

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2023    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, Abram and MacLachlan,

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

Motion Abram; support Holbrook to approve the minutes of the 12/13/22 regular meeting with addition of ‘Abram in attendance’. All ayes.

Motion McKeage; support Abram to approve the bills as presented. EMS payroll \$20,894.00, Township payroll 10,992.48, General \$20,990.85, Fire \$865.91, EMS \$23,539.48 plus Airgas bill to be received. All ayes

Report

Trustee-

-Abram spoke with Dirk Heckman and Bill Wagoner about Sandtown Road and S. Curtis Rd. options for improvements. More information to come from MCRC.

-Holbrook has been in contact with Three Lakes Academy about the new flooring they are proposing to install in the classroom wing of the school. He also suggested that the furnace be cleaned/inspected on a regular schedule.

Treasurer-Written report given to board,

Clerk- SPARK grant submitted, now we will wait to hear from the DNR. 1099s & W-2s have been completed. Hoping to have township website running by mid-February.

Reminded board of MTA conference April 18-20 in Traverse City.

EMS- 19 calls. Captain shared price and information about a new ambulance purchase.

Discussion with Board and public about EMS needs. Supervisor would like to call a special meeting to discuss Portage EMS service. Captain requested to schedule a Station EMT instead of on call EMT various times during the week.

Fire- 2 calls, Locks to be changed on Fire/EMS barn to new, yet to be purchased, push button system.

Building/Zoning- 42 permits issued in 2022.

**Action items**

**Old Business-**

- 1. Discussion by board members about committing ARPA/Covid funds to pay for upgrade to township streetlights and electric outlets per proposals from Cloverland and J Ranck Electric.**

**Motion Holbrook, support McKeage to ask Mackinac County for \$43,620 of ARPA funds for upgrade to streetlights and outlets.**

**Roll call vote requested by supervisor.**

**McKeage-y, MacLachlan-y, Abram-y, Holbrook-y, Reed-n. Motion carried.**

**New Business-**

- 1. Motion Reed; support Holbrook to approve the March 2023 board of review meeting dates as presented and Reed recommended Richard Erdlitz and Laura Brady as new members and Greg Moore as continuing member. All ayes.**

- 2. Reed gave information about the letter of support sent to SEMCO regarding their grant request to increase service area.**

- 3. Discussion by board and public of a new Portage Township maintenance building. Reference to a ‘township campus’ plan was made and how grant funding would help pay for the project.**

**Motion Holbrook; support McKeage to secure a grant writer to find grant funding for township campus buildings.**

**McKeage-y, Abram-y, MacLachlan-y, Reed-y. Motion carried.**

Supervisor Report-Spoke with Dirk Heckman about roads.

-McGahn Rd. One mile of repair will cost \$250,000. This is a main road and eligible for 90% funding by MCRC.

- Stamper Park/Portage St. south of Main that was contracted for \$22,000 in 2022 for paving, but was cancelled, will now cost \$35,000 for road lift and grade and \$35,000 for paving.

- Saw Wa Quato Rd “check dams” are not adequate and 2 additional will be needed to resolve drainage problems.

**Public Comment**

-What is happening with the review of speed limits that was brought up at the ARPA funding public meeting?

-Status of community building generator?

-How flexible is “COVID” money to accomplish projects?

Motion to adjourn 9:07p.m.