \$5,275.41. The Michigan Class investment funds for the above funds are as follows: GF \$13,583; RF \$115,057; CSF 78,776.

**Bills:** Motion by Mrs. Iteen, supported by Mrs. Cargill to pay check numbers 18156 through 18195, and EFT 119 in the general fund for the amount of \$71,723.57. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

**Zoning:** There were 92 permits for 2019 and 1 this year (Dollar General).

**Reports:**

**Park:** Appraisal for the Golden Township Park at Silver Lake Sand Dunes was submitted.

**Fire:** 179 fire runs in 2019. A used pumper truck was purchased for \$10,000 instead of \$20,000 thanks to Dwight Fuehring's negotiations.

**Planning Commission:** "United Voice" wants to submit a potential ordinance for sewage/septic systems.

**Road:** 2020 road estimates were received from Mark Timmer of the road commission.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Change meeting dates for February and March:** Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mrs. Iteen to approve changing to February 10 instead of the 11<sup>th</sup> (45 days after board member was deceased) and March 17<sup>th</sup> instead of March 10 (election day). All yes, the motion carried.

**Poverty Exception:** Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mrs. Iteen to approve the following resolution:

**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 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020, there being present: Supervisor: Fuehring, Clerk: Iteen, Treasurer: Cargill.

Absent: Trustees: Beggs, Walsworth deceased

The following resolution was offered:

**GOLDEN TOWNSHIP**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-1**

**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.

Poverty Exemption Resolution Cont'd:

- 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, 2019 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2020 assessments:

| Size of Family Unit             | Annual Household Income |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1                               | \$12,490                |
| 2                               | \$16,910                |
| 3                               | \$21,330                |
| 4                               | \$25,750                |
| 5                               | \$30,170                |
| 6                               | \$34,590                |
| 7                               | \$39,010                |
| 8                               | \$43,430                |
| For each additional person, add | \$4,420                 |

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 Connie Cargill and supported by Board Member Rachel Iteen.

Upon Roll Call vote, the following voted:

Aye: Cargill, Iteen, Fuehring

Nay: None

Absent: Beggs, Walsworth deceased

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

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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 14, 2020, 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 15th day of January, 2020.

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Rachel Iteen, Township Clerk

**GOLDEN TOWNSHIP**

**Clean-up Day:** The third Saturday in May which is May 16<sup>th</sup> this year.

**Library Contract:** Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mrs. Iteen to approve the library contract as written for the amount of \$15,000. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

**MTA Conference:** Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mrs. Iteen to approve payment for those who would like to attend. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

**Budget Hearing:** Motion by Mrs. Iteen, supported by Mrs. Cargill to schedule the budget hearing on Monday, February 10 at 7:15 pm just prior to the February board meeting. All yes, the motion carried.

More Public Comment:

-Mark Borst asked when will the board appointment be made.

-Mike Cook talked about Oceana County becoming a sanctuary county for weapons – Red Flag Law.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel Iteen  
Golden Township Clerk