

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

September 13, 2021

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021 via Zoom meeting.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bruce Petersen at 6 PM

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:

Correspondence – Adult use marihuana response, cemetery objects removal in Gazette, Pittsburg
Paints, mapping solutions

New Business – New Vehicle purchase as well as trailer

A motion was made by Ollila, seconded by Bingham 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 August 9, 2021 regular meeting and August 23, 2021 and September 1, 2021 special meeting minutes with the addition of adding to the September 1, 2021 minutes that the 5 year payback begins in 2021. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Approval of the Bills:

Anderson commented that the American Welding bills seem high and would like someone to research why, also she commented that Otter Lake Fire Dept. had a bill from Sleeman Construction for \$1300.00 and suggested that someone go over their budget with them to make sure they do not overspend. Bruce said he would meet with the Otter Lake Fire Chief at the office next week.

Bingham commented that the UPEA bill seemed to have a double charge for lift station repairs, and would like it to be checked into.

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:

- There is a new deputy clerk as of 9/1/2021, her name is Jade Duquette

Review Treasurer's Report:

- Collecting taxes, 9/14/21 is summer tax due date and the treasurer will be in the office 9am to 3pm on this date.

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

PERMITS:

8/10 – 19096 Canal Road, 2nd story deck, approved
8/10 – 43999 Baltic/Onkalo Corner Road, 2019 illegal house, approved
8/18 – 45756 Paradise Road, new pole barn, approved
8/24 – Denton Road, Hill, new mobile home, approved
8/26 – 19608 Aldrich Road, new enclosed porch, approved
8/31 – 18710 Sermon Road, new sauna, approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

8/1 – airbnb Canal Rd., 8/2 – setback from gas lines, 8/3 – location of water/sewer for building site opposite Twp. tower, 8/5 – Pyykkonen incomplete Zoning Application, 8/6 – Rob Olsen Tapiola light, 8/10 – Rositto two buildings on same application form, 8/17 – sent email to owner of non-permitted homes on Fairway View Road, 8/24, 8/25, 8/27 – Woodland rental complaint,
8/30 – questions building site Denton & Fairway, 8/30 – airbnb Naumkeg

Review Fire Departments:

OLFD: 6 Fire, 5 EMS. The fire department hosted 15 junior fire fighters.

HTFD: The van room where elections are held is currently getting painted and cleaned up, multiple upgrades to the building, the upstairs has been sectioned off to help with heating. Same number of firefighters, actively do trainings to keep up with the times. 3 jaws calls this month and 1 carbon dioxide alarm call

Review Assessor's Report:

No report submitted

Trustees Reports/Updates: Anderson commented that the last scheduled Planning Commission meeting is at 7 PM on October 21st. Ollila suggested that the P.C. might reschedule later in the year to accommodate a B-3 meeting if the map becomes available.

Public Comments: A resident commended the Township to have zoom meetings so the public can easily attend.

Correspondence: Houghton Co. Rd. Comm. – Stop Sign and Boundary Road Access, USDA-FSA – PATHH Program for Timber Harvesters/Haulers, Mary Sears E-Mail Update – Redistricting, Adult use marihuana response, cemetery objects removal in Gazette, Pittsburg Paints, mapping solutions

Old Business:

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer Project – USDA – RD Response & Flo-Dar Meter Calibration – Crane Engineering. Chris Holmes from UPEA stated that he consulted Chassell Carpentry to fix the lift station roofs, they estimated \$8000.00 for each roof. Ollola made a motion to hire Chassell Carpentry to do the lift station roofs, seconded by Fink. Motion was carried by a roll call vote.
Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.

- B. B-3 Quiet Business Zone – WUPPDR Map & Planning Commission. Ollila has the letter intended for the residents ready to go when the map is done. The letter has been proofed by Bill B., Bill F., and Ted S. Still waiting for list of parcels from the assessor for the map.
- C. EGLE Permit for Water Service Along Green Acres Road Granted - Hurontown Center Ditch Cleanout for Fall – Additional Permit Fee \$ and Adjacent Owners Supplied to EGLE - Went to Public Review Period.
- D. 425 With City of Houghton – Crystal Morgan’s Representation Response. She has reservations stepping into a role of general legal needs of the township but will be available for certain legal needs on an as needed basis or she could refer us to another attorney.
- E. Bacco Sand Sale – (\$6,518.25) - Road Commission Blocked Off Boundary Road; thus little sand was sold.
- F. Vehicle Purchase – DPW & Cemetery. To order a new truck it will take about 4-6 months to get it. A motion was made by Fink to order a new 1-ton truck from Keweenaw Chevrolet for approximately \$40,000, seconded by Ollila. Motion was carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.
- G. New Trailer Purchase – cost is about \$12,500. A motion was made by Bingham to purchase a new trailer, seconded by Anderson. Motion was carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.

New Business:

- A. Annexation Process – County Council Creating Resolutions - New Jail Location. Fink commented that it is not in the best interest of the Township to currently allow annexation of the property when the County has had prior failed bond requests, this property is prime real estate.
- B. 425 Committee Creation – Millage and Jurisdiction Upon Termination/End Date - Review all New and Existing 425’s With City. Ollila made a motion to have Bill Bingham and Bill Fink on the 425 committee, seconded by Anderson. Motion was carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.
- C. Water Heater Damaged While Working on Waterline Extension. A resident says she had sediment come into her water heater and damage it during the water replacement in Hurontown. Bruce will contact DPW and the resident to see the water heater.
- D. New Cemetery Member – (Julie Riolo).
- E. True North Law – FOIA Request - \$517.50 Total Cost – 50% Requested.
- F. Water Billing Bar Codes Used for Locating Accounts.

15. Meetings:

- A. August 12, 2021 - Personnel Comm. – Township Office.
- B. August 9, 2021 – EGLE Regulators – Water Line Permit.
- C. August 23, 2021 – 2021 Budget Meeting – Township Office.
- D. Julie Riolo – Cemetery Committee – Works at Wells Fargo Bank.
- E. September 1, 2021 - Enterprise Funds Resolution for RD.

Public Comment:

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

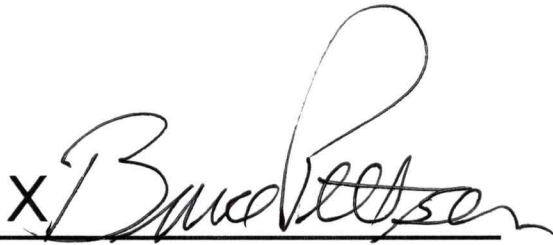
Public Attendance:

Chris Holmes - UPEA

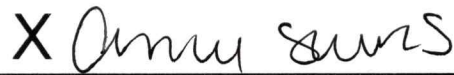
Cyndi Perkins

Roy Britz

Kristin Lortie

X 

Bruce Petersen
Supervisor

X 

Amy Skewes
Clerk