

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2023 Approved

Pat MacLachlan, Clerk

The regular meeting of the Portage Township Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Reed.

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

Motion Holbrook; support McKeage to approve the agenda with additions - New Business #6. Resignation & #7 Road Agreements. All ayes

Motion Holbrook; support Abram to approve the minutes of the 1/10/23 regular meeting with correction to Supervisor Report deleting "by MCRC" and adding "1 or" and 1/18/23 special meeting. All ayes.

Motion McKeage; support Reed to approve the bills as presented. EMS payroll, \$15,243.42, Township payroll \$8732.39, General \$16,233.54, Fire \$250.00, EMS \$22450.79, Library \$18,000.00. All ayes

Reports

Trustee- Holbrook- School furnace serviced and set up for regular maintenance bi annually. Classroom flooring plans and prices are moving forward.

Treasurer- Written report given to board, February 28 is the last day to pay 2022 taxes; office will be open 9-5.

Clerk- Update on Spark Grant resubmission, since we did not get grant in the first round. Participated in a DOT webinar on road grant funding, deadline for submissions is 2/28/23. Township website is coming along, a longer process than expected. Shared information on new Recycle Grant for signage and security.

EMS- 14 calls. Kohvakka said rig rotation will resume in March. Heating problems in the EMS house, possible thermostat issue.

Fire- 2 calls,

Library- Winter programing is continuing. New contract is being worked on by Waskin & Reed.

Mackinac County Planning- Dietz reported that Blight Elimination grant funding is available.

Building/Zoning- New permits for 2023 are coming in.

Road Committee- Lynn Kihm read a report from the most recent committee meeting held on 2/13/23. A plan will be presented to the board that includes \$250,000 for McGahn Rd redo of 1 mile. Stamper Park paving that was not completed in 2022, Sandtown Rd restoration plan, possibly paid for through a safety grant, North Rd may need right of way acquisition of other areas. The old "gravel match" program has been increased to a 20/20/20 match.

Action items

Old Business-

1. **Motion MacLachlan; support Holbrook to approve contract with Cloverland for streetlight upgrades that will be paid for by Mackinac County ARPA funds. Roll call vote- McKeage-y, MacLachlan-y, Abram-y, Holbrook-y, Reed-n. Motion carried. Consensus of board to table the proposal for electric outlets on streetlight poles until March. Lynn Kihm to look into costs for seasonal banners and brackets as an option.**
2. **Motion McKeage; support Holbrook to move forward with the Land Transfer application to the DNR for a park & swimming beach at Sa-Wa-Quato Park. All ayes**
3. **Motion Reed; support Holbrook to hold a Special Election, August 8, 2023 for township mileages. All ayes**
4. **Supervisor Reed proposed to create an EMS Committee. It will be a fact finding group that will bring recommendations to the board. He appointed members: Jim Anderson, Dave Dietz, Eric Wiegand, Brad Kohvakka, Andrea McKeage and Pat MacLachlan. Dennis Alberts offered to serve on the committee.**

New Business-

1. **Food Truck discussion died from lack of interest.**
2. **Motion Reed; support Holbrook to discuss the Three Lakes Academy lease renewal at the May Budget hearing. All ayes**
3. **Discussion about replacing the ageing welcome signs, MacLachlan and Phil Miller to make recommendation.**
4. **MacLachlan received approval to contact Foster/Swift about Community Church property.**
5. **Motion Reed; support McKeage to replace furnace in the library reading room, per Bowman proposal of \$4,561.48. All ayes. Holbrook to clarify the Bowman EMS/Fire Barn proposal.**
6. **Motion Reed; support Holbrook to accept with distress, the resignation of Paula Fillman, assessor, effective 3/31/23 and to run ads for assessor for 2 weeks. McKeage-y, Abram-y, MacLachlan,-y, Holbrook-y, Reed-y.**
7. **Motion Holbrook; support Reed to approve the 2 MCRC road agreements for lift \$35, 062.00 and paving \$35,509.60 of Portage Rd, south of Main St. 4 ayes, 1 nay (due to price increase). Motion passed.**

Page 3

February 14, 2023 minutes

Supervisor-

Reed shared information about Recycle Grant that Ethel Wells is working on. Board may need to budget \$25,000 from the general fund for future road work and an additional \$20,000 for match money. McGahn Rd will be a major project and we will be responsible for 10% of the cost. He will talk to Rep. McBroom for possible help.

Public Comment

- Concerns about Portage Twp EMS mutual aid to Luce County affecting revenue as we are not recouping fees from these runs. Supervisor will speak with Brad about situation.
- Update on MLATB, Bingo will start 6/1/23. MLATB funds advertising for Chamber of Commerce, Erickson Center and they pay for fish plants with Portage Anglers Club.
- Mackinac Economic Alliance grant writer Chris Barnes secured a grant for Frazier Fisheries for expansion. Mackinac Marine Services has expanded their shipbuilding capabilities. The commercial port on Lake Michigan has expansion plans.

Motion Holbrook/Abram to adjourn 8:58p.m.