

Charter Township of Portage
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

May 8, 2023

The Charter Township of Portage held a Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bill Fink at 6:00 PM.

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

Additions or Changes to the Meeting Agenda:

Move 15C to Public Comments and 15A to immediately after the Treasurer report.

Meetings Minutes – Add May 4, 2023 special meeting

A motion was made by Ollila, seconded by Anderson to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, 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 April 10, 2023 regular minutes and the special meeting minutes on May 4, 2023. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.

Approval of the Bills:

Anderson commented that the sewer usage was over 18 days in the amount of \$8179.22

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

Review Clerk's Report:

- Posting Request Form – copies for all
- I updated the website and added the zoom information under all meeting dates
- Election went well. There were 45 in person voters and 312 absentee voters
The vote was yes: 302. No: 54

Review Treasurer's Report:

- **Audit:** is mostly finished - **ARPA reporting:** has this been done?
- **Sand and Gravel Sales:** Monies have not been received, follow up is needed, were they invoiced?
- **Ordinances to website:** working w/OpusWeb. Deputy Treasurer worked 16 hrs to scan historical docs, time billed to Town Hall. More hours needed to upload to the website. This does not account for additional time put in by the Treasurer.
- **Rural development:** Dakota Sewer is at a deficit right now, what needs to happen to get this account out of the hole?

Review Zoning Administrator's Report for (April 2023)

Zoning Applications:

4/13 – Chassell/Painesdale Rd., new home, approved. 4/20 – Storage building, Horatio Street, approved.

Inquiries & Complaints:

4/2 – Query about rentals on Mill Road, 4/3 – Is parcel for sale on Paradise Road a site that can be built on? 4/3 – Query about zoning on Mill Road, 4/9 – Inquiry about permit for future chicken coop in RUR,

4/17 – Inquiry about minimum footage required for house in FF,

4/19 – Query: is permit required to pour a concrete slab in M-1 or to begin food waste composting, 4/24 – Request for an extension of a previously approved new garage permit, 4/26 – Inquiry about running a business out of a home on Tapiola Road, 4/26 – Inquiry about setback for driveway from lot line, 4/28 – Query about whether Township or County deals with culverts,

4/28 – Inquiry about whether an open patio can be located in the 10' side lot setback required for LAR.

Other Zoning Activity:

4/11 – Conversation with Eric Waara about what criteria should trigger the requirement for a stormwater management plan. 4/12 – Conversation with Aaron Janke of UPEA about the few shortcomings with our Stormwater Ordinance. 4/12 – Contacted MQT Township to request a copy of their Stormwater Ordinance. 4/14 – Conversation with MQT EGLE office about complaint about discharge from sand operation on Chassell/Painesdale road into the little Otter. 4/20 – Discussion with both the Health Dept. and EGLE about the rules & regulations for commercial composting. 4/26 – Discussion with County Road Commission about right of way on Pilgrim Road.

4/26 – Very vocal rooster in Hurontown transported to rural farm.

4/26 – Conversation with attorney for resident operating illegal business in R-1 District. 4/27 – Attended KEDA workshop on taxable value and development.

Correspondence: DNR – Sub Recipient Response Form, MRWA Informational Letter & Construction Work Training, Pacifico Inc. Bankruptcy Debtors Hearing, Gemini Group – Annual Cons. Confidence Report Assistance,

Review Fire Departments: OLFD – 5 fire, 13 EMS

A motion was made by Bingham to approve the purchase of a 2014 Chevy Tahoe for \$8500.00, seconded by Ollila. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.

Review Assessor's Report: Distributed

Trustees Reports/Updates: Bingham updated the board on the sewer overage, he has previously requested a rate increase and the board disagreed. The DPW was suppose to put at top priority on inspection of basements for sump pumps, it's May and still not completed. Fink asked if we can negotiate a lower threshold for penalties. Skewes commented that the water/sewer committee would benefit having a meeting with the DPW staff to get updated on the sump pumps.

Anderson commented that the last date for the residents to tie into the new sewer system is on July 15, 2023. She wants a reminder sent to the residents.

Fink commented that he spoke to a funeral director from Marquette and 90% of people are getting cremated and not buried, this is causing less income for cemeteries and recommends a millage for the cemetery. Fink also wants a response on the 425 agreement that was submitted to the attorney months ago, he stated that it's unacceptable that we don't have the response and we need to get moving on this agreement. Fink also wants the board to review and discuss a short-term ordinance.

Ollila commented that everyone has cell phones and the bulk of phone calls he returns are long distance and his phone bills are increasing.

Public Comments:

Carol Sowards is requesting a copy of the changes proposed for the zoning ordinance.

Fink read a letter from a resident regarding the speed on Green Acres Rd, the board has stated before Portage Lake Little League is struggling for fields and would like to utilize the Hurontown ball fields. They were advised they may use the fields immediately.

Residents are concerned with the speed on Green Acres Rd, they were updated with the process for getting speed changed.

Old Business:

- A. Green Acres Rd. Sewer Project – Payment Submittal & When is Start-up, DWAM Grant and Centerline Ditch in Hurontown. Danielson hopes to get to that this year
- B. Personnel – Need (1 Or 2) Cemetery Workers.
- C. PHF Pickle Ball Improvements Recreational Grant Turned Down.
- D. County Road Commission Palliative "Dust Abatement".
- E. Constable Job Description.

New Business:

- A. Aaron Hiday Presentation – EGLE Composting Program Opportunities. Tim Polasaari has turned in an application to the state to have a composting site at Ed's Used Parts. Aaron Hiday briefed the board on composting. A person can have up to 500 cubic yards without a permit
- B. "Total Energy Systems" Maintenance Agreement Signed – (2) Lift Stations.
- C. State Speed Law Update for Vehicle Code – Local Input.
- D. Change "National" Retirement Age From 65 to 59.5 Years – Resolution. Ollila made a motion to change the retirement age on the Township pension plan to 59.5, seconded by Bingham. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none.

Public Comment: None

Meetings:

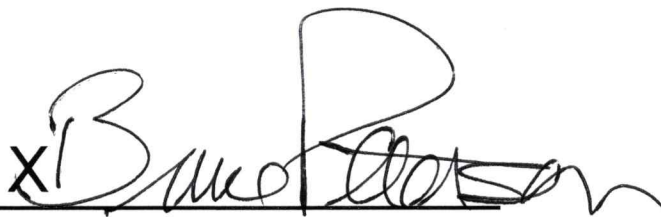
- A. City of Houghton – Composting Grant – 5/3/2023.
- B. Houghton High School Principal – Summer Help Opportunities – 5/3/2023

Other Business:

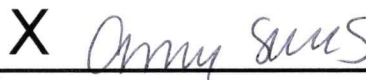
Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM

Public Attendance:

Carol Sowards
Brian Hutsler - CCSA
Bruce Petersen
Aaron Hiday
Byron Quinn
Jan Wieber
Goeff Misiak
Daron Durocher
Lisa Arens

X 

Bruce Petersen
Supervisor

X 

Amy Skewes
Clerk