

Charter Township of Portage  
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 11, 2019

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, November 11, 2019 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:**

Snowplow bids, Marijuana Meeting

Ollila made a motion to accept the agenda with additions, seconded by Smith. All in favor

**Approval of the Bd. of Trustees Previous Minutes:** A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Anderson to approve the October 23, 2019 meeting minutes, October 24 special meeting and October 29 special meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried by a voice vote.

**Approval of the Bills:** A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Fink to approve the bills as audited. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none Motion carried by roll call vote

**Review Clerk's Report:**

A motion was made by Skewes, Seconded by Ollila to increase the election worker pay as follows: Election workers - \$230.00 per day, Chairperson - \$260.00 per day, Hourly rate for AV Counting board \$15.00, Receiving Board - \$40.00. Motion carried by a roll call vote Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen Skewes, Smith. Nay: None

**Review Treasurer's Report:**

- Taxes - winter 2019 we will delay mailing of tax bills due to taxation error – attached notice will be posted and serve as the content for the website, Facebook, and newspaper announcements as well as a sign on the door
- Out of 2685 active parcels, there are roughly 400 that were not affected due to property value being so low that the rounding does not create a refund. A property must have at least a taxable value of \$3500 in order to generate a credit due of \$.02.
- Working with Up and Running for new networking project– dates TBD for work, waiting on answers

**Review Zoning Administrator's Report (John/Bill) for (January 2019):**

KRB properties original plans approved showed parking on concrete slabs, wanted to alter to build garages. They were charged \$50.00, and must include garage design in their future plans.

**Review Fire Departments:**

**OLFD:** Fires, 0 EMS. 0

Ted Soldan met with Medical Control Authority director about proposal for extending EMS service to the North part of Township. She had no problems, next step is to meet with Health & Human Services with the State to go over rules and regulations.

**HTFD:** \$200,000 grant for rescue truck submitted from the USDA - RD regional office to their state office, they found no shortcomings. Waiting on budgetary cycle to be funded.

**Review Assessor's Report:** none

**Trustees Reports/Updates:**

Bingham brought up bidding for the snowplowing for Hurontown and Otter Lake Fire Department. After discussion and comments from Ted Soldan stating that Tom Heider is reliable, which is very important. The board decided to keep the same people, Tom Heider and Paul Strack.

Bingham concerned with water bills after bills being estimated, he looked back at his bill and feels he was underbilled by \$20.00 - \$25.00 and is concerned that there is an issue with the readings Also Dodgeville/Hurontown affects the sewer billings.

Bingham also reviewed the bills from Adams Township for Portage. Adams Township increased their water charges beginning Aug./Oct. of 2018 and all of 2019. The increase in charges from Adams in late 2018 and another increase in 2019 contributed to the cost increase noted by Bill. Vanessa will look at actual gallon usage to see if anything has increased there.

Anderson noticed the water bills have a due date of Thanksgiving Day. She was wondering if we would accept the payments on the Monday following Thanksgiving December 2, 2019.

Ollila met with Gary Moyle and toured sand operation, it is less than the size of a football field. They have removed stumps, whole area was clear cut before they bought it, they have hauled in mine rock to make a road for the trucks to turn around. There is a large logging operation on the 80 acres to the west, which was not there a year ago. Loggers are in there early morning and late at night. Gary Moyle says they have stayed within their agreement. The end loader has a key and only the Moyle truck drivers use that key. Ollila also noted that there is no way anything from the pit is getting to the Little Otter River. The sand operation is confined to on-site activities.

Ollila also reminded the board of previous vote of \$500.00 per year for 3 years for funding assistance for the USDA Geological Survey stream gauge located at Paradise Road on the Pilgrim River. We will put it into our budget.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Correspondence:**

MRWA – Training, Guilbault – Thank You, ATC, KEDA – MIOSHA Training, Superior Health & Life – Brian Miller, (3) letters sent opposing SB-431 (McBroom, Governor Whitmer, Markkanen). Dept of Treasury – Special Assessments

#### Old Business:

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer/Infiltration Joint Project. – Chris Holmes from UPEA updated that we are in the final process dealing with the Matt Huuki easement, will send the final plans to DEQ & Rural Development once it's obtained. Will wait to get bids until Jan/Feb.
- B. iPearl Meter Upgrade – Approx. 500 activated/installed – Oct. bills with true reading sent.
- C. Superior Health and Life – Medical Coverage Renewal for 2020  
The cost for the 2020 Silver PPO plan increased 9.93%. A motion was made by Fink, seconded by Ollila to renew the medical coverage. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: None  
A motion was made by Bingham to opt out of the 2020 80/20 employer/employee insurance coverage and hard cap, seconded by Fink. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: None
- D. Master plan Renewal – Reviewed and OK'D by board, it will next be mailed to notified units.  
A motion was made by Bingham, seconded by Anderson to approve the Master Plan as updated by the planning commission with the addition of page numbers and date. All in favor.  
Fink also wanted to commend the Planning Commission for undertaking this very detailed update.
- E. AT&T Metro Act Contract – Signed/Returned
- F. Manderfield – 4" diameter water line should be in soon and project completed
- G. City of Houghton -Still awaiting New Water Treatment Contract.
- H. Need to decide on Road Millage and /or Fire Department Millage increase.  
Ollila made a motion to put a millage request for 2 mils for road and street repair on the March 2020 ballot for 8 years, seconded by Fink. All in favor, motion carried by a voice vote.  
Ollila made a motion to put a millage renewal request on the ballot for a 1 mil renewal for the Fire Departments (Huron Town and Otter Lake) on the March 2020 ballot, seconded by Fink. All in favor, motion carried by a voice vote.  
Ollila made a motion to put millage request for an additional .5 mil in the ballot for the Fire Departments (Hurontown and Otter Lake) on the March 2020 ballot, Seconded by Fink. All in favor, motion carried by a voice vote.

#### 14. New Business:

- A. Meeting minutes recordings – MTA disposal Recommendation.  
MTA recommends that townships destroy Recordings of minutes after the minutes are approved at the following board meeting. A motion was made by Fink, seconded by Smith to adopt a board policy to maintain minute recordings only until the board approves the minutes. At that time the recordings and notes are to be destroyed/deleted. Motion carried by a voice vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: None
- B. Shorewaves Bandwidth/Speed Enhancement - \$40.00 Monthly

Ollila made a motion, seconded by Fink to pay Shorewaves \$40.00 per month for enhanced internet. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: : Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: None

15. Meetings:

- A. WUUPDR Asset Management – WUUPDR Office – 10/28/2019
- B. Portage Twp. Marijuana – Twp Office – 10/29/2019
- C. Superior Health and Life, Brian Miller – Twp Office – 10/30/2019
- D. MTA Local Chapter – Twp Office – 10/24/2019
- E. Recreational Marijuana Meeting – Need to schedule. After discussion, board decided to schedule a meeting in January.

17. Public Comment: Mike Bach (resident) has concerns about allowing recreational marijuana sales in township. Wants to know when Township will be having public meeting.

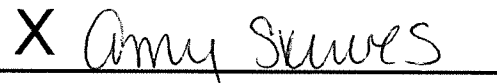
18. Adjourn: A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Smith to adjourn at 8:25 PM. All in favor, motion carried by voice vote.

Public Attendance:

Ted Soldan OL FD  
Chris Holmes - UPEA  
Mike, Noah, Caleb and Levi Bach

X 

Bruce Petersen  
Supervisor

X 

Amy Skewes  
Clerk