

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2024 Approved Pat MacLachlan, Clerk

The regular meeting of the Portage Township Board was called to order at 7:01p.m. by Supervisor Reed.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Motion Holbrook; second MacLachlan to approve the minutes of the 9/10/24meeting with corrections to Old business #1 wording to read “ Not allowing temporary dwellings in MU-1 on lots located on Main Street, between SaWaQuato and H-33. Roll Call vote: Holbrook-y, McKeage-y, Reed-y, Abram-y, MacLachlan-y.

Motion McKeage; second Abram to approve the bills as presented. Payroll- Twp- \$11,613.84, Ambulance- \$19,578.00, Library-\$2,507.70, General-\$11,892.32, Roads- \$49,120.95, Bond- \$31,193.76, Ambulance- \$21,596.72, Library-\$3,507.32. All ayes.

Candidates Gary Derusha, Daryl Schroeder and Ed Wilk, all running for elected office on the November ballot, introduced themselves to the board and meeting guests.

Reports

Clerk-Update on November election, gave information about the Big Lake Level website and shared an opportunity to display banners featuring veterans on streetlights, Auditors will be in the office tomorrow through Thursday.

Treasurer- Written report given to board. Audit begins tomorrow. Treasurer’s office has ordered a new laptop.

EMS-Soder shared concerns about recent ambulance repairs.

Planning- A meeting is planned October 22.

Fire- 5 runs, most were mutual aid. Working with 911 for better accident site detour systems.

Library- Library is now member of MCS and MLA, Shannon Paulson was hired a part time employee for library, Library Board members will be formally elected at November election. The next board meeting will be November 13, after the election is certified. Friends group will meet in January.

Park & Rec- Committee met last week to review survey results and work on 5 year Recreation Plan. A public input meeting is set for October 15, 2024.

Building/Zoning-Alberts is now working as building inspector for Portage, Newton, Garfield Townships and Luce County.

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Emergency Services-Tish Anderson and Julie Burton (replacing Brad Kohvakka) are new committee members. Time was spent getting new members up to speed on committee work thus far. Committee noted to board, that new Michigan minimum wage and paid leave law needs to be addressed by the board re: EMS staff. Reed & Wilburn to visit EMS house to look at upgrades to building. Yanz asked board if the Emergency Services committee was needed as not much has been implemented by the board from the committee recommendations given April, 2023

Action items

Old Business-

Items 1,2, 3 &4 were combined in discussion by Board. Appraisal of Groomer Barn was discussed, CAT real estate proposal that was presented by Reed, was reviewed by board, as well as two Survey proposals for property split on Lilac Lane and multiple lot creations on “North Road” properties and status of township garage.

8:05 p.m. closed session was called by Reed to have board visit Fire barn, township garage and the groomer building and discuss.

Meeting called back to order at 8:20 p.m.

Motion Holbrook; second Reed to hire Two Hearted Surveying to create survey for splits on Township properties on Lilac Lane and “North Road” lots.

All ayes.

Motion MacLachlan; second Reed to table further discussion and action until further information re; well, septic, ventilation requirements, spacial design, property values and splits have been received.

All ayes.

#5- Board accepted the “Portage Creek Pier bid process proposal “by Bill Sanders. Bids will be opened October 20 with recommendation to the Board at the November 12th Board meeting.

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New Business-

- 1. Clerk presented information about streaming/recording of township board meetings, making them available to the public. More information to be presented at the November Board meeting.**
- 2. Discussion of status of SDL L-4029 request to collect library millage from Portage Township/SDL Engadine public school library taxpayers. McKeage waiting for response from Foster/Swift regarding legality of duplicate collection.**
- 3. Discussion of needed repair of Library front porch/steps cement cracks. Project on hold until spring, cracks will be filled before winter as temporary fix.**

Public Comment

- What is status of the Orchard Trails? When will ads for bids be placed?
- ARPA funds to replace old fire signs? EMS wants to hire a student through a job training program. Who does the township payroll and how are payroll taxes and deductions calculated?
- Last date for Bingo is October 24th. Proceeds go to township organizations for promotion expensed. MLATB held a meeting to discuss what MLATB does for the local business community. Will the township be addressing regulation of short term rentals? The EMS house is old, Board should not spend too much money to update it.
- Jeff Burton apologized to the board for his outburst during closed session.
- Jarred Trogdon shared information about weekly AA Ope meetings held in the Community Building at 6:30.

Motion Reed; second Holbrook to adjourn 9:06 p.m.