

**Charter Township of Ironwood
Regular Meeting
January 28, 2019**

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

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

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Joe Rohde, Ron Jacobson, Sandy Lahtinen, George Kivi, LeRoy Johnson, Vicki Nelson, Katie Nelson, Scott Carlson- Fire Chief, Jason Hofstede, Janice Hlavacek, and Bill Hlavacek.

Amendments to Agenda: Reports: Fire Chief to give his report before consent agenda as he has to leave the meeting. A motion was made by Segalin supported by Michaels to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Public Comment: (3 minute limit). A citizen had commented concerning the library monies being taken out of the 2019 budget and requested the Boards reconsider joining the Ironwood Carnegie Library. A citizen gave praise to the board for doing their best in working with what they had to deal with the in embezzlement case. A citizen questioned hours worked for the elected officials in order to qualify for health insurance.

Fire Department: Chief Carlson requested a raise in pay for the firefighters, from \$12 to \$15 for firefighting and \$10 to \$12 for training. Boyd will look into this (budget) and report back at the next board meeting.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Saari to accept the minutes as presented from the Regular Meeting on January 14, 2019. Motion carried.

Bills and Salaries: General Fund-44510-44539- Totaling \$18,893.94, Water Fund- #8952-8956- Totaling \$28,867.10, Wastewater Fund- 1858- Totaling \$1,651.86.

A motion was made by Brunello supported by Segalin to accept the bills and salaries as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Appearances: None

Old Business: The Salary Compensation Ad Hoc Committee met and presented to the board their recommendations: The committee recommended no salary increases from the General Fund. The Committee proposed the increase of \$1,125 for the Treasurer and Clerk from the Sewer Fund, as those funds were previously approved in the Sewer Budget. Saari stated the residents are feeling that too much money was being spent in the Township over the past few years; they are dissatisfied with the way the past Township officials operated. The Township board has lost the trust of the residents with all that has happened over the last few years and the committee states it's time to start working in good faith to earn their trust again. The recommendation of not allowing raises are based on what other Townships are getting and the perception that possibly the deputies are working more hours than they should. Saari further

commented that their decision was not based on the work the current officials are doing nor a reflection of work performance, as they appreciate everything they are doing. Brunello made a motion to allow a 3% raise for elected officials. Motion died due to lack of support. Boyd stated he will be checking the recommendation from MTA as to raises and acceptance of the Compensation Ad Hoc Committees report.

Communications: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser in support of the Gogebic County Council of Veterans Affairs request of \$5,150 in support of our local Veterans. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

An email from Karl Ahonen, our auditor, with a time line of the completion of the audits from years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

A motion was made by Segalin supported by Lyons to place the letters on file. Motion carried.

New Business: A motion was made by Lyons supported by Brunello to place the Clerk vs. Treasurer October and November 2018 Bank balances on file. Motion carried.

Reports:

Supervisor:

Meetings attended: Gogebic Iron Wastewater, Milltrace/UPCAP principals and Gogebic County Road Commission

From the last meeting:

Other: Had an extended group call with the 5 principals involved with the Mill Trace project. The following were highlights from that conversation:

- 1) Work has slowed/stopped because of: Government shutdown (USDA closed), a key employee was sick for 4 months but is now back; this left once person running 3 major projects. UPCAP apologizes for the delay. Mill Trace is now the only project they are currently working on.
- 2) They are currently resolving all paperwork and legal issues, but the government shutdown has slowed this in key areas.
- 3) Market is currently very weak and they must fill most of the units to generate profit.
- 4) No renovations Nov-May due to weather.
- 5) Delay has given UPCAP the opportunity to increase units getting rental assistance.
- 6) As a result, unsubsidized units will drop from 24 to 6.
- 7) Those 6 will be eligible for HUD housing vouchers.
- 8) May 15 should be the beginning of renovations, completed by the fall.

I asked if future government shutdowns would impact their bottom line. They felt their reserves could handle a reasonable length shutdown, since all federal monies are usually reimbursed after government reopens.

Treasurer: Working on 2018 year end details.

Clerk: Working on 2018 year end details.

Trustees:

Brunello- Wastewater Meeting issues were reported on.

Lyons- Powderhorn Area Utility District needs to find an office space.

Michaels- Attended a Planning Commission meeting in Trustee Saari's absence.

Saari- Reported Gogebic Range Solid Waste Authority usage down, perhaps due to the closure of the prison. She also received a complaint from a citizen about the winter gate closure at Lost Lake.

Public Comment: (3 minute limits) Several citizens voiced their concerns on hourly vs. salary workers and supporting of the Fire Department raises and why FOIA forms not on the website. A citizen gave praises to the maintenance workers; they were very helpful with the waterline locations on a project. A citizen questioned where the proceeds from the Frost Fest go. Treasurer Graser stated they went directly to the Fire Department Fundraising Account, not the Townships General Fund.

A citizen suggested the Compensation Ad Hoc Committee put all their findings in writing for the board to review.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. Motion carried.

Steve Boyd, Supervisor

Mary Segalin, Clerk