

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
January 14, 2019

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, January 14, 2019, 2018 at the Portage Township Hall.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bruce Petersen at 7:00 PM

Pledge Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bruce Petersen

In attendance were Supervisor Bruce Petersen, Clerk Amy Skewes, Treasurer Betsy Smith and Trustees Peggy Anderson, Bill Bingham, Bill Fink, and John Ollila.

Additions or Changes to the Meeting Agenda:

Adams township rate increase

Mike Heikkinen might be a possible B.O.R. member instead of Steve Karvakko.

Meeting on new Meijer store

Ollila motioned to accept agenda with new changes, Fink seconded. All in favor

Approval of the Bd. of Trustees Previous Minutes: Approval of the Bd. of Trustees Previous Minutes (11/01/18 – 1st Meijer Hearing, 11/07 – 2nd Meijer Hearing, 11/12/18 Reg. Monthly Meeting, 11/13/18 Initial 2019 Budget Work Session, 11/27/18 Treasures Resignation Sp. Meeting, 12/10/18 2019 Public Budget Hearing, 12/10/18 Reg. Monthly Meeting, 12/19/18 2018 Budget Close-out Session.)

A motion was made by Bingham and seconded by Smith to approve the meeting minutes with inclusion of the 2nd Meijer meeting minutes and Bingham's and Ollila's comments added to the 3rd Meijer meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried by a voice vote.

Approval of the Bills:

Anderson noted that there were 171.86 in penalties on water bills from the city of Houghton in December and the Blue Cross bill had an increase because an employee added an additional family member.

A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Fink to approve the bills as audited. Motion was carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Bingham, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: 0

Review Clerk's Report:

Everything is going smooth, Jessica Karvakko is the new deputy and training.

Will look into getting water fund figured out and balanced.

Review Treasurer's Report:

Taxes are all mailed out

Training with Carol Little is on hold due to illness. Clerk/Treasurer working on balancing

Review Zoning Administrator's Report (John/Bill) for (December 2018):

Ollila mentioned that last year the board voted to pay zoning admin. \$200.00 per month for 2019. Due to the way the duties are split and the busy months are over the summer Ollila wants to change this and have the zoning admin. Receive payment of 150.00 per month. Fink made a motion to pay the zoning adm. \$150.00 per month, seconded by Smith. Motion was carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes. Nay: 0

Review Fire Departments:

OLFD: Fires, 3 EMS. 2

Closed on Karvakko building on 12/31/18. We are talking to local contractors about remodel.

HTFD: Fires, EMS.

Review Assessor's Report: Distributed. Attached.

There are 6 AMAR-2 resolutions needed

Resolution 1. Adopt procedures for granting and removing real property exemptions. Fink motioned to adopt this resolution, seconded by Ollila. All in favor, motion carried

Resolution 2. Waive penalties for the late filing of property transfer affidavits. Fink motioned to adopt this resolution, seconded by Ollila. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution 3. Guideline for poverty exemption. Fink motioned to adopt this resolution, seconded by Ollila. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution 4. Adopt alternate start dates for 2019 board of review. Fink motioned to adopt this resolution, seconded by Ollila. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution 5. Allow local residents to protest in writing. Fink motioned to adopt this resolution, seconded by Ollila. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution 6. Inspection and copying of public records. Fink motioned to adopt this resolution, seconded by Ollila. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comments:

Ollila brought up issue regarding complaints at Woodland and parking tickets. He asked Roy Britz if he was issuing tickets, Roy said only Hurontown and Dodgeville are under the parking ordinance . There are no signs in the area, the ordinance needs to be reviewed. Parking in a problem in Royalwood and Woodland

Correspondence:

Correspondence: USDA – RD Sewer Funding Notification, Mich. Rural Water Association, Pilgrim River Development LLC. Letter, Rukkila/Negro & Assoc. – Engagement Letter, Received a letter of Adams township rate increases

Old Business:

A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer & Infiltration R. D. – How to fund UPEA work prior to RD grant closing & tunnel-vision sewer video project. Will look at funds to see how we will fund beginning of project and get back to Chris Holmes.

B. Miller Canfield letter of intent and publication notice.

Bill Fink made a motion to pass a resolution authorizing publication of notice of intent to issue revenue bonds and declaration of intent to reimburse. John Ollila seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: 0

C. DNR Trust fund grant – was not awarded, projects < \$50,000 were funded.

There is a meeting in Baraga 1/16/19 which Bruce is attending to voice concern/complaints about this.

D. Sup health & life – keep existing BCBS silver health plan & 80/80 opt out.

Bingham made a motion to opt out of 20% employee premium, Ollila seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Fink, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: 0

E. Par-Plan Quote – went up due to Bldg purchase, state surcharge & new truck.

F. Trustee committee Makeup.

John Ollila suggested because of new clerk, Bingham should join Anderson on Finance committee for 2019. Petersen approved Bingham to do so.

14. New Business:

A. B.O.R. New member – Steve Karvakko agreed to serve (training Feb. 5 2019)

Steve Karvakko has changed mind, Mike Heikkinen may be interested. Will call and ask him.

John Ollila suggested Chuck VanKarsen, will ask him also.

B. Year end employee taxes – 1099's and W-2's done by Rukkila/Negro?

Bingham made a motion to have Rukkila/Negro prepare 1099's and W-2's for 2018, Ollila seconded.

Motion passed by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Fink, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: 0

C. Start process to opt out of recreational marijuana.

15. Meetings:

A. 12/31/18 – S. Karvakko closing on Well Drilling Bldg. Tendered check – agreed to pay back three months rent.

Betsy will look to see if check from Sept., Oct., Nov., has been returned.

B. Medical marijuana meeting scheduled to review ordinance on 1/31/19 at 3 P.M.

C. 12/13/18 – USDA RD Grant Checklist Meeting – Gladstone, MI

D. 12/12/18 – Brian Miller – Health insurance review – Exiting options reviewed.

E. 12/10/18 – B.O.R. Meeting

E. 01/16/19 – MDNR Rec grant meeting – Baraga, MI

16. Other Business:

17. Public Comment:

Dave Rulison asked if there a way to add to the ordinance and/or a way to fine people for parking violations or noise violations? Could these fines be added to tax bills

18. Adjourn: A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Smith to adjourn at 8:55PM.

Public Attendance:


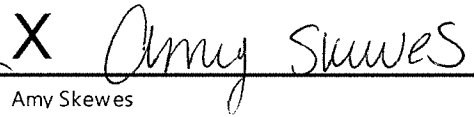
Dave Rulison

Ted Solden

Chris Holmes – UPEA

Emily Shaw

Petra Huentemeyer

X  X 

Bruce Petersen
Supervisor

Amy Skewes
Clerk