

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2022 Approved

Pat MacLachlan, Clerk

The regular meeting of the Portage Township Board was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supervisor Reed.

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

Motion MacLachlan; support Holbrook to approve the agenda as amended. Including additions-

Old Business- #4North Road, #5McGahn Rd upgrade, #6Sandtown Rd. upgrade, #7 Laura Smith

New Business:- #3Medicare Ambulance Data collection, #4Hoffy Rd- Tim Pittenger, #5Township bid/purchase policy limit increase to \$5,000.

All ayes.

Motion Holbrook; support McKeage to approve the minutes of the 11/15/22 regular meeting. All ayes.

Motion Holbrook; support Reed to approve the bills as presented. EMS payroll \$19713.50, Township payroll \$10,372.48, Fire Annual payroll \$19997.12, General \$23928.01, Fire \$21526.90, EMS \$24,825.23. 4 ayes, 1 nay, Bills approved

Reports:

Treasurer-Written report given to board, Treasurer will be in office 12/28/22 from 9-5 to accept tax payments.

Clerk- Working with Bill Sanders to finish SPARK Grant for 12/19/22 submission, plan to have township web site up and running by the end of January.

Library- Linda shared that Lisa Waskin, SDL Director, would like the Township Supervisor to contact her to start the process of renegotiating the SDL Contract that expires 6/30/23.

Fire- Annual runs /calls totaled 22 for 2022. Fire Roster has 15 members.

Building/Zoning- Dennis attended FEMA Flood Plain meeting, there are no changes for our area. Supervisor asked about status of the Wild Leek Lane property, Dennis is trying to get updated contact information for the owners.

County Commissioner- Jim Hill thanked the township for their support during his 12 years as Mackinac County Commissioner.

County Planning Commission- Dave Dietz shared information about a Blight Elimination Grant available through Mackinac County and that Clark Township hires a retired law enforcement official to enforce zoning.

Assessor- Paula Fillman gave a verbal report on the AMAR required corrected land value progress. She gave a written report to board members on the 2023 taxable value increases which will be 5%.

December 13, 2022 minutes

Page 2

Planning- Joe Kolder said the amended zoning ordinance has been finalized by the commission and has been sent to EUP Regional Planning for printing.

Action items

Old Business-

1. **Jim Anderson thanked the township board and personnel for their work. He shared his support of Don Reed as Portage Township Supervisor.**
2. **Streetlight decision tabled until January.**
3. **Motion Holbrook; support Abram to accept Resolution 22-6, to submit a Spark Grant application in the amount of \$860,000. Ayes: MacLachlan, Abram, McKeage, Holbrook, Reed. Nays- none**
4. **Reed shared that he has looked into creating the North Road with 28' top and 2' shoulders. There are some soil concerns at Strawe Rd. He is looking into a private road that is currently located to the south of the township property as an alternative.**
5. **Reed shared that McGahn Road needs more work to solve water problems at S. Curtis Rd & McGahn.**
6. **Discussion of what can be done on Sandtown Rd. Abram will follow up on letter that he sent to our U.S Representative for financial help.**
7. **Laura Smith wanted to "enlighten the public" on her issues of concern regarding a lack of transparency by the board. She shared concerns regarding ordinance enforcement and adherence to township bid/purchasing policy. She said she felt that the taxpayers deserve better. Discussion between Supervisor and Laura continued about lack of respect.**

New Business-

1. **Motion Reed; support Holbrook to approve the 2023 Portage Meeting dates. All ayes.**
2. **Discussion of condition of Pine Pole plot after cut #3. Bernie Hubbard will look at area and report back to Supervisor.**
3. **Motion Reed; support Holbrook to Report to Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection System with information from fiscal year 7/1/23-6/30/24 with final report due 11/2024. All ayes.**
4. **Request by Tim Pittenger to the board to consider compensating him for the money he paid to install a culvert on Hoffy Road that was not done by MCRC when Hoffy Rd. was improved for paving. McKeage will make calls and get back to Mr. Pittenger.**
5. **Request by Reed to increase township bid policy cap from \$2,000 to \$5,000, due to price increases.**

Roll call vote: Reed-y, McKeage-n Holbrook-y, for essential items, MacLachlan-n, Abram-y. Motion carried.

Public Comment

- Why are so many items added to the agenda at the board meeting? What are the distances for the proposed North Road? Is the change from \$2,000 - \$5,000 a change in policy?
- What is the reason for a culvert?
- The roof leak that was repaired without bids was not an urgent need. Increasing the bid limit condones cronyism.
- Concern by Choice Propane owner, a township resident, that township propane supplier decision for winter 22/23 was wrong.
- What happened to the old refrigerator that was replaced with a new one? Who made the decision to dispose?

-Supervisor Reed spoke to the issue of his resignation. He is not resigning his position and will complete his elected term.

Motion to adjourn 8:54 p.m.