

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board Meeting
July 11, 2016
Township Hall
47240 Green Acres Road
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, Bill Bingham, and John Ollila, Andrew Kemper absent, Clerk Heidi Paoli Riutta absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion Made by John Ollila to accept the agenda with additions. Bill Bingham seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Motion made by John Ollila, supported by Peggy Anderson to approve the June 13th, June 15th, and March 14th Board meeting minutes with corrections made, all voted in favor, motion carried.

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

Motion made by Bill Bingham to require receipts from meals when traveling, seconded by John Ollila with the amendment to follow Federal guidelines Carol Little seconded John Ollila's amendment all voted in favor, motion carried.

Clerk's Report: Reviewed needs to review budget at August board meeting. Using June 13th's budget.

Treasurer's Report: Tax bills out with surveys.

Zoning Administrator's Report: John & Bill discussed zoning report and will create a new zoning application.

Fire Departments Report: HTFD - 1 Jaws and 1 Fire, OLFD - 2 EMS runs and 1 Fire and thanked for the township for the cleanup and preparation for the 4th of July Parade in Tapiola.

Assessor's Report: Need a resolution to change dates for our July & December for the 3rd Monday in July and the 2nd Monday in December for Board of Review, Bill Bingham made the motion for resolution, John Ollila seconded, all voted in favor, motion passed.

Correspondence:

Supervisor Bruce Petersen discussed correspondence.
Wetlands behind township hall and neighbors, citation letter discussed.

Old Business:

- A) Green Acres Road sewer and Dodgeville/Hurontown Sewer Infiltration Correction progress – Joint Application to USDA – RD.
(Second readings for Portage Sewer \$4.50/\$2.50 & \$1.75 water base fee increases.) Marty Raffaelli voiced his concerns.
- B) WUPPDR Energy Survey went out in tax bills.

- C) Flood Easements for new Range Bank – three days of equipment time to dig and vegetate – bank will not assist – meet with County Road Commission.
- D) Met with Mary Carlock – DNR Passport grant supplemental information will be requested the latter part of summer. – meeting occurred 6/28/16

New Business:

- A) New Township sign in front of office – getting quotes.
- B) Putting together a map with the hydrants located where they are. This will help with homeowner's insurance. Carol Little thanked Heidi Paoli Riutta for getting vehicle insurance straightened out and a refund of \$1245.00.
- C) Recycle Bin at maintenance building looking into cost.
- D) MIOSHA follow-up Inspection – fire extinguishers being inspected, all failed, borrowing. DSC sheets for chemicals need to be updated. John asked for Bruce to find out a date every year for inspections to be done.
- E) MTA on the Road – all those who want to attend the MTA meeting should see clerk.
- F) Carol Little made the motion that all water bills should be sent to home owners only and not the renters, seconded by John Ollila, all in favor, motion carried.

Committee Meetings and Updates:

- A) Houghton County Road Commission – Ray Saatio – Culvert Replacement near school – 6/6/16
- B) Planning Commission – Rental Issues, changes, and Zoning Manual Updates – 7/6/2016 – and Houghton Motor Sports Site Review – 6/9/2016
- C) Z.B.A. – Strong garage enlargement/placement – 6/16/2016
- D) WUUPPDR – Full Commission Meeting – 6/20/2016

Other Business:

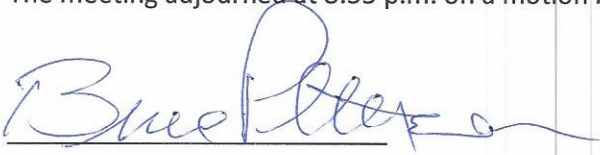
- A) Receptionist/water clerk office position – Personnel Committee recommendation/hiring. Motion made by John Ollila to hire Amber Jackson for receptionist position seconded by Carol Little, all in favor.

Public Comments:

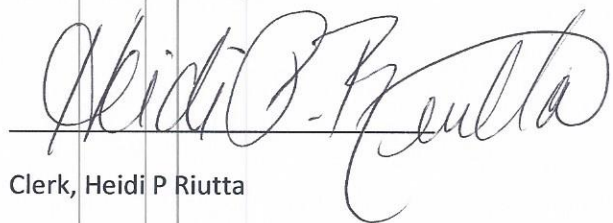
Neighbor - What is going on between houses and the mall. Moyle construction has been told to get a permit, wet land issue. 25-foot buffer between houses and where Moyle is constructing.

Marty Raffaelli – addressed the board about the water and sewer rising rates, questioning agreement if township has one with City of Houghton yet, needs to be known. Paying engineering fees yet for Green Acres Sewer project? Why aren't all water customers paying for this Green Acres Road project? Why is it only Hurontown and Dodgeville? When was the last time the bulldozer used? Probably a year ago, (Bill Bingham responded a year ago.). Marty suggested why doesn't Portage Township sell the bulldozer to make up for the due to's and due from's rather than hang on to it and only use it once a year? Township had over \$20,000.00 of overdue water bills that were due why? (Carol Little opposed and told Marty that there is \$8,000 in overdue).

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a motion by John Ollila, seconded by Bill Bingham.



Supervisor, Bruce Petersen



Clerk, Heidi P Riutta