

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

November 14, 2022

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, November 14, 2022.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bruce Petersen at 6:00 PM.

In attendance were Supervisor Bruce Petersen, Clerk Amy Skewes. Treasurer Betsy Smith and Trustees Peggy Anderson, Bill Fink and John Ollila as stated by roll call. Absent: Bill Bingham

Additions or Changes to the Meeting Agenda:

Meetings: Budget, Houghton County Rec. Authority, Planning Commission

A motion was made by Ollila, seconded by Fink to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.

Approval of the Bd. of Trustees Previous Minutes: A motion was made by Ollila and seconded by Anderson to approve the October 10, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.

Approval of the Bills:

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

Review Clerk's Report:

- Need to approve Superior Tax and Accounting to complete our W-2's and 1099's
A motion was made by Anderson to have Superior Tax and Accounting complete the townships W-2's and 1099's, seconded by Fink. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.
- Election went very well, total number of voters in Portage Township was 1571. Portage Township election results attached

Review Treasurer's Report:

- Water/Sewer Committee: See new data below
- Cemetery: currently is -\$40,162
- Summer tax collection is complete; late summer property tax bills for the current year can be paid through Feb. 28 at the township office
- Rural Development/Portage Sewer new data re payments confirmed for 12/1 below
 - Portage Sewer and Dakota Sewer are currently negative and may need "bail out" – "due to general fund" at year end

Review Zoning Administrator's Report (John) for (October 2022)

Zoning Applications:

10/14 – 48356 Park Ave. new garage, approved. 10/15 – Niemi Road new house, approved. 10/24 – near 45844 US 41 new house, approved

Correspondence:

10/3 – Inquiry about rules for pole barn on vacant property near Elo.

10/3 – Complaint about roosters in Dodgeville, 10/4 – Inquiry about raising goats on Lahti Road, 10/10 – Setback questions between US 41 and Portage Lake, 10/21 – Setbacks for new garage on Paradise Road, 10/24 – Complaint about shoddy upkeep by landlord on W. Edwards.

Correspondence: MRWA – Workplace Hazard Control Conference, MTA – What Every Board Member Needs to Know About Assessing, Par Plan News, Michigan Railroads Association, Anonymous Letter - Doelle School

Review Fire Departments: A motion was made by Ollila to hire Steve Karvakko to plow the OLFD and the Rec. Building at the rate of \$100.00 per event, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.

Review Assessor's Report: Attached

Trustees Reports/Updates:

Anderson voiced three concerns from residents:

1. She asked when the road will be paved on Main Street in Dodgeville. Earliest 2024
2. She asked about getting the speed reduced on Green Acres Rd. She was reminded the Township would have to go through a speed study and it's possible that the speed will be increased.
3. She asked if anyone has looked at the bump on Green Acres Rd, where damage is being done to two homes. Bruce spoke to Semco and the County.

Anderson asked if there is a timer on the lights at the Dodgeville rink because the lights are on in the middle of the night. Bruce will check with DPW.

Old Business:

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer Project – Payment Submittal & County Pavement Agreement – DWAM Grant Response Submitted to Identify Our Sewer and Water Facilities – Sewer Hookup Process Letter Sent to Residents.

A motion was made by Fink to approve the 9th draw from the USDA grant in the amount of \$553,698.11, seconded by Ollila. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none

- B. Moyle – New Mall Access Rd. Proposed Location – Just North of Twp. Property. The board agrees with the relocation of the new road
- C. 5 Year Rec. Plan Update – Successful Survey Completion – Narrative Next.
- D. Onigaming Complaint Response Filed – Waiting on Circuit Court decision.

New Business:

- A. John Drew – Drew Const. Since 1992 - Nominated for the ZBA Alternative.
A motion was made by Petersen to appoint John Drew as an alternate to the ZBA, seconded by Ollila. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith.
Nay: none.
- B. Cemetery Regulations Signage (4' x 8') – Signs and Industrial Graphics.

Meetings:

- A. MTU Composting Utilizing Cemetery Fall Cleanup. – meeting never occurred
- B. Met with Moyle Construction and Discussed New Mall Access Road
- C. 2023 Budget meeting – November 28, 2022 at 3PM
- D. Houghton County Rec. Authority 2023 meeting dates – 9/9, 4/10, 7/10, 10/9
- E. Planning Commission 2023 meeting dates – 2/23, 5/11, 8/24, 10/19 at 7PM at the Township office

Other Business:

A motion was made by Ollila to continue with the same employee insurance plan for the 2023 year as recommended by the personnel committee, seconded by Skewes. Motion carried by a roll call vote.
Aye: Anderson, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.

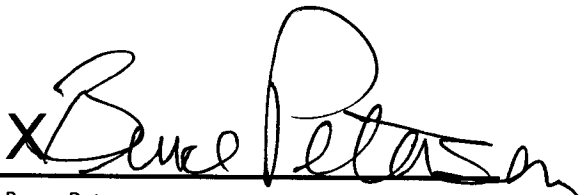
The meeting went into Closed session at 7:34 PM

The board returned to open session at 7:43PM

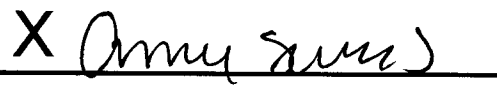
Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:48PM

Public Attendance: Chris Holmes – UPEA

Raili Therrian
Carol Sowards
Shannon Healy
Tim Dawson
Sue Schwenk
Rodney Sowards
Roy Britz
Edward Cole



Bruce Petersen
Supervisor



Amy Skewes
Clerk

Portage Township Election Results for November 8, 2022

Governor

Whitmer – 691

Dixon – 846

Secretary of State

Benson – 688

Karamo – 834

Attorney General

Nessel – 658

DePerno – 858

Representative for Congress 1st District

Lorinser – 600

Bergman – 914

State Senator 38th District

Braamse – 548

Mcbroom – 982

Representative for State Legislature 110th District

VerBerkmoes – 574

Markkanen – 957

Houghton County Sheriff

Saaranen – 1142

Sullivan – 252

County Commissioner 5th District

Britz – 941

Niemela – 471

Justice of the Supreme Court

Bernstein – 557

Bolden – 425

Hudson – 384

Morgan – 185

Zahra – 590

Judge of the Court of Appeals 4th District

Gadola – 800

Swartzle – 752

Board Member for Baraga Area Schools

Danielson – 95

Board member for Houghton-Portage Twp Schools

Rob Fay – 773

Leonard – 876

State Proposal 22-1

Yes – 880

No – 643

State Proposal 22-2

Yes – 782

No – 752

State Proposal 22-3

Yes – 750

No – 797

Member of the State Board of Education

Pugh - 577

Robinson - 553

Carlone - 794

Tarver - 772

Gundle-Krieg - 32

Hall - 43

Hobson - 18

Hering – 44

Regent of the University of Michigan

Behm – 541

White – 548

Epstein – 786

Vartanian – 748

Larson – 47

Sanger – 20

Wells – 27

Oakford – 8

Trustee of Michigan State University

Denno – 531

Jefferson – 541

Balow - 774

Menge - 775

Gelineau – 38

Riekse – 40

Laurain – 27

Governor of Wayne State University

Atkinson – 524

Kelly – 530

Murphy – 760

Wilsher – 751

Jaquays – 43

Sosnowski – 35

Odgers - 30