

**South Branch Township
October 10, 2023
Regular Board Meeting
Unapproved**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Attending: Sylvester, Janisse, and Nelson. Absent: Barkley, Barritt.
Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending: Fire Chief Umphrey.
Guest Speaker: Dan Bonamie.

Motion by Janisse and second by Nelson to accept agenda as presented. Ayes: All. Nays: None.
Motion passed.

Motion by Nelson and second by Janisse to accept consent agenda, September Regular Meeting Minutes, September bills and invoices paid, the Treasurer's Report, Fire/EMS Report, and projected bills for October, as presented. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker Dan Bonamie, Supervisor from Beaver Creek Twp, presented on providing internet for underserved areas in Crawford County. Mr. Bonamie has been in contact with Cherry Capital Connection for servicing the area. The cost of providing the service is \$800,000 to \$900,000 to the county with townships and the county paying the cost. Mr. Bonamie stated that \$400,000 has been committed by two municipalities. Mr. Bonamie stated all residents would be served in the county who needed internet, and there would be a \$500 connection fee per household and the lowest plan is \$ 65.00. There is a government program for low income to offset cost of the monthly fees. Supv. Sylvester thanked Mr. Bonamie for his time and the information.

Fire/EMS:

Chief Umphrey discussed the sale of Ambulance 471 to Frederick Township and setting up a vehicle replacement schedule. The Chief relayed the approval of the MI Fire Grant to help pay for new radios, and also ordered two pagers and stated Frederic Township provided a pager to 911 dispatch for county wide use. Supv. Sylvester asked the fire dept to provide assistance with the large item dumpsters.

Reviewed Committee and Commission reports. Reviewed meeting minutes for the Planning Commission, Ordinance No. 2 of 2023, Solar Energy Systems was presented to the board for review. ZBA held a hearing for a resident. Reviewed Zoning Report, continue working on blight issues in the township and receiving abatement plans from residents. Road Committee, Pere Cheney and Chase Bridge Rd are coming along on their construction. Crawford County Planning Commission would like to get together with local zoning administrators to discuss planning and various zoning issues throughout the county.

Old Business: No decision on mower.

New Business: Motion by Janisse, second by Nelson to approve payment to NEMCOG for \$1,054.00 for annual dues, and payment to Tyler Watters, CPA in amount of \$5,345.00 for the township annual audit. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion passed. Clerk Nelson explained the audit report and how the new fire trucks were reported. The purchase was accounted for in the 2021-2022 budge but not received until the 2022-2023 budget year and were not reported in the 2022-2023 budget. Supv. Sylvester presented a resolution in support of State of MI operated veterans cemetery in Crawford County. Motion by Janisse, second by Nelson to approve resolution. Roll Call Vote: Janisse, Aye. Nelson, Aye. Sylvester, Aye. Barkley, Absent. Barritt, Absent. Motion passed.

Public Comment.

Meeting adjourned 7:46 pm

Brenda Nelson, Clerk