

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 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 McKeage; support Holbrook to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes

Motion McKeage; support Holbrook to approve the minutes of the 4/11/23 meeting. All ayes

Motion McKeage; support Holbrook to approve the bills with addition of MCRC \$17,531 and SDL \$18,000. EMS net payroll \$12,965, Township net payroll \$6838.87, General \$17,422.91, Fire \$33.50, EMS \$20,552.20. All ayes

Reports

Treasurer-Written report given to board, Cleanup day is June 10, 9-1. Met with our new County Commissioner.

Clerk- MacLachlan shared information from classes at MTA Conference. Of note were updates on election changes, EMS/Fire payroll, park & rec funding opportunities and legal updates from Foster- Swift. Thank you to our Fire & Ambulance personnel who braved the elements for the dangerous water rescue of a snowmobiler on Big Manistique Lake.

Trustees- Holbrook invited to next Three Lakes Academy School Board meeting.

EMS- Staff currently is 2 Paramedics, 5 EMT, and 4 Drivers. Actively pursuing new staff members. EMS needs community support. 9 calls including 2 no transport.

EMS Committee- Dave Dietz gave an update on the recent meetings. There are complex issues at EMS. The committee will bring recommendations to the board.

The EMS staff is overworked and need more help.

Planning-

Kolder shared that Commission voted to adopt the Zoning Ordinance Amendments and forward to the Township Board for approval. The temporary dwelling portion was rewritten and will be discussed in Action Items-Old #4.

**Action items**

**Old Business-**

- 1. Library report given by Blanchard. Library programming is continuing as planned for the month of June. She will attend the SDL board meeting 5/17. Discussion between board members as to status of SDL contract negotiations. Options are being discussed but the legal status of Curtis Library as of 6/30/23 is still undetermined. Motion MacLachlan; support McKeage to move the Library millage renewal request to the November 7 election. All ayes.**
- 2. Motion MacLachlan; support McKeage to accept the April 3, 2023 EMS Committee report and implement the recommendations. All ayes**
- 3. Motion McKeage; support Holbrook to hire Tasha Rosebush as Portage Township Assessor as of 5/9/23. Bud Chamberlin will serve on the Board of Review. All ayes.**
- 4. Motion MacLachlan; support Holbrook to accept the Planning Commission resolution for zoning amendments, but the board will not act upon them at this time. All ayes.**

**New Business-**

- 1. Budget Workshop will be held Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Library Reading Room.**
- 2. Motion Holbrook; support MacLachlan to rehire Lori Troyer as summer maintenance help, 20hours/ week for 10 weeks with a .50/hour increase from last year. All ayes.**
- 3. Motion McKeage; support Holbrook to contract with Wilkinson Corporation for 2023 dust control. All ayes. Ads for Private dust control for 2 insertions. Roads to be included: Sandtown, Carlson, end of Long Point, N. Gould City Rd, s of pavement end and Lake Ave, n of Davis.**
- 4. Motion to approve the additional contract for McGahan Rd geo fabric. All ayes**

**New Business cont.**

- 5. Item not addressed**
- 6. Joe Smith shared concerns regarding school and recreation area speed limit signs, school should be 25 MPH and Rec Area 35mph.**  
**As a member of the EUP citizen Committee he expressed concerns Lake Michigan watershed and the water levels in our lakes. Also, questioned assessment status of blighted properties in Portage Township.**

**Public Comment**

- Is there proof of the legal deeded access to Big Manistique Lake off Ketola Rd.
- Who oversees the legal lake level of Big Manistique Lake?
- Newly paved roads look good after the first winter. Questioned 55 mph speed limit on paved part of Sandtown Rd.
- EMS people are passionate, however we cannot continue the way we are. The situation needs to be addressed.
- Local EMS recruiting is all the same pond of people. Willing to create a recruitment video for Portage Township.
- ER nurse with 17 years' experience doesn't want to lose our EMS service.

Motion Holbrook to adjourn 8:54 p.m.