

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2022

Approved

Pat MacLachlan, Clerk

Board members present- Reed, MacLachlan, McKeage, Abram and Holbrook.

The regular meeting of the Portage Township Board was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Reed.  
Pledge

Motion McKeage; support Holbrook to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes

Motion Reed; support Holbrook to approve the minutes of the 6/14/22 regular meeting. All ayes.

Motion Holbrook; support Abram to approve the bills as presented. Payroll- EMS \$17,145.00, Township \$12,743.26. General \$21,600.40, Fire \$20,356.72, EMS \$27,126.67 includes payroll. All ayes.

**Reports**

Treasurer-Written bank balances were provided to the board. Tax season has begun and the township received its final Covid fund check.

Clerk- Asked board to try to follow the agenda as it is difficult to record minutes. Preparing for August 2, 2022 election. Biennial audit for 2021/22 will be done this fall.

Library- Turtle day was well attended. August 3 is the annual book sale.

Parks & Rec-Written suggestions for swimming beach included in board packets.

EMS- 7 runs. Discussion about charging a "lift assist" fee. Eric presented a proposal of \$286,467.00 from R&R Fire Repair for a new Life Link ambulance. He checked with 3 other companies and no one else was taking new orders at this time. Discussion with board about funding and financing options as there is only \$161,803.62 in the Ambulance equipment fund.

**Motion Reed; support Holbrook to review the proposal and get more information from R&R, schedule a special meeting to possibly accept the proposal as a starting point. All ayes**

Building- 10 permits, the Farmers market is moving its location to Sandtown Rd. Concerns about parking. Further work being done on S. Curtis Rd./ Wolfe road property.

Supervisor/ Roads- Updated status of paving project. **Motion Holbrook; support McKeage to approve the new MCRC contracts for Camp A Rd, west of N. Gould City Rd and Sprang Rd, west end. All ayes.**

**Action items:**

**Old Business:**

1. Long Point property owners Frank Buckley and Bill Conklin asked 4 questions regarding the road paving project.

1. Has a speed assessment been done now that the roads have been paved?

2. What was the price per mile to rebuild gravel roads?

3. Who verifies that newly built roads are done to specs?

4. Have wetland permits been obtained by MCRC for road builds?

Mr. Conklin has concerns that the roads are narrow and slopes are steep. Long Point was lifted and the 1/1 ditch slopes are a hazard. The shoulders are 12"-16" wide. MCRC engineer told him the roads were done that way due to the township's limited budget. How were wetlands mitigated? Questioned board if the township had budget constraints that caused the slope and shoulder issue? Buckley & Conklin asked board to consider withholding MCRC payments for shoulder work until a solution could be found. Long Point is not the only newly paved road with these problems.

2. Tabled Planning Commission resolution as further work and review needs to be done by Planning at their next meeting.

3. Discussion of possible ARPA funded projects streetlights, orchard paths, township web site, new fire signs. Julie Burton shared concerns from EMS and Fire perspective about the need for double sided and reflective fire signs.

4. SDL accepted our payment for 2021/22 and the township proposed 22/23 contract fee. A new contract needs to be created.

**New Business:**

1. Paula Fillman, assessor explained AMAR/land table situation. A corrective action plan will be sent to Treasury asking for time to correct the problem. Assessor & supervisor to meet with others to create plan on Friday.
2. Clerk shared written Par Plan Loss Prevention report findings with the board and suggested we have a physical review of properties and coverage with our agent Adam Gandolfi. We should implement recommended changes in report.
3. Supervisor shared bid from Charlie Abram for tree removal at Watts Stamper Park. McKeage reminded that we need 3 bids if project is over \$2,000. Additional bids with insurance certificates to be requested.

**Public Comment:**

- Question about established lake levels on Big and South Manistique Lakes. How are the levels decided and implemented?
- What is the status of the fishing piers and fitness trails at orchard? The PA system and microphones need to be fixed for board meetings.
- What is the board reply to the email with concerns about noise and animals on Sandtown Road. Reed will get with Mr. Snyder. Email was not given to the board.
- Steven King candidate for 1<sup>st</sup> district County Commissioner introduced himself to the board and attendees.
- Curtis Farmers Market opens July 15 at new Sandtown Rd location. Concerns about safety so close to the road.

Motion to adjourn 9:07 p.m.