

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2024    Approved                      Pat MacLachlan, Clerk

The regular meeting of the Portage Township Board was called to order at 7:02 p.m.  
by Supervisor Reed.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion Holbrook; support McKeage to approve the agenda as amended with item New #4- EMS billing request added. All ayes

Motion McKeage; support Holbrook to approve the minutes of the 2/13/24 regular meeting and 3/7/24 special meeting. All ayes

Motion McKeage; support Holbrook to approve the bills as presented. EMS payroll \$18,596.00, Library payroll \$2,484.00, Township payroll \$10,007.12, General \$34,752.31 plus Library bill yet to be received, Fire \$45.00, EMS \$22,919.08, Library \$2,997.29. All ayes

Reports

Clerk- Clerk withdrew FIT program application as there was not enough board support. The Chamber, Erickson Center and MLATB each had committed funds for the program. MacLachlan told MSU we would try for summer 2025. Suggested that the board submit a 2% funding request for a playground equipment for the Learning Center playground. Since Three Lakes is unable to levy a millage for extra items and all their funds go for educational expenses, the township board can request funds for equipment.

**Motion Reed; support Holbrook to submit a 2% Funding Request for gaming revenue sharing to purchase additional playground equipment for the Curtis Learning Center. All ayes.**

Treasurer- Written report given to board. General Fund and EMS Fund CDs are due to roll over. Reed suggested comparing rates available in the area.

EMS- 17calls. Wiegand to attend the Bay College job fair in April. 2014 rig had issues and was repaired. 911 transfers from the hospital are delayed due to lack of available transfer staff and vehicles and lack of beds.

Building/Zoning- Point of information shared with the board regarding Quit Claim deeds needing to be recorded to be legal.

Fire- 1call and 4 EMS assists.

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Library- Tish Anderson, Library Board chair, shared progress of the board. She explained the draft contract document presented for tonight's board review. Linda shared information on upcoming library programs.

Planning-McKeage said Temporary dwelling document from Planning, reflected the suggested wording changes made by the board at the February board meeting.

### Action items

#### **Old Business-**

- 1. Board discussion on the proposed Temporary dwelling amendment changes. Discussion showed misunderstandings of intent and wording. Planning Commission to meet again and review/revise and bring back to the Board.**
- 2. Discussion on where EMS/township is in implementing the recommendations of the 2023 Emergence Services Committee. Wiegand said there are no Medics in the current Bay College graduating class. Supervisor and Captain to chat.**
- 3. Reed gave update on the Big Lake Dam Committee. Nick Wheeler has been appointed as the Lakefield Board representative. Current 4 committee members will meet to set process for appointing 3 at large members. Sidock Engineering recertified 2003 & 2010 lake level survey marker at 3rd bridge as correct and will also verify at 10 Curves Dam. Level shows +4.5 inches currently.**
- 4. Holbrook to call TAS to find out status of most recent information sent to them.**
- 5. Clean-Up Day to be held June 8, from 9:00- 1:00 p.m. Tire Recycling to be included as we have been approved for a recycling grant to defray cost. A separate Electronics Recycling event will be held July 20 and will include surrounding townships. Electronics recycling event is also supported by a grant.**
- 6. Motion Holbrook; support McKeage to accept the Resolution to approve Fire & Emergency Services ballot language to be placed on the August 6, 2024 Primary ballot. McKeage-y, Holbrook-y, Abram-y, MacLachlan-y and Reed-y. Carried**

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### **New Business-**

- 1. Motion Reed; support MacLachlan to accept the proposed Building and Library Use Agreement presented by the Curtis Library Board. Holbrook-y, Abram-y, McKeage-y, MacLachlan-y and Reed-y. Carried**
- 2. Information was shared with the board and public about the upcoming MSU “Citizen Planner” class that will be offered at the Curtis Public Library. Registration deadline is March 29.**
- 3. McKeage gave information on the flowing well and any upgrades or possible improvements. Al Sanders suggested an acid wash and airlift to improve flow.**
- 4. Motion Reed; support Holbrook to forgive outstanding balances on 2 EMS ambulance bills as presented. All ayes**

### **Public Comment-**

-EMS has been washing rigs at the Fish & Hunt. Thank you.

-Eric & Julie Wiegand took a suicide prevention class and are available to anyone in need.

-We need some type of additional address/fire number posting on homes/buildings as fire signs may be located a long distance from a home. In the case of an emergency not knowing the fire number can be critical. Numerous suggestions were given.

-Township information, like the need for address information could be included with the property tax bills.

-Is there money to create and/or fix the Tennis/Pickle Ball courts at the recreation area? Many people play and the courts currently need work.

-There are many tires in ditches and on vacant property. Maybe a map with the locations could be created.

-Lake/creek levels will rise as the Seney snowpack melts after the snow in Curtis.

Motion to adjourn 8:44p.m.