

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD
Monday, June 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Supervisor Ray Chase called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Board and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Ray Chase, Clerk Wanda Kolb, Treasurer Mary Long, Trustee Tom Hall, Trustee Steve Kline

ABSENT: None

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL: Motion by Tom, seconded by Steve to approve the agenda as written. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

- Motion by Tom, seconded by Mary to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2024 Regular Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Ray, seconded by Wanda to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Tom, seconded by Steve to approve the payment of bills. Motion passed unanimously by roll call.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Budget amendment to the water fund: Supplies: increase by \$85.28.

Budget amendment to the general fund: Account #227971 capital outlay increase by \$1,139.00

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. County wide road millage renewal: Email received from Greg Kingstrom requesting that information regarding the 2024 county wide road millage renewal be brought to the attention of tax payers. A document of the summary of what has been completed with road millage funding since 2015 and what is proposed for the next few years can be viewed at <https://keweenawcountyonline.org/commissions-roads.php>
2. Michigan Environmental Health and Drinking Water Information System (MiEHDWIS): in an attempt to streamline communication between Michigan's public drinking water supplies and EGLE, the MiEHDWIS information system is available, replacing the need to submit documents through the district office email. Mel will be encouraged to participate.
3. Early Voting Mailer: the department of state will be sending out postcards to households where voters live to inform them of the availability of early voting locations, dates and times.
4. EGLE permit: A Notice of Authorization was sent to Houghton Township from EGLE requesting signature to authorize repair and maintenance of the existing crib dock on Bell Isle, Isle Royal.
5. Eagle Harbor Township Notice of Intent to Prepare a Master Plan: A letter from Rich Probst, Township Supervisor Eagle Harbor township was read regarding the preparation of their Master Plan. There will be upcoming public meetings and opportunities for participation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Acceptance of Assessor resignation -Sara Huuki has submitted her letter of resignation which was read. Motion by Mary, seconded by Wanda to accept Sara Huuki's resignation effective July 31. Ray reported interviews for her replacement are taking place.

- Set date for public meeting regarding water ordinance – The public hearing will occur on July 8 at 6 p.m. The date, time and purpose of meeting will be posted by the clerk.
- Community calendar – Wanda shared a list of community activities for July and August which will be made available to the public in a flier that will be sent out with the summer taxes. A few activities will occur in June and these along with other activities will be posted on bulletin boards and made available on the website.
- Garbage in the deer park – Dave Schumacher shared his continued concern regarding the amount of household garbage that is dumped in garbage containers at the deer park. After discussion it was agreed that the service is necessary and that garbage will be collected more frequently. Dave will continue to monitor. A discussion occurred regarding the township ownership of the park and could it be turned over to the county. It was agreed that much investigation is needed regarding this prior to any action.
- Flowers outside of township building – The township thanked Keweenaw County Historical Society for donating the flowers and Carol Jones for planting and weeding the area.
- Re-instatement of Deputy Clerk Linda Paradiso: Wanda thanked Carol Jones for agreeing to an interim position as Deputy Clerk when both Wanda and Linda were out of town. Linda Paradiso is now reinstated.
- Office for Rural Prosperity/Rural Readiness Program: Linda reported that she participated in a recent virtual meeting to introduce a new office provided through a \$400,000 grant to expand the rural readiness program, a network for rural communities and their partners to learn together, identify grant opportunities, activate resources, and build community-driven priority projects. Linda asked if there would be people who would like to participate in a committee which she is willing to head up. Volunteers included Jim Huovinen, Gary Bays, and Wanda Kolb.
- FY2025 EGLE DWSRF follow up: Linda reported that this is a carryover from the 2024 submission. The only change was an update on yearly water users.
- Bridge Inspection – UP Engineers was contacted last year to inquire about the cost of inspecting the township owned lower walking bridge. At the time \$2,000 was quoted. We do have that amount of money available in the bridge fund. Gary Bays and Steve Kline will contact UP Engineering to have the bridge inspected. It was agreed that if further monies are needed, fundraising may be necessary.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Assessing: Sara Huuki was not present
- Water Department: Mel Jones was not present
- Cemetery: Wanda reported that one plot was purchased this month. Direction was requested regarding opening of graves for cremains if funeral parlors were not involved. It was agreed that the Cemetery Ordinance should be reviewed and updated. In the meantime, payment for work done by Township Maintenance should be billed to the family to recover wages.
- Election: Wanda reported that she and Deputy Paradiso will be gearing up for the August Primary which will include required education, newspaper postings, public testing, sending out of AV ballots, preparing election workers and participating in early voting etc.
- General Maintenance: Dave Schumacher. No report

- Park: Dan reported via email that approximately 250 people have used the restroom since the park opened. Sports equipment for public use will resume this week. Soccer goals and the volleyball court will be repaired and set up before the 4th of July.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Playground equipment safety checklist: Dave reported that this will be completed this week.
- Water System Training: No report available.
- Deer Park cleanup: Ray reported that some cleanup had been done by volunteers but more is required and will be done by volunteers.
- Building painting by volunteers – Jim Huovinen presented a plan for volunteers to scrape, paint and replace boards on the Township building. Wanda raised concerns related to liability and it was decided to not use volunteers for this project. Tom Hall will look into the use of AmeriCorps workers for the project. If the proposed millage for building upkeep is adopted in August providing funding over 4 years, the restoration project could be done in increments as money is made available.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Gary Erickson asked questions related to property line boundaries. A comment was made by Steve Kline regarding the Vernacular Architectural Forum which, partially sponsored by MTU, brought approximately 135 visitors into Eagle River to visit historic structures. It was said to be interesting for community members and participants alike. Elaine Hall reported that the Eagle River Museum would open on June 19.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Tom, seconded by Steve to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Next regular meeting – July 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Wanda Kolb, Clerk
Houghton Township

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, Wanda Kolb, the appointed 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 17th day of June, 2024

Wanda Kolb, Clerk, Houghton Township