

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 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

Guests: Lester Livermore, MCRC and Bethany Leiter and Cole from Highline Internet.

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

Motion McKeage; support Abram to approve the minutes of the 7/11//23 regular meeting. All ayes

Motion Abram; support McKeage to approve the bills as presented. EMS payroll \$18,063.50, Library payroll \$1768.60, Township payroll \$12,506.13, General \$22,847.45, Roads \$67,507.80 Fire \$605.97, EMS \$29,116.93, Library \$1950.70. All ayes

Guest presentations:

Lester Livermore MCRC Commissioner congratulated Portage Township on the township wide paving project. He shared the commission's desire to have better communication and outreach with townships and shared a letter he gave to the MCRC members.

Highline representative Bethany Leiter gave a presentation on the high speed internet available to Portage Township residents. Highline plans to begin installation by the end of August. Information is available by contacting Highline via phone or online. Additional information will be available at the township office.

Reports

Clerk- November Special Election information has been sent to the county clerk. Shared information from John Bauman, DNR Lake Michigan Watershed manager regarding our lake levels and Big Lake fish survey preliminary results.

Treasurer- Written report given to board. Attended a class on Algae Bloom. The stop sign at Diller Rd. is obstructed and should be corrected. The 2023 Metro Fund payment was short and will be corrected in the 2024 payment.

Trustee – Abram shared that the dock at the Saw-Wa - Quato launch has been moved out as far as it can go.

Holbrook is getting bids on replacement doors for Learning Center. The flooring project has been completed.

August 8, 2023 minutes

Page 2

Library- Book sale brought \$2,100 to the Friends of the Library. State Librarian will visit Curtis on 9/11/23, public is invited to a meet & greet.

Assessor- Tasha shared that the AMAR review has been completed and accepted by SOM Treasury. Office hours for August will be: Sunday 8/20 8:00 a.m.- Noon & Saturday 8/26 8:00 a.m.- Noon. County Equalization Director, Mike Gillette is doing a commercial property assessment in Portage Township.

EMS- 21 calls. Current staff is 5 drivers, 5 EMT and 2 Paramedics.

Building/Zoning- Amish shed on Long Point does not qualify as a residence.

Fire- 3 runs. No update on the 2 grants that were submitted last month.

Action items

Old Business-

- 1. Motion Reed; support Holbrook to approve the MCRC contracts as presented. All ayes**
- 2. Motion Reed; support to hire Linda Blanchard, Carol Stiffler and Kim Kalnbach as Portage Township/Curtis Library employees. Library Manager pay \$19.00/hr., Staff- \$13.00/hr. All ayes.**

New Business-

- 1. Supervisor shared information on the plan to hire a maintenance person to replace Phil Miller who will be leaving in October. Ad running for 2 weeks has been placed in the Advisor. Interviews to be completed ASAP.**
- 2. Supervisor shared that he placed an ad for bids to complete the parking area at Watts Stamper Park. The bids will be opened 8/11/23.**
- 3. Motion Reed; support McKeage to hire Emmet Dumas as a firefighter trainee and require him to complete FF1 certification at the next available class. All ayes**

Public Comment

-Sprang Rd has 4 blind driveways at the hill. Signage is needed. Will there be a speed limit sign placed on sprang?

- What happened to the right of way/road end access? There now is a garage at the Whitman property blocking the access. The road end lake access at Long Rd/Saw- Wa- Quato is roped off.

- How were the contracts for Stamper, Sprang and S. Curtis roads bid? They appear to cost considerably more per mile than previous contracts. Since MCRC did not live up to the original agreements on Sprang and S. Curtis roads, why are the taxpayers now paying more? MCRC should be responsible and pay for these errors.

Motion Reed/Holbrook to adjourn 8:54 p.m.