

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP
ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2024

The meeting of the Golden Township Election Commission was called to order by the Clerk, Rachel Iteen at 7:24p.m. in the Golden Township Hall.

Commission present: Rachel Iteen, clerk; Connie Cargill, treasurer; Carl Fuehring, supervisor
The clerk read the names of the election inspectors to be appointed for the February 27, 2024, election.

Motion by Mr. Fuehring, supported by Mrs. Cargill to appoint: Rachel Iteen, Clerk; Essiah Posobiec, Deputy Clerk appointed as Chairmen; Nancy Peters, Democrat; Pam Tingley, Democrat; as election inspectors for the February 27, 2024 election. The following were appointed as alternates: Sue Hendrie, Democrat; Jane Beaudoin, Christine Juhl, Jeff Iteen, and Rob Moul, Republicans. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP
January 9, 2024
MINUTES

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call of Board Members: Carl Fuehring, Connie Cargill, Rachel Iteen, Bill Kolenda, and Doug Dykstra.

Board Members Absent: None

Also present: Rob Draper, Zoning Administrator; Sheriff Craig Mast and 15 guests.

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

Agenda: Motion by Mr. Dykstra, supported by Mrs. Cargill to approve the agenda with the addition of number 4. Purchase of a T. V. to display documents at meetings. All yes, the motion carried.

Correspondence:

1. Pentwater Township – Master Plan Adopted

Financial Report: The ending balance in the fund as of January 9, 2024 was as follows: General Fund \$145,111.11; Road fund \$95,479.71; Capitol Savings Fund \$2,505.72. The Michigan Class investment funds for the above funds are as follows: GF \$231,317.36; RF \$369,358.87; CSF \$159,706.56.

Bills: Motion by Mr. Dykstra, supported by Mr. Kolenda to pay check numbers 19886 - 19914 and EFT 175 in the general fund for \$84,858.62. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

Reports:

-**Sheriff:** Craig Mast went over 2023 statistics reports. They may be reviewed on the township website. Sheriff Mast announced he was going to run again for sheriff again this year.

-Zoning: For the 2023 year, there were 89 permits of which 25 were new homes, and 227 rental permits. There are three public hearings for the planning commission this month: Off Road Amusements LLC (Sand dragstrip); Rezone for Chad Coker property; Special Use Permit for cell tower.

-Fire: None

-Planning Commission: No meeting was held last month.

-Assessor: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Clean Up Day: Clean-up day is set for May 18, 2024 - The 3rd 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 9th day of January 2024, there being present: Supervisor Carl Fuehring, Clerk Rachel Iteen, Treasurer Connie Cargill, Trustees: Bill Kolenda and Doug Dykstra.

Absent: None

The following resolution was offered:

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1

**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, 2023 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2024 assessments:

Size of Family Unit	Annual Household Income
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280
7	\$45,420
8	\$50,560
For each additional person, add	\$5,140

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.

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 Kolenda and supported by Board Member Cargill Upon Roll Call vote, the following voted:

Aye: Kolenda, Cargill, Dykstra, Iteen, Fuehring

Nay:

Absent: None

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 9, 2024, 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 10th day of January, 2024.

Rachel Iteen, Township Clerk

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP

Set Budget Hearing: Budget Hearing is set for March 12 at 7:15 pm.

T.V. for displaying documents in meetings: Mr. Dykstra will investigate.

Public Comment:

-Michael Jonassen talked on the ORV issue stating that all are welcome if licensed and insured. He also mentioned issues with signage and noise.

-Tom Hartman brought up the need for road tree trimming and concerns on having non-licensed, uninsured ORVs on the roads.

-Tim Bonnell talked about Juniper Beach Road needing to be fixed since the trucks carrying rock destroyed it.

Meeting adjourned 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel Iteen
Golden Township Clerk