

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**September 22, 2014**  
**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, Kathy Toth-Banovetz , Tom Kehoe, Helen Ryan, Kathy McEvers Jan Cole, Paul Mihelcich, Vic Betterly, Ray Chase, Tom Sullivan and Deb Bradford, auditor and Carol Little, assessor

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL/ ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

- Approve minutes of August 18, 2014 regular meeting
- Accept financial report
- Approve payment of bills for all funds
- Adopt agenda for tonight's meeting
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Motion by Treganowan, seconded by Chase, to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**AUDITOR** – Deb Bradford summarized the advantages of changing the Water Fund books for calculating and printing bills over to QuickBooks. An annual update of the QuickBooks program would not be necessary, maybe every 10 years. The computer would only need QuickBooks and excel. Carol Little suggested that the water dept could share her computer that she needs at her office at the township. Mel asked about the time frame for switching over. Deb suggested Mary and Mel both do the computer work for the first 4<sup>th</sup> quarter billing on the new system, and thereafter Mel would work with Mary on the billing.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT** – Carol has been begun to create updated files for each property, with sketches and pictures. These will be stored in the file cabinet in the office. She is also working on maps.

**OLD BUSINESS** – No letter needs to be written to the folks working on the water shed project; They have begun the work.

**NEW BUSINESS** –

**TREASURER** – Tax season is over, but the taxes collected are \$20,000 delinquent. She plans to send the delinquent accounts a reminder. Also, she will send the school a bill for township service for tax collection.

**CLERK** – Elections are coming up on November 4<sup>th</sup>. An election commission meeting will be held after our regular meeting.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT** – Ray, Shari and Jim attended the WUPPDR meeting. The focus has changed to other areas of the up other than the Keweenaw. It seems that the copper deposits are not as promising as once thought. Not much will be done in our area in the immediate future. Tom mentioned that permitting is a problem in Keweenaw county. Jack asked about mining the stamp sands. Jim said that it still under discussion. – with thoughts of processing in Gay. Ray mentioned that copper recovery is the main emphasis for the stamp sands, with the possibility of creating a building product.

The post office indicated concern about using the post office boxes for announcements, as there has been a complaint. Kathy McEvers mentioned concern that some county meetings are not posted – Shari will put them on our website.

Jim mentioned that at the next meeting that the board will go into executive session to discuss water department compensation.

**FLOOR COMMENTS** – Paul asked about Steck's garage being built over a water line. Jim noted that he personally saw that the building was not over the water line, but there is an encroachment on the right of way. Mel mentioned that Doug Pascoe approved the way the work was done.

**BUDGET** – Motion by Treganowan, seconded by Chase, to increase the sanitation line of the General Fund by \$1500, from \$1706. to \$3206. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Vivian, seconded by Long, to increase the professional services line of the Water Fund by \$200, from \$900 to \$1100. Motion passed unanimously.

Confirm date for next meeting – October 20, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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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 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, 2014.

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Carol Jones, Clerk  
Houghton Township