

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD
Monday, September 19th, 2022

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, Treasurer Mary Long, Clerk Marjie Marshall

ABSENT: Tom Hall

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL: Motion by Mary, seconded by Marjie, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Mary, to approve minutes of August 15th, 2022 Regular Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Ray, seconded by Marjie, to accept Treasures Report. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Ray, seconded by Mary, to approve Payment of Bills. Motion passed unanimously via roll call.
 - General Fund: Check #5635 to UPPCO for \$206.04, #5636 to The Office Planning Group for \$138.75, #5637 to Verizon for \$26.08, #5638 to Fastenal for \$136.64, #5639 to Election Source for \$400.00, #5640 to UPPCO for \$485.38, #5641 to Ace Hardware for \$17.45, #5642 to Fastenal for \$114.34, #5643 to Audrey Miller for \$150.00, #5644 to Dave Schumacher for \$526.40, #5645 to Marjie Marshall for \$507.93, #5646 to Mary Long for \$591.38, #5647 to Ray Chase for \$387.87, #5648 to Sara Huuki for \$369.40, #5649 to Dave Schumacher for #16.55, #5650 to the Postmaster for \$60.00, A/P to WM for \$1,365.00, A/P to WM for \$178.80. (Total \$5,678.01)
 - Water Fund: Check #1679 to UPPCO for \$160.21, #1680 to Whitewater for \$40.00, #1681 to Whitewater for \$961.00, #1682 to Postmaster for \$60.00, #1683 to Mel Jones for \$129.29, #1684 to Whitewater for \$40.00, #1685 to Mary Long for \$20.77. (Total \$1,411.27)
 - Cemetery Fund: Check #1159 to Rebecca Freund for \$660.00, #1160 to Dave Schumacher for \$138.52. (Total \$798.52)
 - Bridge Fund: No activity
 - Park Fund: #1039 to Dan Steck for #2,730.88. (Total \$2,730.88)
 - For a Final Total of \$10,618.68

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Ray, to reclassify the General Fund Special Election Reimbursements to Reimbursements by \$250.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Ray, to increase the Parks & Recreation Supplies line by \$54.53. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Ray, to increase the Parks & Recreation Repairs and Maintenance Line by \$34.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Ray, to reclassify \$500.00 from Township Square & Pavilion Pavilion Construction line to Field Improvements. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Ray, to reclassify \$544.44 from Township Square & Pavilion Plaza Deck line to Field Improvements. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Ray, to increase the Township Square & Pavilion Fund Field Improvements Line by \$244.82. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Ray to accept Kathy Harri-McEvers' resignation as Trustee dated August 15th, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Ray, seconded by Mary to appoint Steve Kline as Trustee. Motion passed unanimously via voice count. Steve accepted the appointment and joined the Board.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Ray to accept Rodger Kershner's resignation as Township Attorney dated August 16th, 2022. Motion passed unanimously via voice count.

- Motion by Mary, seconded by Marjie, to approve requesting the 2022 maximum allowable millage. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dave Schumacher resigned from the Water Project Committee. Motion by Ray, seconded by Marjie, to appoint Robbie Fischer as his replacement. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Mary, to loan the township tables for use at the Sportsmans Club Gun Show. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Ray, seconded by Steve, to approve payment of \$7,500.00 for Traverse Engineering Mapping Proposal. Linda Advised that mapping the system is the next step in the process and is required in order to move forward with a new water system. She further updated the Board that Traverse Engineering has determined that Garden City Road is the best location for the water storage and committee met with Bud Cole regarding the property. Robbie Fischer advised the committee that Gitche Gumee Bible Camp has no plans for any major expansion due to lack of infrastructure. Jim Huovanen suggested that we look into contacting Keweenaw County regarding cost sharing in the areas of the project that benefit the county. The new system will be constructed with ductile iron.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- **Assessing – Sara Huuki:** No report.
- **Water Department – Mel Jones:** Mel is starting to get calls for seasonal shut offs.
- **Cemetery/Committee – Marjie Marshall:** There will be a Fall Brush Clean Up at the Cemetery this Friday, September 23rd beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- **Elections – Marjie Marshall:** No Report.
- **General Maintenance – Dave Schumacher:** No report.
- **Parks – Dan Steck:** No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Clerk's position-

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Ray stated that he was wrong for allowing the public comment to get out of hand at the last meeting and would not allow it to happen again.
- Paul Mihelcich asked Mel Jones if there was concern about water becoming stagnant in the 8" pipes being used in the proposed water project. Mel advised that he didn't think it will be a problem but the engineers would be better suited to answer that question. Linda added that Traverse Engineering did not indicate that it would be a problem. Paul Becker asked, with the 8" main, is the water system capacity going to change significantly. Linda said no, that we would be adding unimproved properties within our current service area but not outside of it. Kathy Harri-McEvers asked if there would be a fee for first time access for new customers. Mel stated that there may be a cost for any lines that need to be replaced from the buffalo box to the house for existing customers and a hook up fee for new users.
- Dan Steck read comments he had regarding the township meeting held last month. He stated that it caused serious harm to his community spirit when people were allowed to ambush and bully individuals during the public comment period. Dan feels that the Board needs to establish official policies to clarify an individual board member's right to seek an opinion from the township attorney about a perceived problem and defined rules for what the attorney is or isn't allowed to say when asked for identification by third parties. Dan stated that the Board has authorized him to supervise adherence to park rules. The security camera's main purpose is to inhibit vandalism and the property has multiple signs indicating their use. The cameras near the restroom look along the wall and cannot see into the restroom. He asks the Board to establish and publish a policy for handling disruptive behavior at meetings, ask Kathy Harri-McEvers to rejoin the board, and establish and publish policies for attorney-board relationship.
- Kathy Hari-McEvers stated that she supports what dan said. She was appalled by what happened at the last meeting and appalled at the behavior of the Board at the meeting. She said that the Board, and all public officials, should look at their biases and how those biases affect their actions.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Next regular meeting – October 17th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Marjie Marshall, Clerk

Houghton Township

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, Marjie Marshall, 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 19th day of September, 2022.

Marjie Marshall, Clerk, Houghton Township