

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board Meeting
April 10, 2017
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, Clerk Heidi P Riutta, Treasurer Carol Little, Trustees Peggy Anderson, Bill Bingham, John Ollila. Absent was William Fink.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Motion made by John Ollila, supported by Bill Bingham, to approve the March 13th, 2017 Board meeting minutes, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Motion made by Peggy Anderson to approve this month's bills audited prior to the board meeting, seconded by John Ollila, all voted in favor, motion passed.

Anders Hill, Houghton Elementary School Principal, spoke about school's millage request coming up on the May 2, 2017 election.

Clerk's Report: Clerk spoke about Elections coming up. Deputy went to GBS informational voting equipment. State to provide new voting equipment later this year. Gave Finance report for bills, reconciliation balance sheet, and budget. Requested sliding window in wall between Treasurer's and Clerk's office for communication purposes. Zoning and Planning classes, budget and balance sheet were discussed. Discussion on Board/Committee members not showing up for scheduled and paid trainings. Amber to call members day before last day to cancel for reimbursement of fees to verify they still intend to attend.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer report given. Report on water/sewer revenues, Amber doing a great job. Request to close account at Huntington Bank due to poor customer service response and transfer to River Valley, Miners or Superior National Bank.

Motion made by Bill Bingham to close the Huntington Bank account and move account to another bank, seconded by John Ollila, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Handed out report. Bill Bingham spoke about rental homes with the zoning ordinance.

Fire Departments Report: HTFD - Marty Raffaelli - 1 Jaws, 2 fires; OLFD - Ted Soldan here – 2 grass fires.

Assessor's Report: Written report submitted.

Public Comments:

Dr. Chalgren spoke about the water flow on the East side of Park Avenue nearly flooding the Dentist office. Water was over the curb reaching the front door. Needing a ditch dug with a better drain system. Bruce Petersen is going to meet with the Houghton County Road Commission and get some sort of plans to fix the issue.

Derek Bustos will be starting construction in May for a new home on White Pine Lane. Requesting township to provide water and sewer lines to his property which is on a private road. Discussion resulted in Board to estimate costs and review situation before making a decision.

Correspondence: PAAR Plan Director sought, MRWA cross connection workshop, MI Historic Preservation network, H2O Towers LLC, KEDA thank you

Old Business:

- A) Green Acres Road sewer and Dodgeville/Hurontown Sewer Infiltration. Correction progress – Joint Application to USDA – RD. Grant Submittal
- B) 2017 – DNR Passport Grant Successfully submitted – Hurontown Rec. Area Soccer Field Remediation, Paths, Irrigation and new parking lot.
- C) 2016 DNR Passport grant project signed and submitted – met with UPEA for a biddable, engineered, sealed design.
- D) Ordinance 111 – (Amended) Open storage of junk – Adventure 4x4 car parts – Constable Roy Britz spoke and presented pictures. Needs direction to enforce.
Motion made by John Ollila to expand our parking enforcement township wide, post signs, and authorize constables to give parking tickets, seconded by Bill Bingham, all voted in favor, motion passed.

New Business:

- A) May 2nd – HPTS millage Bond Proposal update – Anders Hill
- B) Water line extension down White Pine Lane for new house construction.
- C) Cemetery opening Monday, April 17th
- D) MIOSHA Training workshop

Committee Meetings and Updates:

- A) Pastors/Ministers & CCSA grant review meeting – March 13th (early) & 16th (late), 2017
- B) UPEA – 2016 Passport grant bathroom design – April 10th, 2017

Other Business: Peggy asked questions – We still need a notary in the township office. Snow is disappearing, the situation with the sign and Mr. Palosarri have we been in touch? John Ollila said it was taken care of. The tiny house, has anyone been in touch with them to see how they made it through the winter? No one has heard yet.

Bill Bingham – houses that are for sale do they still pay the base fee for sewer? Please make sure. Phones why did we go to the messaging system? Board does not think it's an issue.

Public Comments:

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