

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

June 14, 2021

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021 via Zoom meeting.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bruce Petersen at 10:30 AM

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

Additions or Changes to the Meeting Agenda:

Correspondence - Bike crossing signs, Assessor report - certificate received, New Business - New vehicle for DPW & Cemetery, UPSET Funding. Planning commission workshop meeting on 6/10/2021. Old Business - lights and signs in Tapiola

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

Approval of the Bd. of Trustees Previous Minutes: A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Bingham to approve the May 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried by a voice vote. Absent: Fink

Approval of the Bills: Anderson commented that the Township went over sewer with the City of Houghton 6 days last month in the amount of \$523.77. Bingham commented that the Township went over 50,000 gallons 24 days.

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, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none. Absent: Fink

Review Clerk's Report:

- Working on Audit with new auditor
- Sent out 690 AV applications for the August election
- The township needs an emergency "off hours" phone number. Several weekends I have been contacted with water/sewer problems and residents don't know who to contact. Bruce commented that Mike Becia's phone number should be used as the emergency contact, Skewes stated that the person should be compensated for being on call after hours and on weekends for emergencies. It was decided that the personnel committee would meet on June 23, 2021 at 3 P.M. to discuss.

A motion was made by Bingham to pay a \$1.00 per hour bonus (not subject to pension) to Vanessa Dietz, Mike Becia, Tom Dorvinen, Chuck Saari, Marty Heikkila, Steve Manninen, Tim Shiroda, and Nathan Turcotte from 3/1/2020 - 12/31/2020, seconded by Ollila. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none. Absent: Fink

A motion was made by Bingham to pay all Hurontown and Otter Lake volunteer fire department members a \$300.00 Bonus for the 2020 year, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none. Absent: Fink

Review Treasurer's Report:

- Prepping for audit
- Prepping for taxes sending out in July

Review Zoning Administrators' Report (John) for (May 2021):

Very little construction, likely because of the cost of materials:

Beauchamp, Onkalo's Corners, new house. Approved but needed Demolition permit from County and Soil Erosion permit from Drain Commissioner.

Roache, Hongisto Road, new storage building. Approved.

Singer, South River Road, Tapiola, new storage building. Approved. Phone calls/Correspondence/Questions: Chickens on Mill Road, Fences in R-3 along Portage Lake, Storage buildings on corner of Denton Road and road into condo site, Setback for garage along old U.S. 41, Setback for substandard lot in LAR district, Concrete floors in storage buildings on Little Brothers' site on Haarala Road, Storage buildings on old #6 mine site on Green Acres Road, Lengthy conversations and emails with United States Dept. of Tobacco and Firearms regarding a license application for Don DeForge in #2 Location.

Review Fire Departments:

OLFD: No report

HTFD: No report

Review Assessor's Report: Laura stated she is taking July 6,7 & 8 off as vacation but will be returning to work on the weekend.

She has been looking into the 425 agreements with the City of Houghton and has located all but one.

The Township received a certificate for a perfect score for the 2020 AMAR review

Board of Review July 19 2021 at 11 A.M. at Doelle senior citizen center.

Trustees Reports/Updates: Ollila met with Patrick Carlson who is building a plumbing and heating business on M-26, after research and discussion with Bill Bingham and Chris Holmes he recommends the new business hook up to Adam's Township sewer.

Bingham Asked about the number of homes with the sump pumps and if they have been checked again. Bruce said he will have DPW check again.

Bingham asked if Bruce checked on the lights and signs yet for Tapiola. Bruce stated he had not got to it yet.

Public Comments: Baraga Telephone updated the board on their plans for the Township in the next couple of years with fiber. They would like to coordinate installation with the Township with any upcoming road, water/sewer projects.

Correspondence: DNR - Thank You, EGLE – Water Resources Division – Pre-App. Mtg., MRWA – Training, Dept. of Justice – Zoning OK, USDA – RD Authorization to Let Bids for Sewer Project, USDA – RD – Payments Due Reminder Letter. Someone inquired about Bike Crossing signs on Pilgrim Road, they cost \$200.00 and the Road Commission will put in.

Old Business:

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer Project – USDA - RD Proceed to Bid and (Water Line Easements & Permitting Progress from EGLE – Last 2 Years.) Authorized to bid, will advertise in Newspaper today. Bids accepted until July 14, 2021 at 3 P.M. at the Township office.
- B. Installation of iPearl/Omni and Allie Meters for Businesses and Residential. Core and Main is able to get some of them but not all because of the shortage of computer chips
- C. Road Comm. 2021 Dust Abatement Program – Numbers Submitted for Contract.
- D. American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) - COVID Relief Bill – Receive Approx. \$308,360.00. (Suggestions for Expenditure of This Revenue - Bonuses) Will wait to pay bonus checks until money is received.
- E. New B-3 Quiet Business Zone –In Process
- F. Zoning Comm. – MTA Indicates Comm. it is Illegal – P.C. Has sole Discretion.
- G. 2020 Cons. Confidence Report – EGLE is Reviewed & Published. Sent to newspaper, Bruce has not seen in there yet
- H. (2) Sewage Lift Stations Roof Designs/Bid Letting – Mooney at UPEA.

14. New Business:

- A. Boundary Road Repair & FEMA Bids Let & Awarded to Bacco– Road Comm. Township will be receiving a contract for the sale of sand from the Townships sand pit on Boundary Rd.
 - a. A motion was made by Bingham to approve a contract to sell Bacco Construction fill from the Township's sand pit for their road projects, seconded by Ollila. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none. Absent: Fink
- B. Plat Book Ad – approved
- C. John French – Baraga Telephone Company – Faster Internet in Rural Areas.
- D. Portable Radar Speed Sign – Equally Cost Shared with City of Houghton. Cost is \$7890.00, we will share the cost with the City of Houghton
- E. Sign for the Hurontown Recreation Area – DNR Passport Grant Requires a sign at the entrance.
- F. BS&A Two Day Utility Billing – Vanessa. A motion was made by Bingham to have Vanessa attend on-site training, seconded by Ollila. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.

- G. New vehicle for Dorvinen and Cemetery - Will check around at dealerships for quotes on new trucks.
- H. Upset Funding - Bingham made a motion to send \$3000.00 from the marihuana fund to UPSET West, seconded by Skewes. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none. Absent: Fink
- I. EGLE – CDSMI – Looking for Lead Service Lines – Must confirm Each Line.

15. Meetings:

- A. May 12, 2021 - Recreation Committee – Facility Scheduling.
- B. May 19, 2021 – EGLE – Hunter King – Centerline Ditch in Hurontown.
- C. May 17, 2021 - Rukkila/Negro Audit Meeting – Crystal – Will Discuss with Pete.
- D. May 27, 2021 - MTA Local Chapter – Albert Koskela Speaker.
- E. May 11, 2021 – Met with Assessor and Marcy Erickson.
- F. June 8, 2021 – NATaT Webinar – American rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update.

16. Other Business: Discussion was made regarding a flashing overhead traffic light to be placed in Tapiola. Bingham and Ollila will investigate how to pay for the light. Anderson asked if there was an update regarding board meetings returning to in-person in July. She was reminded that the board had voted to remain meeting via zoom until 12/31/2021

17. Public Comment: none

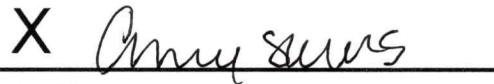
18. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Public Attendance:

Chris Holmes - UPEA
Scott Perkins
Brian Hutzler
Laura Erhart
Shannon Perkins
Vanessa Dietz
Roy Britz

X 

Bruce Petersen
Supervisor

X 

Amy Skewes
Clerk