

Charter Township of Portage
Special Board of Trustees Meeting
March 18, 2024
47240 Green Acres Road
Houghton, MI 49931
(906) 482-4310

The Charter Township of Portage held a Special Board of Trustees Meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2024 at the Township office.

Additions to the agenda: BEAD Challenge process, review Vacation time for employees, municipal civil infraction ordinance. A motion was made by Ollila to accept the meeting agenda, seconded by Fink. Motion was carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bruce Petersen at 2:30 PM

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

Discussion Items:

1. Accepting Bill Bingham resignation
A motion was made by Ollila to accept Bill Bingham's resignation, seconded by Anderson. Motion was carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Anderson, Bingham, Fink, Ollila, Petersen, Skewes, Smith. Nay: none
2. Discuss hiring a Township Manager – The board discussed the pros and cons of hiring a Township manager.
Ollila spoke first and said he supports the concept because other busy Township's like Marquette, Ishpeming and Chocolay have managers with roles similar to Eric Waara's position at the City.
Skewes stated that she thinks the Township would benefit from hiring a Township manager but, she thinks the time is wrong because people are running for office right now.
Smith and Fink and Petersen spoke in favor of pursuing a manager position.
Bingham said he can see the positives but also questions if this is the right time and suggested the Supervisor having a deputy.
Anderson is strongly opposed.
3. BEAD Challenge Process – high speed internet for underserved residents.
4. Municipal civil infraction – zoning ordinance has a very outdated section regarding enforcement. Ollila would like to have the attorney review the municipal civil infraction ordinance. The P.C. may want it to serve as the enforcement avenue for the ZO

5. Employee vacation time allocation – will research and discuss at next meeting.

Public comments: a resident asked if hiring a township manager can be put on the ballot.

Jennifer Kelly commented that she spoke to many residents of the Township and her contacts are against this. She said that the supervisor could have a deputy to help get things done.

Another resident questioned why we need this now? Fink responded that this is the perfect time to transition to having a trained professional in that position.

Public Present:

Marty Raffaelli

Brandon Scholie

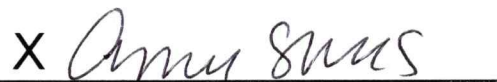
Keith Wanhaaho

Jennifer Kelly

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 P.M

X 

Bruce Petersen
Supervisor

X 

Amy Skewes
Clerk