

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD
Monday, November 18, 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 Mary to approve the agenda as written. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

- Motion by Tom, seconded by Steve to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024 Regular Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Ray, seconded by Wanda to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Mary, seconded by Tom to approve the payment of bills. Motion passed unanimously by roll call.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Motion by Ray seconded by Mary to approve the budget amendment to the General fund 227727 printing department supplies: increase by \$327.00.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Cemetery ordinance sent to 5 local funeral homes: Ryan, Pearce, Memorial Chapel, Oneil-Dennis, Erickson Crowley and provided to County Clerk. County Clerk also received the Water ordinance.
2. Houghton Township Clerk communicated concern related to no clerk or treasurer on November ballot to: Bureau of Elections, County Clerk, County Prosecutor, office of Senator McBroom, office of Representative Markkanen, Michigan Township Association
3. Auditor response regarding \$5,000 bridge expenditure for load test. Motion by Ray, seconded Steve to transfer \$5,000 from general fund to bridge fund. Steve will contact UP Engineers and request a quote for doing the load test. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Rural Readiness Grant Program: explanation provided by Linda Kline: application denied.
5. Hein Survey obtained. Still awaiting corners and fence posts every 50 feet. The survey has been registered at the courthouse. The current landowner is having a deed written to provide to the township.
6. Received from auditor and distributed to board members Financial Statements for Year Ended March 31, 2024.
7. Communication from Rich Probst regarding a Keweenaw County Supervisor meeting. All supervisors from Keweenaw County to meet on December 12 at Allouez Township at 4 p.m. Robbie will attend.

8. Request from MTA regarding updates to township officials list. Information obtained. Wanda will notify MTA with changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Steve is in the process of updating the Capital Improvement Plan. He summarized accomplishments and setbacks.
2. Items for consideration and discussion related to no clerk, no treasurer. A number of possibilities were discussed. The Supervisor elect summarized a recent education session he attended via zoom with MTA. Bottom line is that no one has answers to this problem. Michigan has not faced this issue prior to this year. The current clerk and treasurer will stay on through January 1. Both Mary and Wanda informed the incoming board members of other issues that they will need to deal with. Suggest having a budget preparation meeting in December as a special meeting. Appointments to the board of review are done in December. Decision is needed regarding who will collect school taxes. Will a finance person be hired? Who will pick up mail?

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Assessing: Mark Erhart. Not present. No report.
- Water Department: Mel Jones reported two incidents of no water when the power went out. He emphasized that this was not a generator problem. The generator did turn on. The system is such that it must be turned off and turned back on when the power goes out. People have been trained to do this and instructions are posted at the pumphouse. Water testing all good.
- Cemetery: Wanda/Steve: Steve reported a number of plots have been sold. Linda Kline updated the board regarding the process of selling a plot and what paperwork is needed. She has organized files for all plots.
- Elections: Wanda/Linda: Linda reported that the election went well. We now have 79 registered voters. 72 of them voted in the general election. 242 Keweenaw County residents took advantage of early voting. Election workers were thanked.
- General Maintenance: The bridge is secured and posted.
- Park: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Water system training completed.
2. Deer Park cleanup: No progress.
3. Dumpster relocation and enclosure: Tom has communicated our plan to the Road Commission. Tom to obtain pricing for slab and fencing.

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Board members: Robbie Fisher, Tom Hall and Jim Huovinen were sworn into office effective November 20, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Tom, seconded by Wanda to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm.
Motion passed unanimously.

Next regular meeting – December 16, 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 18st day of November, 2024.

Wanda Kolb, Clerk, Houghton Township