

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP  
**September 10, 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.

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; Ed McNeely, Township Attorney, Nancy Sterk, Hart Area Public Library, two representatives from Manistee Library and about 40 guests.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Mr. Dykstra, supported by Mrs. Cargill to approve the minutes of last month's regular board meeting with correction under Vertical Bridge: ~~Table this.~~ All yes, the motion carried.

**Agenda:** Motion by Mr. Dykstra, supported by Mrs. Cargill to approve the agenda with additions of #4 under old business – Manistee Library. All yes, the motion carried.

**Correspondence:**

1. Primary Election Results from County Clerk's Office, Ask Clerk to Review
2. Consumers Energy – New Efficiency Kit coming

**Financial Report:** The ending balance in the fund as of September 10, 2024 was as follows: General Fund \$88,340.72; Road fund \$676.59; Capitol Savings Fund \$2,749.69. The Michigan Class investment funds for the above funds are as follows: GF \$445,352.15; RF \$558,720.54; CSF \$185,241.70.

**Note:** The township may only retain 1% of the taxes received. All the rest is distributed as required.

**Bills:** Motion by Mr. Dykstra, supported by Mr. Kolenda to pay check numbers 20196 - 20233 and EFT 184 in the general fund for \$40,052.40. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

**Reports:**

**-Zoning:** There were 89 permits with 20 of them being new homes, 224 rental permits (227 last year). Upper Silver Lake Association is planning to enforce their bylaws beginning 2025 and not allowing short-term rentals.

**-Parks:** Applefest brought in 15-20,000 people and it went well.

**-Fire:** There were a little over 200 calls this year and the department has added 2 new fighters.

**-Planning Commission:** Motion by Mr. Kolenda, supported by Mrs. Cargill to approve the major modification for Dune Lockers #64-006-004-300-03 added to PUD 006-004-100-05 for condo storage units off B-15 (Ridge Road) and Harrison Road Area with the condition that if the by-laws are changed it will have to be approved again by the Planning commission. Also included in is that whoever the HOA of the PUD agrees to pay the attorney fees for the township if the township must step in to enforce the PUD. Roll Call all yes, the motion carried.

-Motion by Mr. Kolenda, supported by Mrs. Cargill to send the acres required on PUD discussion to the Planning Commission. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

**-Roads:** Work is continuing. Streets in Mears are being worked on at this time.

**-Assessor:** As written

**Old Business:**

**Sale of Property on Corner of Hazel and 52<sup>nd</sup>:** Motion by Mr. Kolenda, supported by Mr. Dykstra to appoint Carl Fuehring as signer for Golden Township concerning the sale of 40 acres, property #006-026-100-04 to Hallack Contracting Inc. (Only one revision was received by Hallack Contracting Inc., Steve Dykstra of Assert Sales and Service did not put in a second bid.)

**Library:** A letter received today from the library was read. It stated that a resident offered to donate \$5,000 to add to the \$20,000 the township was willing to pay the library. Mr. Dykstra reminded Nancy Sterk that Carl Fuehring and

himself had met with her on June 3 at the library to negotiate and she told them no negotiations. A work session is needed on this issue.

**Revisit Zoning 4.18 (Accessory buildings - remove or put stipulations in place):** This is Dead

**Manistee Library:** 2 representatives from Manistee Library talked to the board. They requested the link to their library card policy be removed from the township website and stated that their service area would be redefined as they cannot absorb charges that could occur from Golden Township for e services, but the township residents would be welcome to checkout in house materials as it does not cost anything additionally.

**New Business:**

**Bids for mowing, snowplowing:** Motion by Mr. Kolenda, supported by Mr. Dykstra to approve bid put in the Echo. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

**Trimming at Mears Cemetery:** Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mr. Dykstra to approve the trimming bid for \$250 from Howards Lawn Care and Plowing, LLC. Roll call all yes, the motion carried.

**L-4029:** Motion by Mrs. Iteen, supported by Mr. Kolenda to approve the L-4029 milage requested. Roll call all yes, the motion carried.

**Poverty Exemption Amendment:** Motion by Mrs. Iteen, supported by Mrs. Cargill to amend the Poverty Exemption Resolution with removal of the following words in strike:

- ~~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.~~ Amended 9-10-2024 by township board. All yes, the motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

- Marty Hayden talked about the road commission putting a “road closed” sign after the DNR walking area closing off the turnaround area by the big dune. He asked this to be investigated.
- Carl Kaat wondered what the library was doing with the money.
- Tom Hartman - The township trimming along township roads still needs to be done. He heard a crash when driving his camper on his road headed to the U.P. When he arrived, a branch was still riding on the top. The upper Silver Lake dump site area is also a problem area for branches rubbing on vehicles.
- Austin Garcia asked the township to pay the library this year and come up with a plan for the next few years.

Meeting adjourned 8:38 pm.  
Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel Iteen  
Golden Township Clerk