

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP  
JANUARY 12, 2021  
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, Bill Kolenda

Absent: Gary Beggs - participated by phone.

Also, present: Ed McNeely, Township Attorney; and 4 guests.

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

**Agenda:** Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mr. Kolenda to approve the agenda with the addition of #7. Replacement of BOR alternate. All yes, the motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**The Treasurer read the Financial Report.** The ending balance in the Fund as of January 11, 2020 was as follows: General Fund \$2,277.94; Road fund \$741.85; Capitol Savings Fund \$2,941.69. The Michigan Class investment funds for the above funds are as follows: GF \$89,563; RF \$226,579; CSF \$87,607.

**Bills:** Motion by Mr. Kolenda, supported by Mrs. Cargill to pay check numbers 18604 – 18629, and EFT 135 in the general fund for the amount of \$70,411.50. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

**Reports:**

**Zoning:** There were 3 permits; 2 were for new homes. 54 Rental permits have come in so far for 2021.

**Park:** None

**Assessor:** None

**Fire:** Jake Whelpley supplied a retirement report to the board from Jack White for the years of his service.

**Planning Commission:** There were no PC meetings in November and December. The PC will elect new officers this year. The Golden Township Board of Trustees appointed two new members: Larena Kramer and Ana Rapa.

**Road:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Mears Christmas Decorations:** Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mrs. Iteen to approve \$100 to Eric Johnson for the Village of Mears Christmas decorations. All yes, the motion carried.

**Clean-up Day:** Set for May 15, 2021, (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May)

**Poverty Exemption:**

**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 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021, there being present: Supervisor Fuehring, Clerk Iteen, Treasurer Cargill, and Trustee Kolenda

Absent: Trustee Beggs, although he listened by phone for the meeting.

The following resolution was offered:

## RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 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.
- 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, 2020 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2021 assessments:

Size of Family Unit	Annual Household Income
1	\$12,760
2	\$17,240
3	\$21,720
4	\$26,200
5	\$30,680
6	\$35,160
7	\$39,640
8	\$44,120
For each additional person, add	\$4,480

- 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 Rachel Iteen and supported by Board Member Connie Cargill. Upon Roll Call vote, the following voted:  
Aye: Iteen, Cargill, Kolenda, Fuehring

Nay: None  
Absent: Beggs  
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 12, 2021, 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 13th day of January, 2021.

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Rachel Iteen, Township Clerk

**GOLDEN TOWNSHIP**

**Budget Hearing:** The budget hearing will be set for February 9, 2021 at 7:15 pm just prior to the February board meeting.

**Bank Signatures:** Motion by Mr. Kolenda, supported by Mrs. Cargill to remove Mindy Whitney from the Bank Signatures as she is no longer the deputy treasurer. Connie Cargill, Treasurer; Rachel Iteen, Clerk; and Brenda Draper, Deputy Treasurer are approved on bank signatory. All yes, the motion carried.

**Ruggles Repair to Gym Block Wall:** Rory Ruggles offered to do the work under a time and material contract. Mr. Kolenda voiced concern and wanted a bid, or as Mrs. Cargill suggested a not to exceed amount. No motion was made.

**Replacement of Alternate BOR:** Motion by Mrs. Iteen, supported by Mrs. Cargill to appoint Doug Dykstra for a 2-year term in place of Todd Brandel who has moved to Whitehall.

Meeting adjourned 7:53 pm.  
Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel Iteen  
Golden Township Clerk