

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
September 9, 2019

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, September 9, 2019 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:

Opus Web Contract, EGLE Consumer Confidence report, Playground and Playtime grant, BS&A Free class event on Oct 23, 2019

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

Approval of the Bd. of Trustees Previous Minutes: A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Anderson to approve the August 12, 20 & September 5, 2019 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried by a voice vote.

Approval of the Bills: Anderson questioned if the Karvacko bill for the septic system at Otter Lake Fire Dept. would be the last bill or if there will be another bill because there were issues with the installation of the septic system. Ted Soldan said the infiltrators will be returned & corrected, he does not know if the cost will be higher or not.

A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Ollila to approve the bills as audited. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none Motion carried by roll call vote

Review Clerk's Report:

- All New Budget numbers are updated and attached with minutes from Budget meeting
- Contacted Kurt from GBS to order new voter cards for precinct #1 voters and recommendation on a new printer for printing these cards for the Clerk's office.
- The County Clerk has scheduled a mandatory meeting on 9/30/2019 at 1 P.M. at the Franklin Township Office for all Local Clerks

Review Treasurer's Report:

- Banking Fraud protection – we have contacted the bankers and are working to implement it
- Taxes – going well, collecting as usual
- Deputy – Joe has resigned effective 9/14 due to conflicts with time and his other full-time job; we appreciate his service and look forward to having Tressa Alvarado join us in the office starting 9/16 as the deputy
- Betsy attending BS&A treasurers meeting (carpooling with Stanton Twp) in October

Review Zoning Administrator's Report (John/Bill) for (August 2019):

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly (storage wood & equipment) Paradise Road & Harrala Rd (Non-Profit Org.) Approved.

Review Fire Departments:

OLFD: Fires, 1 EMS. 2

The fire department has room to store motorcycles at \$25.00 per month, Legal council will review rental agreement. Received the well permit, the floor is done, sewer is on hold.

HTFD: 2 extractions

Grant has been submitted for the new fire truck, hoping to hear by the end of September.

Review Assessor's Report: Distributed. Attached.

Trustees Reports/Updates: Ollila listed the 12 roads entering the Township needing "zoning in effect" sign. Ollila update on woman living in car in Dodgeville, the decision on her status was made in Grand Rapids. They said they will ask Sherriff to make wellness checks.

Public Comments:

Derrick Verran asked for updates regarding Boundary Rd. Shannon Heider left a map and a letter requesting a "Bus Stop Ahead" sign for River Road/Moscow Road. Bingham commented that the Township needs to look into if the Schools, County or Township should be putting up signs due to liability. Ollila made a motion to order 1 or 2 flashing "Bus Stop Ahead" Signs, seconded by Fink. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: None.

Correspondence:

City of Houghton – Partner Letter for NPS Watershed Grant has been submitted. Franklin Township Board – Goodwill Industries, Michigan Rural Water Assoc. (MRWA), 811 Pipelines, UPPCO Information. EGLE Consumer Confidence report violation received because the report was suppose to be published July 1st and was published on July 3rd. No fine received.

Old Business:

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer & Infiltration Joint Project – Eng. Design & Bid. Chris Holmes updated, he spoke with Matt Huuki about deed for the lift station, Matt plows where it was originally planned but he thinks there is still room for the lift station. Project is 90-95% done. Goal is still to bid out in Jan/Feb.
- B. 2016 DNR Grant – DPW/TWP Match – Putting in Final submittal for Dodgeville restrooms.
- C. iPearl Meter Upgrade – Approximately 450 Done out of 500.
- D. Baraga Telephone Co. Franchise Agreement – 3% Matches Charter Spectrum Agreement
- E. Motto for Township – "Recreate Where You Work"
- F. Lara – Letter sent Aug. 20, 2019 – Our Ordinance #147
- G. Fraud Protection for TWP. General and Tax Funds – (Check Writing Protection)

14. New Business:

- A. City of Houghton – Forbearance Agreement signed – Awaiting new waste water treatment contract.
- B. Marijuana Ord. Update – Tranquility Fields would like to locate in TWP.
- C. Need to decide on Fire Dept. Millage or other prior to election. Ollila made a motion, seconded by Fink to put two mils on the ballot on March 2020 for road repair. Motion passed by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: Bingham
A motion was made by Fink, seconded by Ollila to renew 1 mil for the fire departments and have an additional ½ mil on the March ballot. Motion passed by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none
- D. Voting Precinct/Precincts consolidation – Special meeting discussion overview.
A motion was made by Fink to adopt the resolution to consolidate Precinct #1 and #2 and call it Precinct #2, seconded by Ollila. Motion was carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: None

15. Meetings:

- A. 2019 Budget Update – Township Hall – 8/20/2019
- B. Special Meeting – Computers & Networking – 9/5/2019
- C. BS&A Remote Training – Cemetery & Water Billing – 8/22 & 8/26/2019
- D. County Jail Committee – Houghton Co. Circuit Court Room – 8/4/2019
- E. River Valley Bank – Bank Fraud Meeting – 8/28/2019
- F. City of Houghton Council Meeting – Forbearance Agreement Signed – 8/28/2019

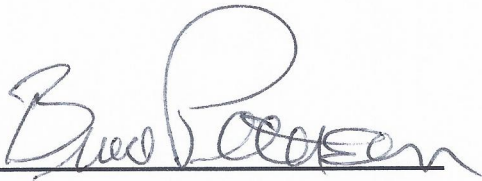
16. Public Comment: A resident voiced concerns about the Township allowing recreational marihuana growing and sales in the Township.

18. Adjourn: A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Skewes to adjourn at 8:30 PM. All in favor, motion carried by voice vote.

Public Attendance:

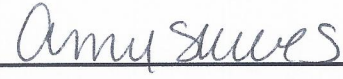
Tom Heider - Otterlake FD
Austin Kucharski - Hurontown FD
Chris Holmes - UPEA
Ted Solden– Otterlake FD
Mike Bach
Noah Bach
Derrick Verran
Crystal Verran
Dale Belanger
Shannon Heider

X

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bruce Petersen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "B".

Bruce Petersen
Supervisor

X

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Amy Skewes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Amy Skewes
Clerk