

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
February 10, 2020

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020 at the Portage Township Hall.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bill Fink at 7:00 PM

Pledge Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Fink

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

Additions or Changes to the Meeting Agenda:

Ollila proposed moving item 15D under new business up to be discussed under the assessor's report.

Ollila made a motion to accept the agenda with the change, 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 minutes from January 13, 2020. All in favor, motion carried by a voice vote.

Approval of the Bills: Anderson noted that the Township was charged penalties on sewer from the City of Houghton on 12/29 and 12/30, the penalties were minor as the new 1.1% penalty fee was applied. 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, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none

Review Clerk's Report:

- I am getting busy with election stuff. So far 205 absentee applications have been mailed out, 79 ballots, 9 ballots received back
- Ballots arrived on 2/3/2020
- Working on finalizing the 2019 budget and getting all entries entered
- Public accuracy test scheduled for 2/19/2020 at 1 P.M.

Review Treasurer's Report:

- Working on end of year audit reports to auditor
- Winter 2019 taxes are being collected. Disbursed much of what we have taken in for end of year book closure to drain the tax account. Will be posting end of season hours to the website, door, facebook
 - Office hours on Feb 13 9am to 3pm, Feb. 14 from 10am to 2pm
 - Office hours on Feb 27 9am to 3pm, Feb 28 9am to 3pm (mandatory day)

Review Zoning Administrator's Report (John/Bill) for (January 2020):

Ollila had an update on the prospective church, the current property owner does not want the property re-zoned, so he now will propose to the Township Planning Commission that they add churches as a special use to the M-1 district.

Review Fire Departments:

OLFD: Fires, 1 EMS. 1

Doing some remodeling on the new fire hall

HTFD: Fire, 1 EMS. 6

Working on the grant for the new rescue truck. Fire Department has 2 new members

Review Assessor's Report: March is board of review month. Only 2020 Assessed values and disabled veterans' exemptions will be addressed. Notice of assessments will be going out within the next 10 days.

There was discussion regarding training/travel expenses for the assessor. It was noted by the board that there is money budgeted for training and travel expenses.

Trustees Reports/Updates:

Ollila spoke to Roy Britz about the ordinance form and it says Zoning Violation so John will correct the form and make a new version for board review.

Public Comments:

The Fire Department had questions regarding the proposals on the March ballot. There are 2 separate Fire Dept. proposals, one for a millage renewal and one for an additional millage.

Correspondence: ISD Millage collection

Smith updated that the money can be deducted from the disbursements issued. She will be billing for the last couple of years.

Old Business:

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer & Infiltration R. D. – Easement has been received. Deeds have been received from Matt Huuki. Waiting for letter from MJO to get to MDOT. Should be getting ready for bids in March
- B. *City of Houghton – Waste Water Treatment Contract Signed by Township.*
- C. Marihuana Recreational Dispensary Establishment – A special meeting was scheduled to discuss on 2/26/2020 at 3 P.M.

14. New Business:

- A. 46529 Maple Street – There have been complaints regarding home being abandoned, windows are broken, doors open and residents are concerned that children may get hurt on the property. Will have Bruce contact the County about getting the property condemned.
- B. Resolution for Otter Lake Fire Dept. EMF for \$5000.00 Annually to help offset their costs.

Ollila made a motion, seconded by Smith for Portage Township to Fund Otter Lake EMS \$5000.00 each year going forward and including year 2019. Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Skewes, Smith. Nay: None

15. Meetings:

A. P.C. Special Meeting/Public Hearing – Rezoning request – M-1 Clarification – 2/13/2020

B. B.O.R. Training – Feb. 11, 2020 at Magnusson – Houghton

17. Public Comment: Resident, Mike Bach expressed concerns about the Township opening up to Marihuana establishments. He feels with the passing of Proposal 1 in the township that most people voted yes for the use of marihuana but not for a business to be put up in their neighborhood.

Anderson asked about the outstanding water bills in the Township. Will send out shut off notices and shut off water if no payment received.

18. Adjourn: A motion was made by Fink and seconded by Smith to adjourn at 8:25 PM. All in favor, motion carried by voice vote.

Public Attendance:

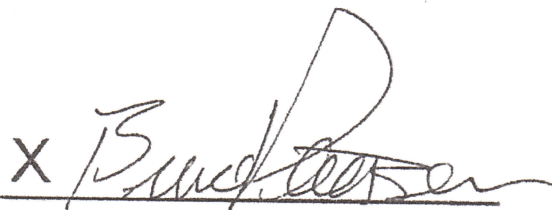
Tom Heider - Otterlake FD

Jared Ruotsala - Hurontown FD

Chris Holmes - UPEA

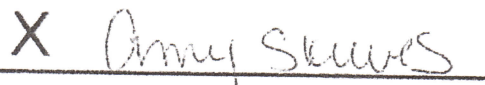
Mich Bach - Resident

X



Bruce Petersen
Supervisor

X



Amy skewes
Clerk