

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 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: MacLachlan, Reed, McKeage, Holbrook. Abram arrived at 7:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Motion Holbrook; second McKeage to approve the minutes of the 10/8/24 regular meeting. All ayes

Motion McKeage; second Holbrook to approve the bills as presented. Payroll-Twp\$10,903.49, Ambulance- \$18,838.00, Library-\$2,386.00, General-\$18,962.30, Fire \$1,154.61, Ambulance- \$39,882.34, Library-\$4,373.42. All ayes.

Reports

Clerk- Portage Election voter turnout was 676 of 889 registered voters, 76%. Portage Twp Par Plan grant request for playground safety mats was approved. Big Lake Website will be added to the township web page. Pictures of guardrail damage at 3rd bridge were sent to Dirk Heckman at MCRC, they will repair. Pictures of cracks and standing water on pickle ball courts were sent to Pro Surface to document for warranty.

Treasurer- Winter tax bills will be sent out at the end of November.

Trustee Holbrook- Three Lakes security study is completed and meeting will be set between Three Lakes and township.

Trustee Abram- Survey is only cost incurred for clearing of right of way for the “north road” property. Abram is donating time and equipment for the project.

Library- Zoom meeting with Library of Michigan. Update on events and programs for the winter.

Park & Rec- Public comment meeting was held to get input for the new 5 Year Recreation plan.

Planning- Next meeting will be after the first of the year. Members talked about the status and zoning compliance of the metal junk yard on H-33. Zoning Administrator to talk to property owner.

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Action items

Old Business-

- 1. Treasurer, via Zoom call, spoke with Attorney, re: advice on the double collection of millage on Engadine School District, Portage Township residents. McKeage and Blanchard to do more information gathering. Current tax bill to Engadine School District/Portage Township taxpayers, will include millage collection for Engadine SDL and Curtis Library.**
- 2. Motion MacLachlan; second McKeage of accept the base bid and option #1, totaling \$124,211.00 from Olsen & Olsen of Manistique to construct the Third Bridge pier project. Reed-y, McKeage-y, Holbrook-n, Abram-y, MacLachlan-y. Motion carried.**
- 3. Update on proposed purchase of Groomer Building by Reed. Septic hook up may be ok with LMAS. Further information will be needed as Board and public commented during the meeting on the project. Comments included: possible layout drawbacks for storage of vehicles, air quality upgrades, building a new facility rather than buying 50 year old barn, need for additional general storage, purchase proposal does not include a sale price for the township owned 5 acre property on Sandtown & Lilac Lane. North Road survey is completed and will cost \$1500 more to include additional lot splits.**

New Business-

- 1. Motion McKeage; second MacLachlan to accept the 2024/25 snow plowing bid from John Glenn of \$100/hour. All ayes. Motion MacLachlan; second McKeage to accept the bid of \$20,000 from Dave Dietz/Jim Anderson to construct the walking paths at the Orchard. Reed-n, McKeage-y, MacLachlan, Abram-y, but only if the funds raised by the Orchard group is used first, then costing the township approximately \$14,000, Holbrook-y.**
- 2. Motion Reed; second McKeage to pay Clerk's office \$28/hour for work on the Medicare EMS report. All ayes**
- 3. Board approved paying additional \$1500.00 for survey of proposed North Road splits.**
- 4. Oath of Office for newly elected officials administered by Reed. Terms begin 11/20/24.**

Public Comment-

- Complaint about Highline damage on Wolfe Rd. Property. Reed to take care of issue.
- Will the Orchard paths be ADA compliant?