

-Draft Approved  
Charter Township of Portage  
Regular Board Meeting  
August 11, 2014  
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, Treasurer Carol Little, Trustees Peggy Anderson, Andrew Kemper, John Ollila, Bill Bingham and Clerk Jamie Solka

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion Made by John Ollila to amend the agenda, seconded by Peggy Anderson, all voted in favor, motion carried.

**Additions include:**

1. July 9 & June 16 – Meeting Minute dates ~~^connection~~ corrections
2. Green Acres Road – Unfinished Business
3. Portage Water Plaza – Unfinished Business
4. Hydrosphere Water Tank – Unfinished Business
5. Signage – Public Comments
6. Health Insurance – Public Comments
7. Township Activities – Public Comments
8. Personnel Policy – Public Comments
9. Elections/Voting – Clerks Report

Motion made by John Ollila, second by Bill Bingham to approve meeting minutes with corrections from Regular Meeting minutes from July 9, 2014 and Special Meeting minutes with corrections from June 16, 2014 – All voting yes. Motion carried.

The Bills were approved as presented at the meeting, motion made by Peggy Anderson second by John Ollila, All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report – All have copies. Clerk Jamie Solka stated that the August 5, 2014 elections went well. She has a great group of election workers and is thankful for all their help.

Treasurer's report – All have copies. Carol Little stated she's working with Duane Reid with Rural Development on the budget.

Zoning Administrator's report – Read by Supervisor Bruce Petersen

HTFD – Reported by Marty Raffaelli – 3 Fire calls, 2 Jaws calls.

Assessor's report – All have copies.

**Public Comments:**

- 1) Mark Kemppainen – read a July 2014 article by Larry Merrill of the MTA entitled "people are not just 'customers'."
- 2) Mark Kemppainen asked why a board vote and does not implement something as it was voted on

**Correspondence:**

Supervisor Bruce Petersen handed out all correspondence.

**Unfinished Business:**

- A) Rural Development – Rate Increases Recommended for Enterprise Funds – John Ollila made motion to start the process for Portage Sewer increase of \$2.50 on the monthly base fee, second by Peggy Anderson. All voting in favor, motion passed. Public hearing to be held on September 8, 2014 at 6:45 p.m. Portage Township Office

- B) UPEA/Chris Holmes – Gave an update on the Green Acres Sewer Project. Date to be set for another public hearing. Andrew Kemper made motion to pay UPEA \$500.00 to submit a grant # for emergency funds due to the harsh winter costs. Second by John Ollila. All voting in favor, motion passed.
- C) Hurontown Fire Hall Roof & Truss Repair – Bid Packet Process has begun
- D) MJO Directional drill on Erickson Drive – Supervisor Bruce Petersen to contact to start this process
- E) Met with DNR on Passport Grant for Dodgeville Ice Rink – 7/21/14
- F) Audit Exit Conference – 7/15/14
- G) Small Claims Court – Water bill submitted – Court date will be sometime in September 2014
- H) Letter from Nick Daavettia to resident located on Peepsock Road –
- I) Green Acres Road – John Ollila made motion to pay Houghton County \$570.00 to replace culvert and repair ditching. Second by Andrew Kemper. Roll call vote Bruce Petersen, Peggy Anderson, Andrew Kemper, Carol Little, John Ollila and Jamie Solka voting yes, Bill Bingham abstained from voting. Motion carried.
- J) Portage Plaza Water – Customer to pay for total water leak repairs/replacements. Need to check to see if Township Ordinance sets deadlines for customer to have this water leak fixed.
- K) Hydrosphere water tank ok – Inspected/August 2014
- L) John Ollila made motion for Supervisor Bruce Petersen to give written warning for Zoning Administrator/Jon Marshall to respond to zoning applications more expeditiously. Zoning Administrator will be required to stop in or call office daily to see if any applications have been handed in. Second by Andrew Kemper. All voting in favor, motion passed.

**New Business:**

- A) Well Head Protection Resolution for City – Carol Little made motion to adopt the Wellhead Protection Policy Statement. Second by Peggy Anderson, all voting in favor, motion passed.
- B) Cemetery Charges – John Ollila made a motion to start the resolution process to adopt new rate increases for Forest Hill Cemetery starting September 1, 2014. Second by Peggy Anderson roll call vote, all voting in favor. Motion carried.
- C) Landfill Corrective Action – Correspondence sent over from DEQ to remove trees from cap. Township has complied with the request.

**Committee Meeting:**

- A) Board of Review – 7/22/14
- B) Sewer and Water Committee Meetings – 8/4/14
- C) P.C. Meeting – Zoning Manual Redo – 8/6/14
- D) Cemetery Meeting – 7/21/14
- E) Exit Conference for 2013 Audit – 7/18/14

**Other Business:**

- A) Election/Voting – 8/5/14

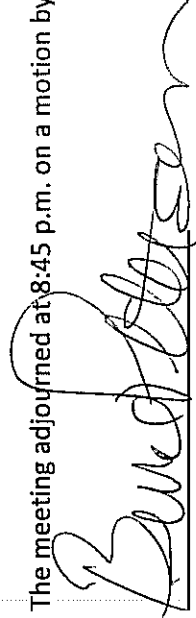
**Public Comments:**

Signage – Dodgeville sign is missing from near Abe's Supply.  
 Health Insurance – Need to work towards compliance  
 Township Activities – GPS for trucks to track mileage, logs for the use of all heavy equipment  
 Personnel Policy – Manual needs work

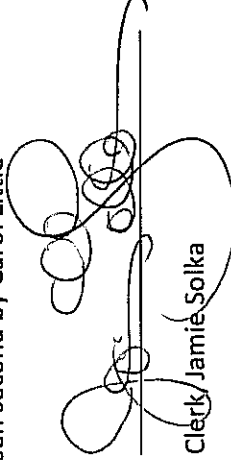
Marty Raffealli and Mark Kempainen shared their concerns about Township board raising sewer rates and proposed other things the board should be doing to cut costs.

Attendance: Mark Kempainen, Joe Lett, & Chris Holmes/UPEA

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. on a motion by Bruce Petersen second by Carol Little



Supervisor, Bruce Petersen



Clerk, Jamie Solka