

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2022 Approved

Pat MacLachlan, Clerk

The regular meeting of the Portage Township Board was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Reed.

Board members present: Holbrook, McKeage, Reed and MacLachlan,

Motion McKeage, support Holbrook to approve the agenda as presented, all ayes.

Motion Reed; support Abram to approve the minutes of the 10/11/22 regular meeting.  
All ayes.

Motion McKeage; support Holbrook to approve the bills as presented. EMS payroll checks \$15,387.09, Township payroll checks \$9195.88, General \$24,036.88, Roads \$5,986.00, Fire \$1,948.53, EMS \$29,756.47 All ayes.

Reports:

Treasurer- 2022 Winter tax bill are ready to be mailed, EGLE has approved the permit for the Third Bridge fishing pier.

Clerk- November election had 606 ballots cast. The new copier has finally arrived, Equalization has an updated map of township fire numbers, a wall map and download are available for pick up at the county. Clerk suggested the Board consider a plan to use remaining bond funds to create the North Road and ask Mackinac County for funding via their COVID funds to cover the cost of paving. Garfield Township successfully received a funding commitment for paving of a secondary road.

Information about the SPARK grant opportunity was shared with the board. This grant would offer an opportunity to improve multiple township recreation areas, the orchard trail and playground equipment at the park and school properties.

Planning- Kolder said the committee is struggling working through the zoning ordinance changes.

Fire-2 mutual aid calls in October.

EMS- 17 runs in October. Captain will bring more information about a new ambulance to the December meeting. Discussions with the board about charging a fee for lift assist runs.

**Motion Reed; support McKeage to charge \$350 for a lift assist run. All ayes.**

**Action items**

**Old Business-**

1. Rich Erdlitz addressed the board sharing his concerns about the lack of zoning enforcement and oversight by the Board. Forms are not being used correctly or not at all. As far back as 1992, enforcement was done in accordance with the ordinances. There is a precedent of enforcement and it is currently being ignored.
2. Clerk shared timeframe for contract negotiation with SDL and Library millage renewal election. Library contract expires June 30, 2023. Board members had discussion of library furnaces, consensus to repair and consider replacement later.
3. Motion MacLachlan; support McKeage to stay with Bowman Gas for the township propane provider for 2022/23. Supervisor requested a roll call vote. McKeage -y, Holbrook-y, Abram,-y, MacLachlan-y, Reed-N

7:50 p.m. Supervisor Reed abruptly walked out of the meeting announcing he was resigning.

Remaining board member consensus to have Clerk MacLachlan moderate the meeting and continue with the agenda items.

**New Business-**

1. Motion McKeage, support Holbrook to accept the 2021/22 audit draft as presented. All ayes.
2. Decision on streetlight upgrade tabled to December meeting. Holbrook to check into current inoperable outlets and surge protection compliance and report back to board.
3. Motion McKeage; support to accept the website creation proposal from MCG. All ayes
4. Acceptance of resolution by Holbrook; support McKeage to apply for a Michigan DNR SPARK Grant for improvements and upgrades to the Portage Township recreation areas, including The Community Orchard Park and Learning Center playground. Grant amount not to exceed the maximum grant amount of \$1,000,000. Ayes- 4 McKeage, Holbrook, Abram, MacLachlan. Nays-0, Absent- Reed.
5. Motion McKeage; support Abram, on the recommendation of Captain Wiegand, to hire Billy J. McAlpine as a driver trainee for the Portage Township EMS. All ayes
6. Discussion consensus, to wait for more information on the township refrigerator status before making a decision on purchasing new kitchen equipment. Tabled until December.

Public Comment

- How does the process work to replace the supervisor?
- Current supervisor is good for the township
- What is going on with Planning & Zoning? Joe Kolder gave an explanation of the process.
- Why was this situation with zoning allowed to happen? Lack of enforcement /incorrect enforcement?
- If zoning stays the way it is, will it be enforced? How will enforcement be assured, since the board has not done anything to assure enforcement?
- Linda Blanchard shared information on the library holiday programs. She also gave an update on the “non-resident fee” requirement by SDL.
- Fire Chief Burton noted inconsistencies in the Big Lake levels and concerns about no legal lake level for S. Manistique Lake. Who are the members of the Big lake Dam committee?

Motion to adjourn at 8:59 p.m.