

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024
Houghton Township Community Building

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Supervisor Ray Chase called the special meeting to order at 6 p.m.
He led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Ray Chase, Deputy Clerk Jones, Treasurer Mary Long, and Trustee Tom Hall.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Clerk Wanda Kolb and Trustee Steve Kline

GUESTS PRESENT: Elaine Hall, Mel Jones, Dan Steck, Kathy McEvers, Mike LaMotte, Attorney Ryan Plecha and Tess Ahlborn.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Hall, seconded by Long, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Public hearing on the matter of the abandonment of a portion of right of way on Front Street in Eagle River relative to the Right of Way encroachment of the smoker enclosure at the Fitzgerald Restaurant.

- + Supervisor Chase read correspondence from three residents:
 - Mike and Faye McMann – voted yes to support abandonment
 - Dan Steck – voted no to abandonment
 - Marissa Sullivan – voted no to abandonment
- The letters are on file in the township office as a matter of public record.

- + The floor was opened for comment:

- Dan Steck
- Mike LaMotte
- Kathy McEvers
- Ryan Plecha
- Tess Ahlborn

- + It was noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals denied the abandonment of right of way on Front Street, enacted by the Road Commission.
- + Land reverts back to the township when abandoned
- + New construction was deemed safe
- + Abandonment may cut off future uses
- + Precedent set?
- + Challenge not issued until construction was 90% completed

Houghton Township will decide at the regular meeting on May 20 to either refrain from disclaiming the abandoned right of way, in which case the right of way would revert to the Road Commission pursuant to the Road Commission resolution or the Township Board will disclaim the right of way and allow abandonment to go forward.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Carol Jones, Deputy Clerk
Houghton Township

-CERTIFICATION-

I, the undersigned, Carol Jones, the duly qualified deputy 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 special board public hearing held on the 13th of May, 2024.

Carol Jones, Deputy Clerk
Houghton Township