

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
June 10, 2019

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, June 10, 2019 at the Doelle Senior Center.

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 and Trustees Peggy Anderson, Bill Bingham, Bill Fink, and John Ollila. Absent: Treasurer Betsy Smith

Additions or Changes to the Meeting Agenda:

Sleeman's cemetery agreement, DEQ water testing, Cemetery workers, Peepsock tennis court

Ollila made a motion to accept the agenda with additions, seconded by Fink. All in favor

Approval of the Bd. of Trustees Previous Minutes: A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Anderson to approve the May 13, 2019 & May 17, 2019 and the November 1, 2018 special meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried by a voice vote.

Approval of the Bills: A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Ollila to approve the bills as audited. Aye: Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes. Nay: none Motion carried by voice vote

Anderson asking if Wex card is working. Bingham asked why all new meters were ordered at once. Bingham commented that Deputy treasurer working evenings and weekends which may cause problems during upcoming tax collection time.

Review Clerk's Report:

Working on Audit and working on balancing with Betsy.

Will be attending Accreditation for Elections Officials class in Marquette on 6/20 and 6/21.

Bingham noted that the water/sewer accounts are still off, need to review with Vanessa to see what's wrong.

Review Treasurer's Report:

Working primarily on Audit. Preparing for summer taxes.

Review Zoning Administrator's Report (John/Bill) for (May):

Carl Laitila property update - They have paid for application and penalty, will visit property. County is going to charge the contractor for building without permits.

Review Fire Departments:

OLFD: Fires, 1 EMS. 2

New firehall is coming along, next step is electrical. Next week meeting with the health dept. for permits for well and septic. Getting ready for the 4th of July parade. Parade is at 10:30. Board visited new fire hall, toured interior. New siding, new insulation and new large door access.

Review Assessor's Report: Distributed. Attached.

Public Comments:

Sleeman's cemetery water agreement. They have a crew of 4 serving 45 lots, due to poor water pressure they can only service 5 lots at a time. They would like a flat rate contract \$600.00 (per year) to water 15 lots each day (up to 2 hours). Anderson commented that they don't keep current on their bill now. After further discussion, it was determined that we will keep rates the same for everyone.

Correspondence:

Updated letter for Roy Britz for civil infractions., MI Rail Assoc., Michigan open books – FOIA request thank you.

Old Business:

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer/Infiltration Joint Project. Finishing with Matt Huuki for pump stations and easements for the grinder stations for residents.
- B. 2016 DNR Grant – DPW/TWP Match – On-going construction. The restrooms at the Dodgeville rink are about ¾ completed. Construction walkover with contractor & UPEA will occur on 6/14/2019 and billing for % done will be requested.
- C. Remote i-Pearl Sensus water meter purchase and installation -Set up meeting. Wednesday at 11 A.M. for planning for installation. Bingham commented that the DPW needs to flush the lines before installing.
- D. Planning commission – Ollila made a motion, seconded by Fink to add the following language as a special use in the rural residential zoning district "Land divisions according to Condominium Act 59 of 1978" Motion carried by a voice vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes Nay: None
- E. Guilbault – Water line moving/installation to prevent future freezing. DPW has ordered the parts, expected to be fixed soon.
- F. KRB Land swap – Property adjacent to DPW building, closing completed. Total closing costs were \$2252.00.

14. New Business:

- A. Otter Lake Sportsman's Club 300' x 300' Land purchase – old for Fire dept. site. – Township can legally sell to a non-profit with the terms that the land reverts back to township if not being used by club any longer or is not being used for purposes in agreement. A motion was made by Ollila, seconded by Bingham to sell 2.06 acres for \$2000.00 to the Otter Lake Sportsman's Club. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes. Nay: None

- B. (2) High water bills. John Hix 20062 Henry St. & Sanchez 46608 Hildebrant. Gail Sanchez from Sanchez Holdings explained that her tenants had a frozen water spicket on the back of the home, under the snow. The water was leaking directly into the ground, they are asking for a break on the sewer portion of the bill because there was no treatment of water. The sewer portion of the bill is \$1066.00.

John Hix presented a letter to the board detailing his tenants high water bill, after the water meter was replaced the water usage went from 83,800 gallons used to 5,000. The tenants were gone from mid-December through mid-January. He dye tested the toilets and there were no leaks on the property. He was not happy with how this was handled by the water department. John Hix said if this is not taken care of he will take the issue to the next level (utilities commission). He is asking for the bill to be adjusted to a rate more comparable to the previous bills.

Ollila said the Township will likely make decisions on all three water issues at the next board meeting.

- C. Damaged Fire Hydrant insurance claim – Can't claim excavation time. The insurance policy has a \$500.00 deductible and we can't claim cost for excavation so we withdrew the claim.
- D. UPPCO Digital electric meter upgrades, approx. 60,000 Customers. UPPCO is replacing meters for approximately 60,000 customers, they are changing to digital readouts/billing.
- E. Jessica Karvako – Added hours – Cemetery, water clerk & Assessor data entry. Anderson made a motion to allow Jessica Karvako to work up to 24 hours additional doing data entry for cemetery and filling in for water clerk, seconded by Fink. Motion was passed by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Peterson, Skewes. Nay: None
- F. DEQ Water Testing – The DEQ is requiring more extensive water testing for both the City of Houghton & Adam's Township supplied water.
- G. Missing Board Minutes – Are digitally available – How to store? Rukkila Negro has digital copies of the meeting minutes which are missing from the years of 2008-2014. We will put the minutes on a flash drive.
- H. Peepsock Court. Fink said with the popularity of Pickle Ball he would like the court resurfaced and stripes painted. OK'D to have painted/striped.
- I. Cemetery Workers – Personal days/Holidays – It has been an issue as to how many personal days the cemetery workers get. Petersen made a motion to give the cemetery workers 4 personal days and 3 Holidays (Labor Day, Memorial Day & July 4th) seconded by Ollila. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes. Nay: None If these days are not used they are not carried over.

15. Meetings:

- A. Century 21 – KRB Land Swap for Water & Sewer Hookups – 06/05/2019
- B. Jail Task Force – Circuit Court Room – 05/28/2019
- C. DNR Civillian Comm. – MTU – 05/22/2019
- D. US-41 & M-26 Corridor Meeting – 05/09/2019
- E. County Recovery Committee Meeting – MTU – 05/23/2019
- F. Z.B.A. – Side Yard Variance – Twp. Office – 05/30/2019

17. Public Comment: None

18. Adjourn: A motion was made by Skewes and seconded by Ollila to adjourn at 9:00 PM. All in favor, motion carried by voice vote.

Public Attendance:

Tom Heider - Otterlake FD

Colleen Hix

John Hix

Chris Holmes - UPEA

Ted Soldan – Otterlake FD

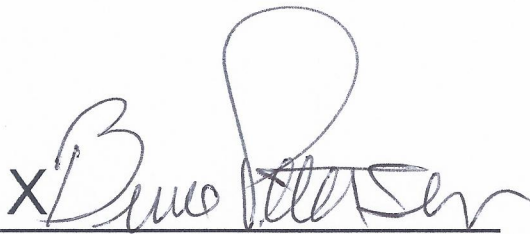
Alice Soldan

Gail Sanchez

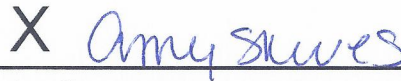
John Sanchez

Brian Bohto

Shirlee Balcom

X 

Bruce Petersen
Supervisor

X 

Amy Skewes
Clerk