

SODUS TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Subject to Amendment

4056 King Drive
Sodus, MI 49126
269-926-6285

Tuesday, JANUARY 9, 2024- Regular Meeting

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Chandler at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board members present: Supervisor David Chandler, Treasurer Terry McCain, Trustee Loyall Bennett, Clerk Andres

Board members absent: Trustee Ken Peters

Presentation: Deputy Katie VanKampen presented the Berrien County Sheriff's Department's November 2023 Stats Report for Sodus Township to the Board.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made by Chandler, supported by Bennett to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion made by Andres, supported by Chandler to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Accepted as read

Approval of the Bills:

General Fund 101: \$35,120.88 **Road Fund 204:** \$0.00 **Fire Fund 206:** \$6,730.41

Cemetery Fund 209: \$208.86 **Public Works 592:** 203.07 **ARPA Fund 282:** \$0.00

Motion made by Chandler, supported by Bennett to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Public comment held: Denall Miller asked if we could use a most detailed report for the bills. Clerk Andres said she would look into it and try to find a report that would include the details she requested without being too lengthy. Jim Daniels asked about whether there were other options for phone service off his road.

Actions Approved:

Motion made by Chandler, supported by Bennett to approve paying the delinquent tax notice on property number: 19-0011-0012-03-9 to the County. This payment will be completed per the legal advice of the township attorney. Roll call: Bennett-yes, Andres- yes, Chandler-yes, McCain- no. Motion carried 3:1.

Motion made by Chandler, supported by Bennett to reconsider discussion on budget review for 2023-24 FY for needed amendments. Motion carried.

Resolution #1-2024 to amend the budget was made by Andres, supported by Chandler to approve amendments to the following funds and GL numbers:

General Fund:

#101-257-801.000 Contracted Services	\$1,300.00 to \$25,000.00
#101-261-714.000 FICA	\$700.00 to \$1,000.00
#101-261-715.000 Medicare	\$300.00 to \$400.00
#101-261-808.000 Audit	\$11,500.00 to \$14,000.00
#101-261-964.003 Charge backs-Delinq. Taxes	\$200.00 to \$400.00
#101-262-955.000 Other Expense-Elections	\$6,000.00 to \$10,000.00
#101-265-960.000 Parking lot/Snow Removal	\$2,500.00 to \$4,500.00
#101-266-826.000 Legal Fees	\$15,000.00 to \$17,000.00
#101-651-818.000 Ambulance	\$13,000.00 to \$14,000.00

#101-702-703.000 Wages	\$600.00 to \$900.00
#101-702-714.000 FICA	\$50.00 to \$70.00
#101-751-965.000 Operating	\$1,000.00 to \$1,400.00

Fire Fund:

#206-336-850.000 Communications	\$2,000.00 to \$4,000.00
#206-336-977.000 Operating Equipment	\$10,000.00 to \$17,000.00

Cemetery:

#209-261-961-000 Foundation Expense	\$3,000.00 to \$3,500.00
#209-261-969.000 Insurance Premium	\$0.00 to \$400.00

Public Works:

#592-441-968.000 Depreciation/Depletion	\$0.00 to \$18,000.00
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Roll call 4:0: Andres-yes, McCain- yes, Bennett-yes, Chandler- yes. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Chandler, supported by Bennett to propose amending the Zoning Ordinance concerning solar energy systems and to petition the Zoning Administrator to initiate proceedings in the Planning Commission. Roll call 3:1: McCain-no Andres- yes, Bennett- yes, Chandler-yes. Motion carried.

Resolution #2-2024 to Approve the Meeting Dates for 2024 township meetings was made by Chandler, supported by Bennett. Roll Call 4:0: Andres- yes, McCain-yes, Chandler-yes, Bennett-yes. Motion carried.

Resolution #3 -2024 to approve the IRS business mileage reimbursement rate of 0.67 cents/mile for 2024. Roll call: Chandler-yes, Bennett-yes, McCain-yes, Andres-yes. Motion carried 4:0.

Resolution #4-2024 to establish a Local Election Commission for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election on February 27, 2024, was made by Andres, supported by Chandler. Roll call: Andres-yes, Bennett-yes, chandler-yes, McCain-yes. Motion carried 4:0.

Motion made to Andres, supported by Chandler to go ahead and get the wording prepared for the current fire millage (which is up for renewal) 0.9987 to be rolled back to 1.0 mill for the August 2024 Primary Election and also prepare wording for an additional 1.0 mill millage for the Fire Department (which would be a new millage) to help generate additional funding for the escalating costs to operate a township fire department. Motion carried 4:0.

Motion made by Andres, supported by Chandler to approve one dump pass for each household in the Township for 2024. The pass will be good for two cubic yards of waste to the Landfill Management dumpsite in Watervliet, MI from April 1,2024 to October 31,2024. Passes will be available starting April 1, 2024 or check the website for updates. Motion carried.

Reports and Communications: Fire Chief, Everett Steinke, updated the Board on the Fire Department. A five-hundred-dollar donation was received, air packs may be delayed till February and new compressor for air packs will be delayed till March.

Board and Staff Comments: New phones were installed and residents now have option to choose which official they need to speak with or leave voicemail with. A letter from Attorney Rebecca Sanborn on a personnel matter was given to Board to review.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Chandler to adjourn the meeting, supported by Bennett and so declared by Supervisor Chandler at 9:02pm. Motion carried.

Cheryl Andres
Sodus Township Clerk