

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2023 Approved Pat MacLachlan, Clerk

The budget hearing and regular meeting of the Portage Township Board were called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Supervisor Reed.

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

Motion Holbrook; support McKeage to approve the minutes of the 5/23/23 budget workshop. All ayes

No public comment on the proposed 2023/24 budget.

Motion McKeage; support Holbrook to approve the proposed 2023/24 Portage Township budget as presented. All ayes.

Motion McKeage; support MacLachlan to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes

Motion Holbrook; support Abram to approve the minutes of 5/9/23 meeting with a correction to the hire date of Assessor Rosebush. All ayes

Motion MacLachlan; support McKeage to approve the 6/6/23 Special meeting minutes. All ayes

Motion Holbrook; support McKeage to approve the bills as presented. EMS payroll \$16,711.75, Township payroll \$11,530.20, General \$19,137.95 plus Alberts expense request and Curtis Service bill, Fire \$5,000.00, EMS \$26,393.12, Learning Center \$750. All ayes. Board also agreed to not collect Admin fee or insurance premium reimbursement from Library fund.

Reports

Treasurer- Written report given to board, Cleanup day was slow. Summer tax bills will go out at the end of June.

Clerk- Dust control will be done the 2nd week in June.

Trustees- Abram reported that the Big Lake level is still 6" too high.

Holbrook reported the school flooring to be installed mid-July. Septic tanks were pumped for charter re-certification. Recommend this being done bi-annually or as suggested by health department. New tank lids are needed.

Fire- Jeff Burton reported 6 runs in May, mostly brush fires.

EMS- Julie Burton reported that staffing has not changed from May.

Planning- Kolder shared that Joe Smith is still concerned about the legality of speed limit posted at the school. The commission members voted Scott McKeage, as chairman, Joe Smith, vice chair and Joe Kolder secretary of the Planning Commission.

Assessor- Tasha Rosebush reported that deed entry is up to date, the data base is updated for the taxes and the AMAR paperwork was submitted with Paula Fillman's help.

Library- Linda gave update on what is going on at the library through the end of June. As of July 1 we will no longer be part of the SDL, however the library will run as it always has with programs over the summer.

Supervisor- Gravel buildup has been plowed off the shoulders onto Sandtown Road. This may help with the amount of new gravel needed to be placed in the future.

Building/Zoning- Wild Leek Lane lot issues are being resolved with split application in process for additional property to be added to undersized lots.

Action items

Old Business-

- 1. Motion Reed; support McKeage to accept and approve the Consent for Representation by Foster, Swift Collins & Smith in connection with the MOU between SLC and Portage Township. Reed-y, Abram-y, MacLachlan-y, McKeage-y, Holbrook-y. Accepted**
- 2. Motion Reed; support MacLachlan to accept and approve the Memorandum of Understanding of Services with Superiorland Library Cooperative. McKeage-y, Holbrook-y, Reed-y, Abram-y, MacLachlan-y Accepted. Decision to accept letters of interest for the Library Board with ads to be placed in the newspaper. Linda to check on internet and firewall requirements with Dillon at SCL.**
- 3. Tabled until July discussion of the proposed MU 11 & 2 Zoning amendments.**

New Business-

- 1. 2023/24 budget was approved during the Public Comment period at the beginning of this meeting.**
- 2. Discussion of status of implementation of EMS committee recommendations. Job descriptions and business structure need to be addressed. The EMS building does not need an update, just redesign/use of space to accommodate staff.**
- 3. Motion Holbrook; support Abram to increase full time maintenance salary to \$42,000 annually as of July 1, 2023. All ayes**
- 4. Motion Reed; support Holbrook to approve the 2022/23 budget adjustments as presented. All ayes**
- 5. Motion Reed; support Holbrook to approve the fireworks permit request by Three Lakes Area Fireworks Council for 7/2/23. All ayes.**

- 6. Motion McKeage; support Reed to approve the 2023/24 contract for Ambulance Protection Service with Newton Township. The new contract is for 1.25 mils. (\$53,250). All ayes *Contract will be forwarded to Newton Township Clerk.**
- 7. Note that July Board of Review will be held Tuesday, July 18, 2023 from 9:00 a.m.- completion of work, in the Community Building.**
- 8. Motion Reed; support MacLachlan to approve a lease extension contract with Three Lakes Academy. Lease will be for 5 years, July 1, 2023- June 30, 2028. All ayes.**

Public Comment-

-Is Highline Internet coming to Portage Township? Is the orange plastic piping along H42 for natural gas? Why isn't there a building/zoning permit for W17994 Long Point. A cabin was brought in and slid onto a sand pile with no visible foundation. There does not appear to be a well or septic on the site and there is not a building permit posted. There are many buildings in process without a visible permit, which is required yet not enforced.

- Possibly Synergy gas.

-Please clarify allowable use of Township Community building and also the Learning Center/Three lakes Academy.

-What is going on with Schoolcraft EMS?

-Stamper Park will be closed to the public until 7/1/23 for road repairs.

Motion Holbrook to adjourn 8:42 p.m.