

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2024

Approved

Pat MacLachlan, Clerk

The regular meeting of the Portage Township Board was called to order at 7:00p.m. by Supervisor Sicinski.

Board members present: MacLachlan, Sicinski, McKeage, Holbrook and Abram. Guest-Ken Talsma, Anderson- Tackman

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion McKeage; second Holbrook to approve the agenda as amended to move New Business #1, 2024 Audit/F-65 to be presented after bill approval. All ayes

Motion McKeage; second MacLachlan, to approve the minutes of the 11/12/24 regular meeting. All ayes

Motion Sicinski; second Abram to approve the bills as presented. - General-\$27,662.28, Fire \$21,096.11, includes annual payroll \$21,012.27, Ambulance- \$23,834.92, includes \$22,691.54 payroll, Library-\$3,179.03, includes \$2,434.80 payroll. All ayes.

Reports

Clerk- Note the Library Board request and Library report in your board packets. Quiet in the Clerk's office. Reminder that the Township office will be closed December 24, 25 and 31 and January 1 for holidays.

Treasurer- Written report of account balances given to the board. Treasurer will be in the office Monday December 30th from 9-5 to accept tax payments.

Fire- 22 calls this year. Request to purchase a "Banana Rescue Boat" using donated funds from Kim Bushey Estate. **Motion Holbrook; second McKeage to allocate up to \$4,000 toward the purchase of a Banana Boat for fire rescue. All ayes.**

Building/Zoning- 3 permits issued in November.

Planning- Next meeting will be after the first of the year.

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Action items

Old Business-

- 1. Motion Holbrook; second Sicinski to approve allocation of ARPA Funds as follows:**

Cost of replacing 4 furnaces	\$12,000
Pickle Ball Court upgrades	44,500
Orchard Paths	14,000
Portage Creek Pier	<u>30,000</u>
	\$100,500.00

Vote- Ayes-4, Nae-1, motion passed.

- 2. Motion Sicinski; second Abram in reference to the Curtis Area Trail Association Real Estate Proposal presented to Portage Township Board members to purchase the groomer barn next door to the Township offices for \$125K with a lease back through August, 2026 for \$1/month, and lease 5 acres in the Northeastern corner of the Lilac Lane property owned by the township for \$1/year for 50 years, and should the Curtis Trail Association cease to exist or dissolve, at which time any lease, property, improvements and buildings would revert back to Portage Township. The Curtis Area Trail Association will be entirely responsible for the development of the Lilac lane Property.**

Discussion as to the function and intended use of the barn and leasing township property.

Roll call vote: Holbrook-y, Abram-y, Sicinski-y, MacLachlan-n, McKeage-n. Motion carried.

New Business-

- 1. Board thanked Ken Talsma for attending the meeting and reviewing the 2024 Audit and 2024 F-65.**
- 2. Motion Holbrook; second Sicinski to accept the proposed 2025 Portage Township Board meeting dates as presented. All ayes.**
- 3. Motion Sicinski; second Holbrook to contact Mike Homier, Foster/Swift for assistance with creating township HR policies and the implementation of the new State of Michigan minimum wage and paid personal time off law that goes into effect February 21, 2025. All ayes.**
- 4. Tabled action on Museum roof replacement until spring.**
- 5. Motion Abram; second Holbrook to accept the Library Closing Policy suggested by the Library Board. All ayes**

Public Comment-

-Dennis Alberts shared with the board the building fees charged in Luce County. He reminded the board he has not had a raise in many years.

-Sicinski asked about fire sign replacements.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.