

**Charter Township of Ironwood
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 22, 2020**

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

Roll Call: Supervisor- Jim Simmons, Mary Segalin-Clerk, Maria Graser- Treasurer

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

Absent: none

Also Present: Sandy Lahtinen, Brenda Angus, Leroy Johnson- Zoning administrator, Jay Kangas, Tom Hampston, Vicki Nelson, Lynn Coron, Dennis Liftin, Scott Carlson- Fire Chief, Jim and Lori Betzold and Mark McDonald- Township Attorney.

Public Comment: (3-minute limit) Some citizens voiced their concerns about the acoustics in the gym. A citizen reported the Bessemer library will start home delivery June 29th, 2020, A citizen asked why the checks register report was not in sequential order nor by date.

Amendments to Agenda: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Lyons to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Saari supported by Michaels to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting, June 8, 2020, as presented. Motion carried.

Bills and Salaries: General Fund-46056-~~46093~~-46099,EFTPS- Totaling \$32,986.09, Water Fund- #9110 & 9111- Totaling \$5,337.46, Wastewater Fund- #1950 & 1951- Totaling \$12,003.15. 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: Gus Ahonen, from Makela, Pollack & Ahonen, PLLC, presented the board with the 2019 Audit. This year will be the first time in 10 years that the audit will be done on time, even though the staff were working from home due to the Covid restrictions. There were no deficiencies or findings noted. He also stated the new BS&A software has even more checks and balances than Quickbooks. He felt it will be money well spent with the software upgrade. A motion was made by Lyons supported by Graser to place the 2019 Audit on file. Motion carried.

Old Business: A motion was made by Saari supported by Lyons to purchase the \$1,900 Premium Package from MTA for training access for the board and elected officials. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The Lake Rd Spring was discussed again. The board decided in the past to acquire the Spring from the Road Commission but the Road Commission never filed the deed to the Township. Simmons will check to see what the Road Commissions intentions will be. We will discuss this matter again at the next meeting.

A lengthy discussion was had concerning Ordinance 59- Fire Dept. -Structure, Responsibilities, and Accountability. A firefighter was present along with the Fire Chief. at this meeting. Johnson stated the verbiage in the ordinance was mostly from MTA. The ordinance is legally necessary according to MTA as the Fire Department volunteers are employees of the Township. The ordinance also gives guidance to the fire department as far as rules, duties, finances, chain of command etc. Some of the board members voiced their concerns along with a couple of audience members that the ordinance should not be passed until the Fire Dept. has reviewed it and possible changes they would like and discussed it with the board. There seems to be too many questions regarding the ordinance according to the fire department member. A motion was made by Saari supported by Michaels to table the ordinance until the next meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brunello supported by Simmons to adopt Ordinance 60- Civil Infractions. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Lyons supported by Brunello to table Ordinance 61- Anti-Noise and Public Nuisance Ordinance, until the next meeting. Motion carried.

Communications: None

New Business: The Township received two bids for the library contract. Bessemer City Library contract offered many services as well as the township owing \$0 for those services, including a new service of home delivery starting this month. The Ironwood Carnegie Library offered many services although requiring \$7,000 fee. Lyons questioned the fact that the monies that the Township had in the budget, were cut due to the virus budget cuts, but could have gone for the Ironwood Library services, if the board chose. Segalin stated the board never made the proposed cuts with a budget amendment. It was just a budget recommendation with the possible revenue sharing being cut. Simmons stated even though we would have the money in the budget, why would the township choose to pay \$7,000 if the other bid was \$0? A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to accept the bid from Bessemer City Library to contract with for their library services to the Township. Motion carried on a roll call vote, with Lyons and Graser voting no.

Reports:

Supervisor: The Township roads continue to be repaired. The Gogebic Range Water Authority held their meeting and passing their 2021 Budget. The spring/summer clean-up will be sometime in July- Saari is discussing a possible date in July with the Solid Waste Authority.

Treasurer: Graser is working on the summer taxes. She balanced with the County Treasurer with 2019 Tax Settlement. She also attended the PAUD meeting for June. Graser reported, from the previous meeting, on the question of receiving donations from the fire department, as far as donations for pool filling. Graser stated she received only one donation in the past four years for services for fire department. She will bring back a report on Christmas for Kids donations. The 1998 policy of filling swimming pools was to not fill them.

Clerk: Segalin reported she is continuing training with BS&A for the new accounting software. The Clerks office be sending out absentee ballots this week.

Zoning Administrator: Butch Saari, Building Inspector and LeRoy Johnson, Zoning Administrator looked at the condition of the mobile homes in the trailer park on Lake Road. Johnson reported the conditions of the trailer to the property owner, LARA, and the Health Department. Johnson spoke with the care taker, he stated the park is in the process of being sold. Graser also stated the water bill is in excess of \$21,000 and cannot be shut off due to the virus. A new billing was sent to the new forwarding address that was given. Also asked Fire Chief Carlson about the mutual aid agreement.

Trustees:

Michaels- Nothing to report

Saari- Reported that when we have the Township Clean Up, each mattress and box spring will cost an additional \$18. Also questioned the blacktopping on North Star Road and Saari Ln and why it was not done. Brunello stated it was never in the contract. We will be confirming this for the next meeting.

Brunello- Reported about the road repairs being done.

Lyons- Nothing to report

Fire Dept: Reported 7 fire calls. Had many successful birthday drives. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Segalin to allow Carlson to get bids to fix Engine 94. Motion carried. Carlson also stated that a few of the fire fighters will be attending training at Lake Gogebic as technicians to help with the fireworks in Marenisco.

A motion was made by Segalin supported by Michaels to accept Dylenn Vanderschagen as a new fire fighter. Motion carried.

Public comment: A citizen stated that this meeting held in the gym was the worst meeting she attended due to the acoustics in the gym. She also was told to wear a mask, when the majority of the attendees were not wearing them. Asked if there was any other way to conduct the meetings in the future considering social distancing guidelines.

Other citizens voiced concerns about the ordinances, road conditions, fire numbers- new, gravel truck policies, Lake Rd Spring.

Closed Session: A motion was made by Segalin supported by Brunello to enter into closed session concerning pending litigations with the insurance company, under Sec. 8e of the Open Meeting Act, with Attorney McDonald at 7:20pm, with no action being taken. Motion carried. A motion was made by Segalin supported by Graser to leave closed session at 7:37 pm. Motion carried all voting aye.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm. Motion carried.

James Simmons, Supervisor

Mary Segalin, Clerk