

Charter Township of Portage  
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 23, 2019

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Wednesday, October 23, 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:**

EGLE Free chlorine Violation notice, Aramark First aid proposal, Anderson comment on Planning Commission

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 Fink to approve the September 9 meeting minutes, and special meeting October 9, 2019 minutes. All in favor, motion carried by a voice vote.

**Approval of the Bills:** A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Bingham to approve the bills as audited on 10/22/19. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none

**Review Clerk's Report:**

Printed and mailed out over 800 new voter cards for all former precinct 1 voters.

Working on cleaning up old addresses with Jennifer at county, there are about 70 people in voter system with old RR addresses.

Posted to Facebook informing voters of consolidation.

**Treasurer's Report**

Banking Fraud protection – we have contacted the bankers and are working to implement it

Taxes – done for fall 2019

Taxes - winter 2019 we will delay mailing of tax bills due to taxation error.

Bills will be ready to collect as per state requirements on December 1, but will not be mailed until after December BOR meets to approve the credit.

All parcels that were overcharged last winter will be credited overcharge amounts (ranging from \$.10 to \$5.00); the taxation total was around \$800 that we overcharged folks

Post to newspaper?

Post to website, door, Facebook

Working with Up and Running, they will implement computer & technology infrastructure changes in early November; working with auditor for prep of systems prior to this change for a smooth transition.

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

Working with Laura to make sure all properties are on tax rolls

**Review Fire Departments:**

**OLFD:** 2 calls. Working on upgrading Jaws vehicle

**HTFD:** EMS. 2 calls. Progress slow in Fire Hall, think the mound system installed is up to Health Dept. specs. Otterlake FD and Hurontown FD come up with an idea to join together to have 4 or 5 new EMS responders to work on the North end of the Township to respond to calls. This is a high need area. The cost would be approximately \$1000.00 per person, would also need an AED and possibly a vehicle. Will get total costs together to present to board.

**Review Assessor's Report:** Several properties have been discovered to have structures on them, I have filed 154 petitions for each parcel to add the value of the structures to the assessment.

**Trustees Reports/Updates:**

The township received a nice card/note regarding Marty Heikkila and how helpful he is, they tried to offer him money which he refused so they sent the money in for cemetery improvements. The board decided to see if there is any equipment that Marty could use that would make his job easier.

Bingham commented that the rental agreement with Otter Lake FD renting spots for motorcycles needs to make clear that the checks need to be made payable to the Township. Bingham asked where the water line is located near the Somero building because they're building a large expansion. Bingham asked how Baraga telephone and Spectrum determine number of service customers for franchise fee.

Ollila said the 5 year update to the master plan is complete and ready to go – will be presented to board at the Nov. meeting.

**Public Comments:**

Brenda Papke had a question about EMS and how they find addresses because GPS often has street names incorrect.

Jacob Manchester presented the board with a letter from him and his wife Lynn stating concerns with the operation hours of the sand pit on Chassell Painesdale Rd. He would like clarifications of what restrictions are in place and a copy of the special use permit. Ollila has memory of a meeting in June of 2015 where 3 board members voted to give a "self-regulating" special use permit for the quarry, which will be researched. Ollila said they will research and read original agreement and follow up with him.



Sally Santeford takes issue with the fact tapes of meetings are thrown away, minutes of June 8, 2015 state times changed, did not state that there were no restrictions. Also said that the meeting in Tapiola that they wanted to use the pit for special times, not across the board, and if audio tape was available.

#### **Correspondence:**

USDA – Disaster Relief Grant, OPIOD Class Action Law Suit, Daily Mining Gazette – Newspaper in Education, Kevin Harju – Tapiola bus signage, Ken Dillinger – UPEA Letter, Napoli/Shkolnik Law Firm – PFAS compounds in water, DNR Surplus Land Auction Notification, UPPCO Notification.

#### **Old Business:**

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer & Infiltration Joint Project – Eng. Design & Bid, Jan/Feb 2020 bids will be let.
- B. 2016 DNR RP16-0012 Passport Grant – DNR Final Submittal Completed for \$39,700.00
- C. 2019 DNR Trust Fund Acquisition Grant – 280 Points. Restrooms constructed and built, grant submitted and payment received.
- D. Recreational Marijuana – Tranquility Fields  
Scott Dianda presented the board with a MI based company, based in Ann Arbor owned by Ed Santangelo. This business operates under a microbusiness license and is similar to a Starbucks/McDonalds type franchise. This business is interested in locating to the area, including Portage Township. Mike Bach, Portage Twp. resident expressed his opposition stating his concerns that the intended audience may be baby boomers but a 21 year old will end up buying. He also has concerns of stores like this popping up.
- E. iPearl Meter Upgrade – Approx. 475 Done – Activation by MTM on the final 50 Installed meters. They were installed but did not evidence activation so MTM went out and used a activation protocol to begin functioning. They should be usable on the next billing cycle (Oct. Billing)
- F. Voting Precinct Consolidation Resolution.
- G. City of Houghton – Still Awaiting New Water Treatment Contract.
- H. Hurontown Fire Dept. Rescue Truck – USDA – Rural Development Grant. The grant has been successfully submitted. Awaiting their funding response
- I. Rent-A-Flash of Wisconsin – Township Entry Signs (15) – Requested a Quote. Signs received and will be going up at most road entry points.
- J. Need to Decide on Road Millage and Fire Dept. Millage Increase.  
A motion was made by Smith, Seconded by Ollila to put 2 Mil on the March 2020 ballot for roads for 10 years. Bingham stated that the residents already pay 1.3 mils to the County for roads and he wants to take money from the general fund to help pay for roads. His concern is that the Water/Sewer is in debt and he doesn't want to ask residents for more money for roads. Motion was carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith Nay: Bingham

A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Skewes to put a 1 mil renewal on the March 2020 Ballot for 10 years for the Fire Departments. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: None

A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Skewes to put an additional .5 mil on the March 2020 Ballot for 10 years for the Fire Departments. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: None

- K. Otter Lake Sportsman's Club Land Sale – Check Received – The Deed has been Registered at the Courthouse and was sent out.

14. New Business:

- A. Lift Station Roof (2) need replacement – Contacted John Arnold at UPEA for Design/Cost.
- B. Somero Man Holes – Who Maintains the Ones East of Highway? Will look into the sewer agreement to see who controls them.
- C. AT&T Metro Act Contract – need signature  
Ollila made a motion to sign the contract, seconded by Fink. Motion carried by a voice vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: None

15. Meetings:

- A. NOTE: MTA Local Chapter Here – Township Offices – 10/24/2019
- B. Election Committee Meeting – Township Office – 10/3/2019
- C. Jail Task Force – County Courthouse – 9/30/2019 & 10/2/2019
- D. MDOT – US -41 Corridor Meeting – City Center – 9/12/2019
- E. WUUPPDR Annual Meeting – Kew. Mountain Lodge – 9/16/2019
- F. MRWA – How to Prevent a Catastrophic Event – Ramada Inn – 10/9/2019
- G. Need to Schedule – Initial 2020 Budget Meeting. Meeting scheduled on 11/21/2019 at 3 P.M.  
Also scheduled a Marijuana meeting on 10/29/2019 at 3 P.M.

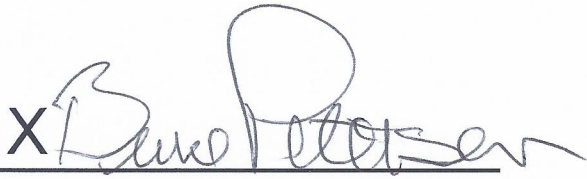
17. Public Comment: Anderson commented that the Planning Commission meetings are complete, will be scheduling 2020 meetings

18. Adjourn: A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Smith to adjourn at 9:20 PM. All in favor, motion carried by voice vote.

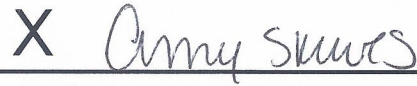
Public Attendance:

Ted Solden - Otterlake FD  
Jared Ruotsala - Hurontown FD  
Roy Britz – Houghton County Commissioner  
Brenda L. Papke  
Sandy Manninen  
Jacob Manchester  
Sally Santeford  
Chris Hohnholt  
Austin Kucharski – Hurontown FD  
Mike Bach  
Caleb Bach

Noah Bach

X 

Bruce Petersen  
Supervisor

X 

Amy Skewes  
Clerk