

**Charter Township of Ironwood
Regular Meeting
June 12, 2017**

Call to Order: 5:30 pm Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Supervisor Steve Boyd, Treasurer Maria Graser and Clerk Mary Segalin

Trustees: Kevin Lyons, Bev Michaels, Marlene Saari, Bernie Brunello

Absent: None

Also Present: Lynn Coron- Deputy Clerk, Scott Carlson-Fire Chief, Peggy Krohn, Kelly Stanzak, Joe Rohde, Andrea Mesich, Claire Mesich, Darrin Kimbler, George Kivi, Ginger Kivisto, James Simmons, Mark McDonald- Township Attorney, Kim Pelkola, Larry Rovelsky, Brenda Aili-Angus, Deborah Fergus, Laurie Soltis, Auburn Powell, Travis Powell, Cindy Simmons, Ron Jacobson, Carl Lahti, Chris Lahti, Leroy Johnson, Jean Wilbanks, Lloyd Wilbanks, Rick Estola, Linda Ellso, Deborah Routheaux, Sandy Lahtinen, Carrie Hampston, Doreen Raykovich, John and Karen Neuman, Gabe Justinak.

Supervisor comment: 1. I know many of you are here to comment, ask questions, and get answers to the recent news reports. I need to explain before we start that because this is a pending and active investigation, we are limited to our responses. When we say we cannot respond because this is a pending case, it is because: An incomplete or inaccurate figure publically stated could result in that issue being thrown out as evidence. If public statements are made, but the person is found innocent on that charge, I could be sued for libel. Excess publicity could result in a change of venue. If you want to get more answers or comments than what we can provide here, you should contact Nick Jacobs in the prosecutor's office, as he is the spokesperson for the case.

2. In this meeting, I know people are understandably angry. But I will not allow profane or inappropriate language to be used or personal attacks of any kind against board members. Comments should be addressed to the Chair.

3. Public comment sections are just that, comments. This is not the forum for question and answers. I will stay after the meeting is concluded and will be happy to discuss any issue with you at that time, to the limits of what was outlined earlier.

4. As soon as this case is successfully concluded, it is my intention to have a public meeting where I can show all evidence, fully explain a timeline of events, and have all reports and documents available to the public that are allowed. At that time, I will be able to fully answer questions. I am very proud of the hard work done by all members of this board in these difficult times and I look forward to sharing that with you.

Public Comment: A citizen had stated he hopes the Board and Twp. residents understand the magnitude of the pending litigation-over \$800,000 missing. Another citizen had asked if the audits were bad in the past, why wasn't something done to correct the problems? Are there safeguards against this happening again? Another citizen had asked about her taxes increasing- It was explained it was on the taxable value of the home at the assessor/ state level, not the local level.

Amendments to Agenda: Old Business: Furnace bids for gym. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes: Regular Meeting May 25, 2017. A correction made by Saari- in Public Comment section “But did say, *at this time it appears* taxes will not be raised as a result of this issue.” Instead of “taxes will not be raised at this time as a result of this issue.”

A motion was made by Lyons supported by Segalin to accept the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Bills and Salaries: General Fund-42575- 42671- \$89,393.87, Water Fund-8737- 8742- \$13,122.80, Waste Water Fund- 1757-1760- \$53,839.28. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Saari to accept the bills and salaries as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Appearances: Brenda Gartland from the Michigan Department of Treasury Audit Division Audit Report- Gartland reported on the receivables for water/sewer accts, also tax fund and trust and agency accounts. Gartland listed a numerous number of deficiencies in previous internal controls. Supervisor Boyd expressed gratitude for all her work. The Board accepted her finding and it was noted that every issue has been address by the current administration by the end of 2016.

Old Business: Gogebic Range Water Authority water leak- Segalin stated the current billing for our water that we purchase from the GRWA is more than double that of last year, and we are not billing double from last year. We have a significant leak somewhere and our maintenance guys are unable to locate it. In July we will be (along with the City of ironwood) hiring a water detection firm to aid in finding the leak(s). It was asked of Jean Verbos of GWRA to give consideration on lowering the billing if possible.

Boyd reported the gym furnaces are over 20 yrs. old, he requested permission to solicit bids for furnace replacement and present them at the next meeting.

Communications: A motion was made by Lyons supported by Saari to place the Rukkila/Negro letter on file. Motion carried.

New Business: A motion was made by Lyons supported by Michaels to approve the Closed session minutes from 5/25/17. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Saari supported by Brunello for the Board to accept the Principles of Governance standards for the Township as presented by Michigan Townships Association as we have in the past. Motion carried. The signed document will be uploaded to the Township website when available.

MTA is offering a development retreat for any board member to attend. This is for information only- It is asked if anyone of the board is interested in attending-please talk with Segalin or Boyd.

Discussion was held in regards to going out on bids for a forensic audit of all funds is done. Supervisor Boyd will bring bids to the next meeting.

Reports:

Supervisor: Boyd and Brunello met with Pionk from the Road Commission and the new 5 year road plan is being finalized and the report should be available soon. The new PAZER plan will also be finalized soon. There was a large sewer collapse behind Lindquist center our maintenance workers repaired the break the same day. President Lorenson from Gogebic Community College complimented the Township workers on how impressed and grateful he was for the quick repairs.

Treasurer: Graser attended a Treasurers' meeting concerning the summer tax process.

Clerk: For the July 4th holiday- the garbage pick -up schedule will not change for Township residents.

A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to allow Segalin to pay Ruotsala Construction for the work they performed in assisting at the sewer break at Gogebic Community College. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Trustees: Michaels would like the Parks and Rec. committee to meet sometime soon.

Fire Department: Chief Carlson stated the smoke detectors will be available soon, and the Fire Department will be installing them,for the citizens of the Twp. There is a sign- up sheet at the Township offices for those residents requesting a free smoke detector installed.

Public Comment: (3 minute limit) A citizen had asked when the Lake Rd. Spring was tested last- It was August 2016. Results will be posted on the website. It will be tested again this week. The results will be posted on the website when it is available. A citizen had also asked about the emergency 911 phone number to call in case of an emergency for those that live out at little girls point, the cell signal automatically goes to Wisc. Emergency services due to lack of cell towers. There will be a phone number placed on the website for future emergencies for those citizens living out North. A citizen had asked why the "old Board" had allowed the former Treasurer to rescind her resignation in August of 2016. It was stated by Boyd that those were verbal orders from MTA.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Segalin to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm. Motion carried.

Steve Boyd, Supervisor

Mary Segalin, Clerk