



## **BHARATIYA TEMPLE OF LANSING, INC.**

955 Haslett Road, Haslett, MI 48840

<http://lansingtemple.org>

Phone: (517) 339-6337

**Tax Exempt ID: 38-2399465**



## **General Body meeting Dec 2, 2012**

### **Agenda:**

- Prayer
- Temple Board of Trustees Report
- Treasurers report
- Proposed Annual Budget for 2013
- Vote on the Constitutional amendment
- Election of the Temple Board
- Other Agenda items -----(None added)
- Q & A

Meeting was started with Prayer by Meenaji.

Agenda was approved, 38 temple members and one non member attended meeting.

**Board of Trustees Report:** Given by Padu on behalf of Trustees since Ashok is not in Lansing.

- Promoting Spiritual Environment – Silence posters were presented with request to support silence during pujas. Back ground music played at Temple by ShriHariji is appreciated by many and adds to spritual enviroment.
- Priest: We have Surendra Bhardwaj (Shastriji) and Srihari Kadambi (Panditji) at our temple. Both of them have extensive knowledge of Hindu scriptures and able to perform Hindu Rituals from all parts of India. Between 2 of them they speak 9 Indian languages. Shrihariji's comfort with English has helped communication with non-Indian languge speaking visitors to the temple and some of Indian children. Priests are available for private pujas in and outside the temple.
- Religious / Cultural programs: Meenaji makes sure all religious and cultural functions from all parts of India are well planned and performed timely with the help of community members. Additionally Mathi Ramachandran has been very helpful. Renewed engagement of community member has been observed - many new families volunteer and have hosted Sunday Puja this year.
- Educational programs: current programs from website were listed.
- Bharatiya Temple of Lansing (facility): Functional Temple was inaugurated on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1994. Last major upgrade was September 2008 with major extension. Our Temple is 18.6 yrs old at this time. Current board's focus has been on maintenance / improvement of current facility. List of major improvements include:
  - o Safety of the visiting members as well as for Priest has been enhanced by instilation of security system / Monitors and Parking area has been resurfaced.

- Improved Audio system has been installed at first level with many positive comments by the members during fall programs. Basement installation of independent complete systems is still in progress. Audio room will be locked and both priest as well as few members will be able to help manage audio system.
- Repair of both priest homes
- Repair of the damage from auto accident
- Repair of the Temple roof water leakage – Planned in spring after 3 estimates.
- Maintenance agreements have been either updated or obtained.
- Other repairs: Furnace, Refrigerator, Elevator, class room
- Pest control, Environmental friendly, Energy saver project, Sanctum milk smell etc

**Treasurers report / Proposed Annual Budget for 2013:** Given by Madanji

- Current total Bank Balance is \$100,670.46
- Total Mortgage Balance for Temple is \$569,289.23
- Priest Contracts have been consolidated and signed by both priest.
- Total Income this year has been \$ 255K versus \$ 181K last year (40.7% change). Additionally this year we still have pending pledges of \$75K -\$80 K so far. Different income sources of 2011 and 2012 were presented in the slide.
- Major expenses were also shared with total of \$135K during 2012 versus \$148K during 2011 (-9.2%). 2012 expenses include 3 major projects.
- Financial unaudited report of 2011 was distributed. Ashok has assigned two members to audit. Motion for approval was moved by Dr. S. Gupta and seconded by Dr. Gossain. Questions were answered by Madanji. Motion was approved by all.
- Questions: Dr. Mohan suggested increasing payment towards mortgage. It will be reviewed at the end of year when budget is finalized. Veena suggested to consider environmental features with roof repair. We will look into this aspect as board is already tuned to be environmentally friendly concepts.
- 2013 budget of \$240K was proposed by Madanji, motion was moved by Dr. S. Gupta, passed unianimously.

**Proposed Amendments to The Constitution of Bharatiya Temple of Lansing:**

Madanji provided clarification or intent of the amendment to the distributed amendments:

Section 4-Future Acquisition or Construction of New or Used Capital improvement Assets

**Clarification:** -----This amendment (1) Section 4 "Future acquisition or construction of new or used capital improvement assets" shall not apply to repair and maintenance of the current existing Temple building structures however this section will apply to all new additions to the temple.

**Ved Agarwal** reported results of the amendment votes. 102 members voted YES and 10 voted NO.

Clarification was approved by the members present and results were approved unianimously (motion moved by Dr. S. Gupta).

**Election of the Temple Board:** *Ved Gossain*

1. **Ramesh Dedhia**
2. **Vani Avula**
3. **Mathi Ramchandran**
4. **Sarla Masti**

First three members are current board members and eligible for reelection. Sarla Masti is joining as a new member. We will not have election with slate of 4 members for 4 positions. Members were invited to introduce themselves. Sarla Masti was welcomed and she gave brief introductory remarks and her desire to support new members in town since she had appreciated support when she had moved in town.

Slate of new board members was approved by all.

**Questions:**

- 1. Recommendation was made to have a suggestion board. Board had discussed having suggestion box at last meeting. In addition board would like to encourage members to present their idea at board meeting as needed. Additional discussions lead us to; we need to think about a method which could be effective and not increase paper clutter at Temple or increase burden.**
- 2. Communication with Board: Members do not know whom to communicate with. Bidhan reported we have moved temple server from MSU to our own server now and are planning to have a common e-mail for board. This will also not change as board members change. He has also created face book site to communicate with younger generation, share function pictures and so on.**
- 3. Not auditing the financial report was raised by Pratin Trivedi. Madanji explain the rational why board has decided not to get audit. This was explained to the community members by email also earlier. If needed in future Board can request audit. Temple Bylaws suggest that board of trustee can have a CPA or audit committee to audit records provided by finance committee as needed.**
- 4. Get younger generation involved with the Temple: Vani reported she is a second generation Indian raised in Lansing. She represents that generation. We will need to pursue this further.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.**