

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
December 10, 2018

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, December 10, 2018 at the Portage Township Hall.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bruce Petersen at 7:00 PM

Pledge Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bruce Petersen

In attendance were Supervisor Bruce Petersen, Clerk Amy Skewes, Treasurer Betsy Smith and Trustees Peggy Anderson, Bill Bingham, Bill Fink, and John Ollila.

Additions or Changes to the Meeting Agenda:

Sheri Faull help with BS&A Cemetery software

MTA marijuana document

Alfred Drago to discuss opening medical marijuana facility

Ollila motioned to accept changes to the agenda. Bingham seconded. All in favor.

Approval of the Bd. of Trustees Previous Minutes: Will be done at a later date

Approval of the Bills:

Anderson noted in the bills that there were penalties from the City of Houghton for sewer usage, possibly due to heavy rain and residents pumping water into sewer. Will look at ordinance to see if township can inspect a homeowner to see if they are pumping water into sewer.

A motion was made by Anderson and seconded Ollila to approve the bills as audited. All in favor, motion carried by a voice vote.

Review Clerk's Report: Amy is currently learning the job, has been working with Heidi Paoli and Deb Bradford. Chris Abramson is her deputy clerk. She also may call on Sherry Faul for additional training.

Review Treasurer's Report: Taxes are going out well, will follow up by e-mail with mortgage companies. Will continue to train with Carol Little 1 time per week.

Clarified that bills paid by clerk get mailed out by treasurer.

Review Zoning Administrator's Report (John/Bill) for (September 2018): Distributed. Attached.

There are two

Review Fire Departments:

OLFD: Fires, 1 EMS. 1

Purchase agreement for Karvako's building is signed, closing date coming soon. Discussed Township paying 85,000 and Otter Lake Fire paying 85,000 for new building. Ollila motioned to split the price, Fink seconded. Motion passed with a roll call vote.

Aye:

Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Peterson, Skewes and Smith

Nay: None

HTFD: Fires, EMS.

Would like to see Jared Ruotsala attend meetings or at least give fire report.

Review Assessor's Report: Distributed. Attached.

Public Comments: Alfred Drago is looking to open a medical Marijuana grow business in the Elo/Pelkie area. Possibly a class C, when recreational begins he may want to have ½ and ½. Looking at a 10,000 square foot facility, currently looking at two properties.

Old Business:

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer & Infiltration R. D. – Meeting/Funding response from USDA, Tunnel-vision video & UPEA engineering contract for sewer project. Township is obligated by state, letter of conditions. Duane with USDA is retiring on January 21st, Bruce, Amy and Chris Holmes are meeting on December 13th in Gladstone to go over letter of conditions. Chris Holmes said most of the survey for project is done, will keep moving forward and should be ready for spring.

B. Conditional transfer of property to city – End 30 day referendum period.

C. Lots 8/9 Bids/sale progress - Deed/Bill of sale at legal council. Office needs a notary. Ollila made a motion for Vanessa to become notary, seconded by Fink. All in favor.

D. DNR 2018 Trust Fund Supplemental Info. submitted on Oct. 2, 2018. Township is the second highest in the copper country. Great score!

E. FEMA – One project will receive funding. Out of the three projects submitted by the township, one has been approved. Will learn more later.

F. Still need another B.O.R. Member. Talk about Steve Karvakko. Bruce will ask him

G. Need to change – “Progress Our Goal” Suggestions?

14. New Business:

A. After public hearing – tentative 2019 budget acceptance. Move to adopt the budget Ollila, Bingham seconded. All in favor.

B. Motion needed for 2019 monthly meeting dates, retain same bank, pay all bills through the end of December and retain Legal counsel. Ollila motioned to pay bills through end of December, Fink seconded. All in favor. Ollila motioned to retain the same bank for upcoming year, Smith seconded. All in favor. Ollila motioned to retain Nick Daavitala as legal counsel, Fink seconded. All in favor.

15. Meetings:

Ollila made a motion to have all regular board meeting to 2019 on second Monday of every month at 7 P.M. and the June meeting in Tapiola. Bingham seconded. All in favor.

A. November 27, 2018 – SP. Bd Meeting – Treasurer’s resignation and the appointment of Betsy Smith.

B. November 13, 2018 - - 2019 Board Budget work session.

C. December 10, 2018 – Early board of review Meeting.

16. Other Business:

Amy asked about paying bills as they are due to avoid paying late fees, the trustees clarified that has already approved.

January 17th is a planning commission meeting.

Fink suggested setting up a joint meeting with the Houghton planning commission 1 time per year.

17. Public Comment: No Public comments.

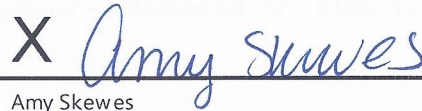
18. Adjourn: A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Bingham to adjourn at 8:55 PM. All in favor, motion carried by voice vote.

Public Attendance:

Chris Holmes
Ted Soldan
Alfred Drago

X 

Bruce Petersen
Supervisor

X 

Amy Skewes
Clerk