

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016
Houghton Township Community Building

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Supervisor Vivian called the regular meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Trustee Treganowan led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Vivian, Clerk Jones, Treasurer Chase, Trustee Long and Trustee Treganowan.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS PRESENT: Tom and Elaine Hall, Mel Jones, Dan Steck and Gary Erickson

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL/ ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- Approve minutes of December 15, 2015 regular meeting
- Accept financial report
- Approve payment of bills for all funds – General Fund(4113.57); Water Fund (\$577.66)
- Adopt agenda for tonight’s meeting

Motion by Treganowan, seconded by Chase, to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

ASSESSOR’S REPORT – (and Board of Review) – At the meeting held on December 15, 2015, clerical errors were dealt with.

WATER DEPARTMENT – For a brief time, this past month, the water pressure was low, caused by low voltage. Mel rebooted the system, and corrected the problem.

OLD BUSINESS

- Board members read through and made corrections to the Parks and Rec Plan. The plan will be further reviewed and then there will be a public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS –

- MARINE SANCTUARY – Gina Nicolas wants to set up a marine sanctuary in Houghton Township, using state and federal guidelines. Jim reminded the board that the coastline along Lake Superior is already a historic preserve area. Jack pointed out that sanctuary status, which must applied for by a local group, can be very restrictive. More research will be done by board members and guests.
- BERM LANDSCAPING – Tom pointed out that something is needed for ground cover. He has seen a ground cover plant at Central that could be used. In the spring, he will plant it over the back of the berm area.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Shari contacted MTA about two issues: 1. Tax billing – the treasurer is not required to send tax bills or receipts. She will continue to send tax bills, and provide receipts upon request. 2. Landscaping work on township grounds is a lawful expenditure..

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT – the place where the Eagle River empties into Lake Superior was shifting gradually toward the Fitzgerald Inn. Jim contacted Mike McMahon to do the excavation work to correct the problem, with the owner of the Fitzgerald agreeing to pay the expense of the project. Jim, in conjunction with Keweenaw County and the Road Commission, will apply for a 5 year dredging permit.

CLERK’S REPORT – 1. In addition to lowering our regular monthly charge for the community building, there was a credit at the end of 2015 for the electric bill from UPPCO. 2. A primary election will be held on March 8 (all expenses reimbursed) 3. Our voter list is being reviewed and purged 4. The board of review organizational meeting, also on March 8, will be held in the township office. 5. There is a board of review training on February 9.

BUDGET – Motion by Long, seconded by Vivian, to amend the Water Budget with an increase of \$25 for supplies. Motion passed unanimously.

FLOOR COMMENTS – Elaine Hall and Jan Reese will supervise Copper Dog activities at the township hall on February 26; ~~Mary confirmed that \$5000 is to be budgeted in the next fiscal year for painting the building exterior.~~ (as amended/corrected)

Confirm date for next meeting – Monday, February 15, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Carol Jones, Clerk
Houghton Township

-CERTIFICATION-

I, the undersigned, Carol Jones, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Township of Houghton, Keweenaw County, Michigan, DO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 18th day of January, 2016.

Carol Jones, Clerk
Houghton Township