

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board Meeting
November 9, 2015
Township Office
47240 Green Acres Rd
Houghton, MI 49931
(906) 482-4310

The meeting was called to Order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Supervisor Bruce Petersen, Clerk Sherry Rivard, Treasurer Carol Little, Trustees Peggy Anderson, Bill Bingham, and John Ollila. Trustee Andrew Kemper was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion Made by Bill Bingham to accept the agenda with the addition of new chairs from MTU under New Business, comments from Bill Bingham regarding the sewer project, and discussion regarding the Junk Ordinance led by John Ollila under Old Business, presentation of MTA publication article by Peggy Anderson under Other Business, seconded by John Ollila, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion made by John Ollila, seconded by Peggy Anderson to approve the Regular and Special October Board meeting minutes as submitted, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion made by Peggy Anderson, seconded by Carol Little, to approve the bills as audited prior to the meeting. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Clerk's Report: Year-to-date Budget to Actual report was distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's reports were distributed. Tax bills will be printed in the next few weeks for mailing by December 1, 2015.

Zoning Administrator's Report: The October 2015 report was read aloud by Supervisor Bruce Petersen.

Fire Departments Report:

OLFD –Ted Soldan, Fire Chief, reported that the Fire Department responded to three fire calls, and made three EMS runs. He publicly thanked the Hurontown Fire Department for coming to the scene of an accident and backing the Otter Lake Fire Department with a pumper.

HTFD – Fire Chief Marty Raffaelli reported one fire call and three Jaws of Life calls.

Assessor's Report: Report handed out to all board members. Bill Bingham questioned whether a raise in the fee for land division is warranted beginning January 1, 2016. The township will seek a recommendation from the assessor.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Correspondence:

Supervisor Bruce Petersen discussed correspondence. A letter was sent to the owners of an abandoned business property. A follow-up letter will be sent by the Township attorney due to no response to the original letter. A donation request from the Michigan Tech Carnival committee was denied.

Old Business:

- A) Chris Holmes/UPEA – Bill Bingham stated that the Township should consider a special assessment district for M-26 customers. Chris Holmes reported that the Green Acres Rd and Hurontown/Dodgeville sewer project application cover letter was given to the Water and Sewer committee at their last meeting. He also reported that environmental, Rural Development, WUPPDR, SEMCOG, and DEQ letters have been sent out. The primary items yet to be completed are the preliminary engineering report and a list of additional items to purchase if there are unexpended grant funds.
- B) Monetary assistance from the Township for Bay Ambulance was discussed. The issue was tabled until the November 11, 2015 budget meeting. A request to have the Otter Lake Fire Department burn down a dilapidated home was denied.
- C) Dodgeville Ice Rink Cement Pour Progress – The final grant report has been submitted to Portage Health Foundation. Lights were donated by MTU. Purchase options for boards and corners were discussed.
- D) Zoning Manual/Map Resolution – John Ollila made a motion to formally offer the second reading of the Zoning Manual, Bill Bingham seconded, all voted in favor and the motion passed.
- E) Hurontown/Dodgeville alley abandonment was discussed. It was determined that more information is needed before pursuing the alley abandonment.
- F) Bill Bingham motioned to pass Junk Ordinance #111, Peggy Anderson seconded, all voted in favor and the motion passed. An ordinance committee, to include the Supervisor plus two other Board members, will be instated to hear appeals.

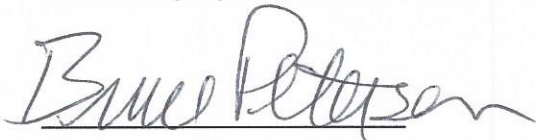
New Business:

- A) The 2016 Budget Workshop is scheduled for November 11, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. Bruce Petersen will obtain additional quotes before the meeting.
- B) The Township Freeze/Thaw Policy was discussed. A letter will be sent with the next water bills to inform residents that there will be no let-run policy this year. Tips to avoid frozen lines will be included in the letter. Bill Bingham motioned to accept the policy with an addition to the letter of informing residents that homeowners will bear the expense of letting water run, John Ollila seconded, all voted in favor and the motion passed.
- C) Bill Bingham motioned to pass a resolution to accept the Pension Protection Act provision of the retirement plan. John Ollila seconded, all voted in favor and the resolution passed.

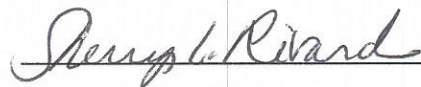
Committee Meetings:

- A) Personnel/Insurance Committee - The Personnel and Insurance Committee met on 10/22/15.
- B) Water/Sewer Committee – The water and sewer committee met on 11/5/15.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. on a motion by Bill Bingham.



Supervisor, Bruce Petersen



Clerk, Sherry Rivard