

**Charter Township of Ironwood
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2018**

000981

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

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

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Sandy Lahtinen, Joe Rohde, Fire Chief-Scott Carlson, Ron Jacobson, LeRoy Johnson, Kim Pelkola, Peggy Krohn, Sharon Hallberg, Randy Scott, Ginger Kivisto, and George Kivi.

Amendments to Agenda: None. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: (3 minute limit). None

Consent Agenda: A correction of an approved motion for the Fire Dept. to attend the Gogebic County fair was added to the July 23, 2018 minutes. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to accept the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Bills and Salaries: General Fund-43960-44054 - \$51,111.87, Water Fund- 8889- 8893- \$6,637.71, Wastewater Fund- 1829 & 1831- \$11,666.68 , with Voucher # 1830 being withheld due to questioning the increased amount due to the Gogebic Iron Wastewater Authority's monthly bill.

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

Appearances: Randy Scott recommended the Township recheck their revenues vs. expenditures in the sewer budget to see if what we are collecting is adequate. He also recommends saving money for the long term. The recommended sewer rate increase, from our SAW grant findings, may not be necessary due to past circumstances.

Old Business: Supervisor Boyd recommended Sandy Lahtinen to be re-appointed to the Planning Commission. A motion was made by Lyons supported by Michaels to accept this appointment. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Boyd supported by Graser for Segalin to abstain from voting on the revised PAUD's Articles of Incorporation. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Saari supported by Lyons to accept the revised PAUD's Articles of Incorporation. Motion carried with Segalin abstaining.

Communications: Green Timber sale bid, GRWA water rate resolution, and GRWA monthly water usage report. A motion was made by Lyons supported by Saari to place all communications on file. Motion carried.

000982

New Business: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Lyons to adopt Resolution 2018-9 Renewal of Road Millage proposal to go on the ballot in November 2018. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Saari supported by Segalin to adopt Resolution 2018-10 Support of Ojibway facility. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Boyd will obtain costs concerning a possible sidewalk in the front of the Township offices. He will report back to the board at the next board meeting.

A Special Meeting/Budget workshop is scheduled for August 27, 2018 at 4:30 pm, just before the regular board meeting, to discuss the 2019 Budget.

Boyd and Lyons terms are up as of September 2018 on the PAUD board. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to re-appoint Boyd and Lyons for another term. Motion carried. A motion was made by Boyd supported by Saari to appoint Michaels and Graser as alternates to the PAUD board.

Reports:

Supervisor:

Meetings attended: County Board of Commissioners, GRWA, and Wellhead Protection. Also attended the UP Summit MTA conference in Escanaba where I attended a variety of workshops and seminars and a Road Commission meeting.

Road Issues:

- Lake Road from Partridge to the spring will be undergoing renovation this week. After that, work will begin on Vanderhagen and Section 12 roads. Gravel work was done on Moore Rd, Niemi Lane and Heikkala Rd. Additional work will be done if more money becomes available this season. An increase of \$10,000 for gravel is proposed for next year along with possible reevaluation of formula used to more accurately reflect population and amount of gravel roads.

Previous Issues:

- LED Lighting- Received one quote, still waiting on local vendors.
- I was asked to check on empty airport deicer containers for our guys to use on the truck for water to pressurize for cleaning. They have two they would donate if we need...about 150/200 gallons each. Our maintenance guys are checking into it.
- No significant movement yet at Mill Trace Apartments remodel.
- Fire Numbers- Requested price quotes from 2 companies, should have something tangible to report by the next meeting. Requesting half one sided and half two sided.
- Sunset baseball field- Waiting for a firm commitment from a couple other communities fields to see if we can pool our money for a better deal. Coach Cvengros is keeping me informed.

Announce firefighter awards at the recent UP firefighters Tournament

- Louie Somero: UP Firefighter of the Year
- Tom Hampston: Longevity award
- Scott Carlson: Michigan state fire association public service award

At county board meeting, language was approved to put the ambulance funding issue on the ballot; asking for up to 1 mil for 3 years. This would raise about \$523,000 per year. 000983

UP Summerfest Art fair this scheduled for Saturday, August 18, at the Airport Park, 10-3.
Thanks to Rose Barbacovi for doing a great deal of work organizing this event.

Treasurer: None

Clerk: The Primary election held on August 7, 2018 went smoothly. Segalin reported she also attended the UP Summit in Harris, MI. It was a very worthwhile meeting.

Trustees: Brunello reported that the Bessemer water project is running behind schedule.
GI Wastewater – they are checking the cables and boilers at the plant for damage from last heavy rain fall.

Michaels- Nothing to report.

Saari-Also attended the MTA UP summit in Harris, MI. It was an excellent conference.
She stated there are specific grants available that the Parks and Rec Committee can apply for even without a current audit.

Lyons- There is a PAUD meeting on Wednesday.

Fire Department: Chief Carlson said they had 6 fire calls this past month.

Public Comment: (3 minute limit)

Citizens questioned the status of the insurance bond payment, millage rate for upcoming year, committee assignment protocols and social media issues.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm. Motion carried.



Steve Boyd, Supervisor



Mary Segalin, Clerk

Charter Township of Ironwood

Resolution 2018-09 Renewal of Road Millage Proposal

Resolution to place millage question for road millage **renewal** on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Ironwood has considered the condition of the Township roads and has deemed it necessary to propose a **renewal** of the road maintenance tax.

THEREFORE, the Charter Township of Ironwood will place the following millage renewal question on the November 6, 2018 ballot:

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF IRONWOOD **Millage Renewal** PROPOSAL

Proposal to increase the authorized charter millage for the ad valorem taxes with the Charter Township of Ironwood from 5 mills to 6 mills for the years 2019 through 2023 inclusive, said increase of 1.000 mill to be levied solely for the purpose of maintaining township roads.

"Shall the charter millage for ad valorem taxes within the Charter Township of Ironwood, Gogebic County, Michigan, be increased from 5 mills to 6 mills (\$6 per \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for the years of 2019 through 2023 inclusive, said increase of 1.000 mill to be levied solely for the purpose maintaining township roads, this levy will raise approximately \$82,000.00 in the first year." (This millage rate represents a renewal of the millage, rather than an increase.)

() YES

() NO

A motion was made by Brandt supported by Lejans to adopt Resolution 2018-09 placing a ballot proposal for a **renewal** of the road maintenance tax question for the election on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

None were absent.

A vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes: all

No: none

Resolution declared: Adopted.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned duly qualified Clerk of Charter Township of Ironwood, Gogebic County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Ironwood, County of Gogebic, Michigan at a regular meeting held on August 13, 2018 at 5:30 pm, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

I further certify that the following members were present at said meeting: Supervisor Boyd, Treasurer Graser, Clerk Segalin, Trustee Brunello, Trustee Michaels, Trustee Lyons, Trustee Saari.



Mary Segalin, Clerk

8/14/2018

Date

Charter Township of Ironwood

Resolution 2018-10 Support of Ojibway Correctional Facility

Resolution in support of the Ojibway Correctional Facility remaining open and operational. The Ojibway Correctional Facility is on a short list of Michigan prisons being considered for closure caused by lack of financing in the State budget.

Whereas, the closure of the Ojibway facility presents an imminent threat of severe loss of jobs, declining property values, loss of students in multiple school districts resulting from a possible loss of 210 positions from one of the best paying employers in the Western Upper Peninsula and not to mention other public calamity resulting there from, which may require emergency action for our already fragile economy; and,

1. The impact of this on our local economies will be approximately \$55 million, according to economic officials. This circulation of dollars is critical to locally owned businesses, tourism, and community enrichment; and,
2. The Ojibway Facility has the lowest operation and transportation costs, and has the lowest recidivism rate (28.1%) of any prison in the state, it represents the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars, and
3. A study showed Gogebic county to be the county with the greatest population loss in the state since the 2010 census, and the loss of jobs here would affect this county far more than any other as a result, and,
4. The location in the Western Upper Peninsula is ideal for both isolating inmates whose status requires this, and also making it possible for inmates from this area to maintain family connections, which has been shown to be a positive factor in successful rehabilitation.

Whereas, the following shows the impact in many of the surrounding communities:

- **Marenisco Twp:** Loss of 20 residents with no employers within 100 miles relevant to their skill set. The prison population of approximately 1000 will not be counted in the 2020 census resulting in \$69,180 in lost revenue sharing and \$1500 in lost revenue from the loss of a contract with the Fire Department. Loss of benefits for Ojibway employees causing spouses to enroll in health insurance with the Township cost of \$55,200 per year. The total financial loss to the Township of \$125,880 which is 18% of the operating budget.
- **Wakefield/Marenisco School District:** A loss of 42 students equal to \$337,470 or a loss of 11.1% of the school's general operating revenues.
- **Bessemer:** The city would project a minimum loss of \$25,000 in property tax revenue if the prison were to close. A loss of 28 students equal to \$220,388 or a loss of 6.6% of general operating revenues.
- **Watersmeet School District:** Loss of one student equal to \$8409.
- **Ironwood:** A projected city loss of a minimum of \$25,000-\$30,000 in property tax revenue. The Ironwood school district could suffer a loss of 19 students equal to \$149,549 or a loss of 1.9% of general operating revenues.

- Our local/ regional **Aspirus Hospital** just completed a multi-million dollar upgrade and an addition, with a vision of a future here. The employees and families of the prison, as well as inmates, help to contribute to the existence of the hospital. If there is a closing or cut back in services at Ojibway, Gogebic County residents may be faced with driving between 50-150 miles for emergency services and care, and

Whereas, the Ojibway facility has among the lowest rates of turnover in the prison system, meaning reduced costs for training new employees as well as a force for stability with the county, and

Whereas, because the facility operates its own water/ sewer plant, it's operating costs are dramatically lower than other prisons, and

Whereas, other prisons being considered for closure are located near other facilities, making employee transfers simple without requiring moving, unlike this area.

❖ **Summary:**

Total loss of 90 students equaling \$707,407 to the local school systems, which would more than likely force consolidation and force employees and community members to leave in search of employment.

Total loss of municipal fiscal loss of \$175,880 to general fund revenues.

Employees would not be able to transfer to another prison and live in Gogebic County due to the distance of over 100 miles one way to travel.

Whereas, the Charter Township of Ironwood has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to prevent and to alleviate the possible suffering of the employees and to protect the Ojibway Correctional Facility from closure; and,

Whereas, the closure of the Ojibway prison would waste taxpayer dollars, irrevocably damage the economy of the Western Upper Peninsula, and represent a decision based on political expediency rather than a logical, fact based approach.

The Charter Township of Ironwood states its firm opposition to the closure of the Ojibway Correctional Facility, and urges the state to not take any action to do so.

So declared and ordered this the 13th day of August, 2018.

A motion was made by Saari supported by Segalin to adopt Resolution 2018-10, supporting the Ojibway Correctional Facility.

YEAS: all

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

I, Mary Segalin, Charter Township of Ironwood Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and

original copy of a resolution adopted by the Charter Township of Ironwood Board of Trustees, held at a regular board meeting held on August 13, 2018.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Segalin", is written over a horizontal line.

Mary Segalin, Clerk