

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2024 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 and MacLachlan

Abram arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion McKeage; second Holbrook to approve the amended agenda with addition of part time maintenance person to #3 new. All ayes

Motion Holbrook; second McKeage to approve the minutes of the 7/9/24 regular meeting. All ayes

Motion McKeage, second Holbrook to approve the bills as presented.

Payroll- Twp- \$11,938.30, EMS- \$20,166, Library \$2,819.00. General \$13,226.25, Roads-\$224,073.45, Fire \$103.34, EMS \$23,527.70, Learning Center- \$8,795.00 Library \$3,450.96. All ayes.

Reports

Clerk- New State law regarding paid leave and minimum wage will go into effect February, 2025. Township needs to look into this and look at budget impact. Primary Election went well. Election Inspectors were cross trained on various jobs. The Recreation Survey is available online through August 31, 2024, please take time to take the survey.

Treasurer- Written report given to board. Waiting for attorney Steve Mann to reply as to the status of our bond funds.

Trustees – Holbrook-McGahan Road repair is ahead of schedule.

Library- Library Board will meet September 4th at 3:00. Friends Group will meet August 19th at 1:30. All are welcome to these meetings. An Estate Planning information meeting is scheduled for September 12. It is free to the public.

Fire- No calls in July. Ten new SCBA cylinders will cost approximately \$108,000. Possible grant funding?

Motion Reed; second Holbrook to purchase 5 new wildfire sets totaling \$5,000 and a full fire gear set costing \$2,500 for newest hire. All ayes. Carried

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Building/Zoning- Most new permits are for barns and storage units. A new house is being built on Long Point.

Planning- Committee met in July and approved the final version of the “camper” ordinance changes that has been given to the board tonight for approval.

Park & Rec- Hubbard gave report and said that the Pier Project needs to get done.

Supervisor- Thanks to the Planning Commission for the amended “Camper” ordinance.

An ad to sell the old mower will run in the paper for 2 weeks.

The Big Lake Dam Authority met with the attorney via zoom meeting to discuss the variance on the legal lake level on Big Manistique Lake. A fall draw down of 1 foot is planned to begin in September. The proposal from the Curtis Area Trail club regarding the groomer barn sale will be brought to the September township board meeting.

Action items

New Business-

- 1. 2024 L-4029 moved to September Board Meeting as the bond attorney has not sent recommended millage amount to be collected.**
- 2. Board confirmed having Anderson-Tackman do the 2022/23 township audit. It is scheduled for October 9-11, 2024.**
- 3. Motion Reed; second Holbrook to hire Daniel Dismuke as the township electrical inspector with compensation to be 80% of inspection fee and mileage, paid monthly and to hire Deborah Emery as part time seasonal maintenance at \$15 per hour with 90 day probation period. All ayes. Carried**
- 4. Motion McKeage; second MacLachlan to appoint Dawn Buckley to the Park & Recreation committee and Leticia Anderson to the Emergency Services Committee. All ayes. Carried.**
- 5. Motion Reed; second McKeage to adopt the resolution to apply for a Par Plan Grant of \$5,000 for playground safety mats. Roll call vote- McKeage-y, Holbrook-y, Reed-y, Abram-y MacLachlan-y. Resolution adopted.**

Added item:

Motion Holbrook; second McKeage to accept the 2024 Temporary Dwellings amendment as presented by the Planning Commission.

Ayes-4, Nae-1. Motion carried

Public Comment-

-Garfield has new fire signs that include the street name.

-What is the status of the North road? Are there DEQ issues?

Status of the fishing piers?

A Zoning Enforcement office will be needed in the future, maybe shared with other townships?

-A list of 11 properties with campers in violation of the zoning ordinance was given to Zoning Administrator Alberts with a copy given to the clerk. "We have been treading water for 2 years on this subject".

Adjourn 8:14 p.m.