

**Charter Township of Ironwood
Regular Meeting**

May 13, 2019

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

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

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

Absent:

A motion was made by Segalin supported by Graser to allow Lyons to chair the meeting due to the vacancy of the Supervisor. Motion carried.

Also Present: Joe Rohde, Ron Jacobson, LeRoy Johnson, Sandy Lahtinen, George Kivi, Kathy Maki, Melissa Prisbe, James Simmons, Vicki Nelson, Mike Nelson, Emily Burchell, Eric Fitting, Keith Johnson, Laurie Soltis, Dennis Liftin, Thomas Novascone, Keith Johnson, Dave Hardie and Attorney Mark McDonald.

Public Comment: (3 minute limits) (2) Citizens commented on the new fire number color stating the fire department and ambulance service supports the red signs, not blue. Another citizen asked when the 2015 audit will be finalized. A citizen also commented about the Board choosing the most qualified person for the Supervisor position.

Amendments to Agenda: Old Business: Fire Numbers added. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Saari supported by Brunello to accept the minutes as presented from the Regular Meeting on April 22, 2019. Motion carried.

Bills and Salaries: General Fund-44795- 44881- \$46,300.38, Water Fund- #8990-8994- \$5,457.04, Wastewater Fund- 1876-1879- \$12,440.63.

A question came up as to why there were so many voided checks- it is due to a printer error. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to accept the bills and salaries as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Appearances: None

Old Business: Sewer line on Mt. Zion Drive- New Home (Fitting)- The sewer Ordinance was discussed. The new sewer main runs behind the newly developed properties. The owner of the new home, Eric Fitting and Emily Burchell are questioning if they have to tap into the sewer system or are they able to put in a septic system. Zoning Administrator Johnson will be checking with the Gogebic Community College on this.

Twp. Supervisor Vacancy – By law the Board must appoint an elector of the Township. The board thanked everyone whom submitted letters of interest. Saari expressed her opinion of the supervisor position- the candidate must be qualified, experienced in MTA, skilled at working with the public and for the board to set aside any biased opinions. A motion was made by Saari supported by Michaels to nominate Sharon Hallberg for the position of Supervisor. Saari,

Michaels and Lyons voted yes. Brunello, Graser and Segalin voted no. Due to a tie, the motion failed.

A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser to nominate James J. Simmons Jr. for the position of Supervisor. Graser expressed her opinion that Jim is very qualified, knows what the Township has gone through-embezzlement, great background, very engaged in the meetings, asked questions of former Treasurer. Brunello, Graser, Lyons and Segalin-yes. Michaels and Saari –No. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The Baseball field was discussed. No action will be taken until we can write for grants to repair park.

Sewer infiltrations problems were discussed. We are asking for voluntary compliance from the township citizens as to not drain water runoff, with sump pumps into the sewer system as it overloads it. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Segalin to allow the Twp. Attorney Mark McDonald to compose a letter to the Township residents concerning this problem. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The Emergency Management Committee recommends 4 inch lettering and the color Blue for the new fire number signage. They also recommend allowing Lange Enterprises to make the fire number signs as they had the lowest bid of \$39,237 (everything included). Segalin stated that the budget will allow for half to be paid for this year and half in the budget for year 2020. This item is tabled until the next meeting to find out if they can split the costs between this fiscal year and next year.

Communications: A Broadband informational packet was given to the Board for review. The USDA said there are grants available for private business. Segalin suggested a Broadband Committee be formed.

A PAZER report was given for review. The County Road Commission will be attending the next regular meeting to explain the report and give recommendation for this coming year. A new 5 year road plan needs to be done, distinguishing what the Road Commission does vs. what the Township is responsible for.

The Gogebic County Economic Hardship report was presented for review.

The letters from May 1 & 3, 2019 from Attorney McDonald were reviewed.

A motion was made by Graser supported by Segalin to place all communications on file. Motion carried.

New Business: Dave Hardie, Township Assessor filed a rebuttal on the Walmart/Ironwood Tax tribunal-requesting to lower their taxes. He also stated that the cost to fight the decrease will be more than its worth. A motion was made by Segalin supported by Michaels to authorize Hardie and Attorney McDonald to sign the settlement. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Two candidates applied for the Township Assessor position. Dave Hardie's contract will end June 30, 2019 as he is retiring. He will however, attend the Board of Review meeting in July to help the new assessor. Graser called other municipalities to see what other Township's the size of ours is paying for their Assessor. A three- year contract, with no benefits .

A motion was made by Brunello supported by Segalin to hire Thomas Novascone as the Township Assessor for a 3 year contract. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Brunello, Segalin, Saari, Michaels and Graser-Yes. Lyons- No.

A listing of the Gogebic County foreclosed properties was presented to the Board if there are any of the properties the Township would like to purchase before they go to the public. This item was tabled until next meeting due to needing to look at those parcels.

A motion was made by Saari supported by Segalin to adopt Resolution 2019-004- Option for Non- Partisan Offices. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to adopt Ordinance 56 the Uniform System of Numbering. This new ordinance replaces Ordinance 21. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Reports:

Supervisor: None

Treasurer: Graser attended the PAUD meeting & Emergency Management committee meeting.

Clerk: Segalin attended the GRWA & Wastewater meetings. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser to allow Segalin to be an alternate on the GIWWA Board, and Lyons to be an alternate on the Solid Waste Management board as of May 2019. Motion carried.

Segalin presented the March 2019 Financial Reports for all funds to the Board. Segalin will present a list of committees/ boards for the board at the next meeting.

Segalin informed the board an insurance claim was filed for the damages that occurred when lightning struck the power pole connected to the warehouse building across the street on March 27, 2019. The total bill for repairs and replacement of items was \$3,878.84, with the insurance company paying \$2,878.84 due to a \$1,000 deductible.

Segalin also informed the Board an insurance adjuster will be his this week to look at the gym roof damages.

Trustees:

Michaels: Attended MTA meeting and the Emergency Management Committee meeting.

Saari: Attended the Gogebic County Board meeting.

Brunello: Attended Gogebic Range Water Authority meeting.

Lyons: Thanked the office staff for filling in while the Supervisor position has been vacant.

Fire Dept.: None

Public Comment: Several citizens had comments about: Gray water drains and questioned if there will be any action taken in the closed session. Chair Lyons stated there will not be any action taken. Citizens expressed additional concerns over the color of the fire number signs. A citizen congratulated James J. Simmons Jr. on his appointment to Township Supervisor, but express concerns of accepting letters of interest for the Supervisor position even after the deadline had passed. A citizen asked what happened to the warehouse building from the lightning strike.

Closed Session: A motion was made by Michaels supported by Graser to enter into closed session for pending zoning litigation and County tax issues, at 7:10 pm. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Graser supported by Saari to back into open session at 7:30 pm. Motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Saari to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm. Motion carried.

Kevin Lyons, Trustee/Acting Chair

Mary Segalin, Clerk