

Charter Township of Portage  
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

August 10, 2020

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020 via Zoom meeting.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Bruce Petersen at 11:00 AM

**In attendance** were Supervisor Bruce Petersen, Clerk Amy Skewes, Treasurer Betsy Smith and Trustees Peggy Anderson, Bill Bingham, Bill Fink, and John Ollila as stated by roll call

**Additions or Changes to the Meeting Agenda:**

PAAR Plan Response, Copper Ridge Rd., OPUS Web Information, MIOSHA Grant, Senate Bill 690, Municipal Fire Protection Questionnaire, WUPPDR Pandemic meeting, Doelle senior citizen center.

A motion was made by Bingham, seconded by Ollila to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried by a voice vote.

**Approval of the Bd. of Trustees Previous Minutes:** A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Bingham to approve the June 8, 2020 meeting minutes. 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. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none

**Review Clerk's Report:**

I had a busy month working on the election. The election went well. There were 897 voters and 482 voted absentee.

**Review Treasurer's Report:**

**Working on Taxes**

**Review Zoning Administrators' Report (John/Bill) for (July 2020):**

**Zoning Report for July 2020**

Steve Holewarth New garage Greenway Drive

Norm Saarela Tapiola Rd Storage Building (approved Double fee)

Irizarry Holdings Hurontown Soccer Fields (only fields approved refer to P.C.)

Michael Bach Superior Rd Chicken Coop (approved)

Brandon Juntunen Lake ave. Tapiola Sauna (approved)

Steve Holewarth Green Way Drive Storage Bldg. (pending)

**Communications**

Property owner asking about setbacks in RUR

Complaint about a business operating out of a home (ok) (RER)

RV for seasonal use along HWY 41  
Set backs along Hwy 41 & Railroad grade  
Questions regarding allowable uses in RUR (Denton Rd)  
Letters to property owner in R-1 (Chicken Coop not allowed)  
Letter to property owner in RUR, Building chicken coop (no permit)

**Review Fire Departments:**

**OLFD:** Fires, 1 EMS. 4

**HTFD:** No report

**Review Assessor's Report:**

July Board of Review was held on Monday, July 20, 2020 at the Doelle senior center in Tapiola, it went well.

Working on field reviews 3 days per week.

**Trustees Reports/Updates:** Anderson commented that 685 people voted from precinct 2 and 212 people voted from precinct 4 in the August 4, 2020 election.

**Public Comments:**

Deb Bradford from Rukkila & Negro went over the 2019 Audit report. She noted that all budget changes must be made in the final December meeting. She also commented that USDA is going to look at the Water/Sewer net loss of \$178,817. The Township needs to look at the negative balances in the water and sewer accounts.

Jackie Chandler from Hurontown wanted an update regarding the speed of traffic by her home. Bruce said he would look into radar/rumble strips and let her know at the next meeting.

**Correspondence:** Miss Dig – 811, Copper Country Ford, MTA – Membership Renewal, Elan City – Radar Speed Sign, EGLE Landfill Inspection – OK, Copper Country Ford – Maintenance Notification

**Old Business:**

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer & Infiltration R. D. –Chris Holmes spoke with Pat Greeley, he is working to get the 5 easement that have mortgages. They have to get the mortgage companies to release easements for the grinder stations.
- B. Car and Junk Enforcement in Dodgeville/Hurontown starting with Maple St. - Roy Britz updated the board on the properties which have received junk ordinance letters. One address will be removed due to improvements made; the others will receive a citation.
- C. Recreational Marihuana special public meeting  
Ollila suggested that Fink draft a resolution for recreational marihuana. Fink would like to have a public meeting first, after discussion he agreed to draft a resolution with blank spaces to be filled in later.

- D. Lift Station Flat Roof Repair – Both lift stations have roof issues, Bruce spoke to John Arnold of UPEA who will design a peaked roof with an eave. Cost should be \$5,000-\$6,000.
- E. Joint Clarification of Item #21 with the waste Water Treatment Contract. After reading the letter Eric Waara sent in an email to Bruce, stating that the work shall means to compel. Bruce proposed a meeting with the city next week.
- F. Denton and Boundary Road repaving using FEMA Grant & Road Millage.  
Bruce stated that it would cost the Township \$243,000 to pave Boundary Rd. and \$295,000 to pave Denton Rd. Ollila commented that the board had already agreed to pave Boundary Rd. first then focus on Superior Rd. because these are main roads travelled in the Township. Bruce commented that because of the 80/20 split we can pave Denton Rd. at a cheaper cost. Ollila said Denton Road is used mostly by local traffic and not a main road in the Township. Skewes and Smith agreed. Bruce said he would discuss our options with Kevin Harju.

#### 14. New Business:

- A. EGLE – New Water Service Line Serving 4/5 Homes in Highway – Violation.  
There was a pipe changed from a metal to a plastic pipe, a homeowner had discoloration in his water and reported it to EGLE. Petersen was not aware that when a pipe structure is changed from metal to plastic that you need to get a permit, because we did not do this, we received a violation.  
Bingham wants to know if the remaining water line is on the Abramson property or not, because he says it's probably leaking as well as the line that was just replaced. Bruce said he doesn't think so, but will find out for sure.
- B. Centerline Ditch Running through Hurontown Cleanout.  
Waiting for a quote from Danielson to clear out the plugged ditch. Bingham noted that this might be the responsibility of the County to clear the ditch and for Bruce to find out before we do it.
- C. PAAR Plan Risk Management – Response sent
- D. Senate Bill 690 Survey. Sent the survey, it's a bailout for units of government with back water and sewer bills due.
- E. MIOSHA Office safety Grant. Applied for a \$2400 grant which pays half for a Township to implement office safety modifications.
- F. A motion was made by Ollila, seconded by Anderson to pay the Doelle senior center \$50.00 for use during the Board of Review Meeting. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes. Nay: None. Absent from vote: Smith
- G. WUPPDR Pandemic Response – Moving ahead.
- H. Copper Ridge Road Pump Station. Over a 3 month period there was \$978 in wages, \$174 in Overtime wages and \$570 for the cost of Superior Service to unplug the pump twice for a total of \$ 1722.25. The total cost will be divided up between the residents on Copper Ridge Road and sent on their next water bill as stated in the previous letters.

#### 15. Meetings:

- A. June 24, 2020 - MTA Q & A COV-19 Impacts Zoom Meeting.
- B. July 20, 2020 – Sewer and Water Comm. Meeting – Minutes Mailed.
- C. July 27, 2020 - Met with Brian Irizary - On-Site at Soccer Club Site.

- D. July 28, 2020 – Debbie Bradford – 2019 Audit Report – Township Hall.
- E. Need to Schedule → Personnel & Cemetery Comm. & Board Budget Mtgs. Personnel meeting scheduled for August 21, 2020 10:30 AM. Cemetery Committee Meeting scheduled for August 21, 2020 at 11:30 AM

**16. Other Business:**

Our next regular meeting will be held on September 14, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. Via Zoom

**17. Public Comment:**

None

**18. Adjourn:** A motion was made by Petersen and seconded by Smith to adjourn at 1:50 PM. All in favor, motion carried by voice vote.

Public Attendance:

Matt Heath

Jackie Chandler

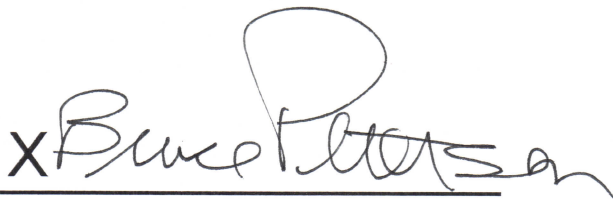
Chris Holmes - UPEA

Laura Earhart - Assessor

Roy Britz

Debbie Bradford – Rukkila & Negro

Todd

X 

Bruce Petersen  
Supervisor

X 

Amy Skewes  
Clerk