

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board Meeting
December 11, 2017
Township Hall
47240 Green Acres Road
Houghton, MI 49931
(906) 482-4310

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Those in attendance were Supervisor Bruce Petersen, Clerk Tressa Alvarado, Treasurer Carol Little, and Trustees Peggy Anderson, Bill Bingham, John Ollila, and Bill Fink

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Additions and changes to agenda: Motion was made to add discussion regarding attorney for next year, allowing clerk to make budget adjustments prior to end of year, authorize the bank, pay bills up to the end of the year, and John O had some comments to add to Old Business. John O. motion to accept agenda with additions, Bill F. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Sp. Mtgs. 8/22/17, 9/20/17, 10/2/17, 11/28/17, 12/06/17 & Regular Mtgs. 8/14/17, 10/09/17 distributed to be reviewed and accepted at the special meeting on 12/15/17, attached. 9/11/17 regular meeting will need to be created from recording. John O. moved to accept minutes from 11/13/17, Bill B. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Bills: ExxonMobile bills missing receipts, Tressa will need to obtain copies from ExxonMobile. Discussion of how to prevent issue from continuing in the future. Peggy motions to approve, Bill F. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerks' Report: Other than issue with ExxonMobile receipts, transition in is going well, no other report.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's Report printout distributed, attached. There is a negative in the cemetery fund and Carol contacted Edward Jones to handle it before end of year

Zoning Adm. Report: Oct. & Nov., 2017 Zoning report distributed, and attached. We do not require a building permit for patios at this time, maybe the assessor would want to look into it and see if we want to do a \$20 fee like we do for out buildings for tax purposes. Permit is required if costs go over \$1000. Will revisit sometime before March.

Fire Departments' Reports:

- A. HTFD: 3 Jaws calls. About 100 kids for Santa.
- B. OLFD: 3 EMS and 2 Fire calls. December meeting rescheduled for tomorrow due to weather. American Welding building in Tapiola, got a structural engineer to look at it as a preliminary check. Pavilion is iced.

Assessors' Report: Distributed, attached

Public Comments: Nathan Anderson who is a caregiver for 2 people states that medical marijuana legislation passed in 2008 created many jobs, state does all the regulation, make sure medication is good quality, suggest board to embrace and vote to opt in. Calumet has not yet made a decision. Kevin Weir is a substance abuse prevention specialist, he has son who goes to Gogebic and is concerned about message sent to young people, unintentionally enforcing that marijuana is a harmless drug. Phil Vasquez, owner of Diamond House International and 12 Twelve Company, in agreement with ordinance being passed, states that many patients use, states that American Green Inc in AZ wants to build their own facility, and is also concerned about location in proximity to college. Daniel Dufre states in Michigan 9935 registered patients in Michigan, 2.2% of the population in the area are prescribed medical marijuana, he has niece who had seizures who is treated with medical marijuana. Jeremy McKay is a caregiver for his father and mother, testify that marijuana works for his parents and will bring jobs and benefits to the community. Bob Dupont, business owner in the Copper Country Mall, is concerned about location of grow operation, the order of control, and how it will affect their business.

Correspondence: Little Bros. – Thank You for Sand, MDOT – 2018 thru 2021 Summer Projects, MTA – Training, MTU – Blue Key Donation (we are not allowed to donate), Hurontown Fire Dept. – Santa Donation, Bill Finks – Email, Houghton County Planning Comm. – Our Zoning Manual Changes, CCISD – Summer Property Tax Levy

Old Business:

A. Green Acres Road Sewer and Dodgeville/Hurontown Sewer Infiltration - Joint Application Posting & USDA – RD Grant and Contract for Water Asset Management & Small Project Assistance as Needed. UPEA Contract distributed to review, attached. Bill Bingham motioned to sign agreement, Peggy seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Bill Bingham motioned for Electrical for inspection for code for OLFD firehall by Mike Manderfield, no second.

B. Tyler Ross – Medical Marijuana Mall Proposal. Original approval was 16 months ago operated successfully without incident. Under new state laws, can now operate under a commercial and regulated model. In a 120 mi radius from Houghton, projecting serving approx. 2000-4000 patients. Larger facility would allow more medicine for lower cost. State provided emergency rules to allow non-stop from previous regulation to current model. Requesting that we opt in. Part 1: Take necessary actions to approve Portage Caregiver for temporary operations while waiting for state licensing approval prior to December 15th. Part 2: Portage Caregiver center to relocate into former JCP suite, growing, making edibles, extraction lab for extracts and concentrates, dispensing unit. Portion of Michigan marijuana taxes would be paid to Portage Township. Plans to hire about 40 workers. Medical Marijuana Facilities Model Ordinance distributed, attached. Board will meet Thursday, December 14th at 6pm to discuss further and make a decision.

- C. Water Meter Trials – 4 Trial Locations Installed, two letters sent out requesting times and availability for the remaining 6 identified study participants
- D. 2018 Budget Review – Public Hearing Held – 12/15/2017 at 12pm
- E. Treasurer Vacancy – Posted - Interview Scheduling After First of Year.
- F. Lights Repair/Replacement – Air Care– Tapiola Pavilion.
- G. Twp. Per Diem, Lodging and Travel Form. - Some edits suggested, attached
- H. MIOSHA Training – Dec. 6, 2017 Behavioral Based Safety Considerations. Cemetery employees attended.

New Business: 2018 Committee Makeups & Regular Meeting Dates - Committees will stay the same as before. Regular meetings will be 7pm, 2nd Monday each month. Doelle meeting will be held in June.

Committee/Meetings and Updates:

- A. Special Board Meetings – 8/22, 9/20, 10/2, 12/28, 2017
- B. Brian Miller – Health Insurance Quotes – 11/21/2017
- C. P.C. Hearing & Meeting – Ancillary Bids. & “Z” Manual Chgs. - 11/30/2017

Other Business:

- A. John O. motioned to continue with attorney Nicholas Daavettila for 2018, Carol seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- B. Bill B. motioned to continue with same banks for 2018, John O. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- C. John O. motioned to allow clerk to make adjustments for end of year, Bill B seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- D. Carol motioned to allow bills to be paid up to the end of month, John O seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- E. John O. states we need posting in the paper or signs up regarding parking ban
- F. Last week Tuesday, closed on the properties involved with the 1,800 acres Pilgrim River Watershed project

Public Comment:

- A. Marty asked about where Treasurer position is posted, posted in Mining Gazette, in the township office, and on the website.
- B. Gentleman concerned about OLFD facility move if there would be handouts regarding taxes to residents
- C. Question regarding if there is a designation for green burial

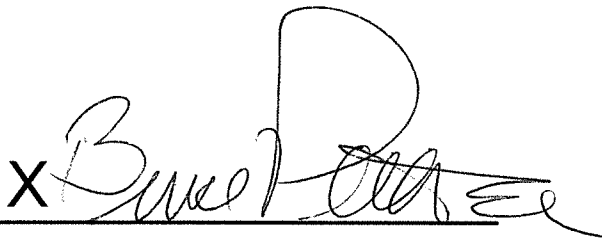
Adjourn: John O motion to adjourn, Peggy support. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Attached:

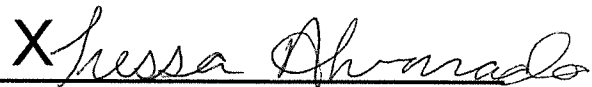
- A. Meeting minute drafts
- B. Treasurer’s Report
- C. Zoning Reports October and November 2017
- D. Assessor’s report
- E. Correspondence: Email from Bill Fink, CCISD, Houghton County Planning Commission, Little Brothers, MTA, MDOT, Blue Key
- F. UPEA Agreement for the provision of limited professional services
- G. Medical Marihuana Facilities Model Ordinance
- H. Per Diem and Lodging Worksheet

Public Attendance:

1. Dave Rulison – Township Resident
2. Linda Rulison – Township Resident
3. Ken Lurn – Township Resident
4. Nathan Anderson – Village of Calumet
5. Kevin Weir – Village of Calumet
6. Richard Lurn – Township Resident
7. Ted Soldan – Otter Lake Fire Dept
8. Lee Smitz – ABC 10
9. Joyce Stanford – Panache Salon CC Mall
10. Mariah Powell – TV 6 WLCU
11. Jeremy McKay – Keweenaw County Residents
12. Phil Vasquez
13. Daniel Dufre
14. Bob Dupont

X 

Bruce Petersen
Supervisor

X 

Tressa Alvarado
Clerk

Zoning Report November 2017

Jeff Koski Copper Ridge Rd New Home (permit approved)

Correspondence

Rental Property Hwy US 41 Current rental

Rental property question due to letter to R-1 Residents

Construction of a building, w/o a zoning/building permit
Farm/Forest zone (Laura)

Complaint of a out-door wood burning furnace
Paradise Rd, may not meet code, checking if
a mechanical permit was obtained.

Bill & John

December 2017 Assessor's Report

- December Board of Review was held December 12 at 10 am. 21 issues ranging from Principal Residence Exemptions (PRE) adjustments to Personal Property Petitions were discussed and resolved. A complete listing of actions taken by the Board of Review is available in the "2017 Board of Review" Binder (located on the table next to my room).
- The laptop is working well, and it was helpful during Board of Review to have the mobile platform to review issues / petitions with the board.
- As the year winds down, permit reviews are almost complete. Parcels with partial construction will be revisited to ascertain percentage complete on 'tax day' (December 31).
- 2018 Personal Property Statements will be mailed to all businesses (for them to complete and return by February 21) the first week in January (as required by statute). Previously I have also mailed the "Affidavit to Claim Small Business Tax Exemption" (due by February 10), however, we have been directed by the State not to include the Exemption form when we mail the Personal Property Statements. The exemption form will be in the form sorter by my door. To help the small businesses locate the form it would be helpful to have a link to the forms on our website under Assessor information. (Form 632 and form 5076)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura".