

**Charter Township of Ironwood
Regular Meeting
Monday August 26, 2019**

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

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

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Joe Rohde, Scott Carlson-Fire Chief, Ron Jacobson, LeRoy Johnson-Zoning Administrator, Harvey Hulstrom, Dan Siirila, and Mark McDonald-Township Attorney

Public Comment: (3 minute limits) A citizen had asked if the board had any more thoughts about the constructing a shelter at the Lake Rd spring.

Amendments to Agenda: Old Business: Lake Rd. spring shelter, Instead of closed session- McDonald will speak under Appearances. A motion was made by Graser supported by Lyons to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Saari supported by Michaels to accept the minutes as presented from the Regular Meeting on August 12, 2019. Motion carried.

Bills and Salaries: General Fund-#45160-45201- \$130,335.86, Water Fund- #9024-9027- \$29,002.54, Wastewater Fund- #1894-1895- \$1,565.18. A motion was made by Lyons supported by Brunello to accept the bills and salaries as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote. All ayes.

Appearances: Township Attorney Mark McDonald spoke with Thomas Keranen, attorney with Clark Hill PLC from Detroit, MI, about the pending bond litigation. He stated that Gogebic County, Ironwood Area schools, Intermediate School District and Ironwood Township should work together against the insurance bonding company to collect the insurance monies to make all entities owed to be paid in full. Clark Hill PLC would be representing Gogebic County, Ironwood Area Schools and Gogebic Ontonagon Intermediate School District and Attorney Mark McDonald would represent the Township in the litigation. The filing of the case is due by Sept. 14th, 2019. A motion was made by Segalin supported by Graser to join Clark Hill, PLCs firm as co-plaintiffs along with Gogebic County, GOISD, and Ironwood Area Schools in further litigation against the bonding company. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all AYES. A motion was made by Segalin supported by Brunello to allow Supervisor Simmons to sign the legal agreement with Clark Hill PLCs firm. Motion carried.

Old Business: Supervisor Simmons does not recommend at this time for the Township to advocate the use of the Lake Road spring as a potable water source and not to build a shelter around the spring itself. Trustee Saari suggests looking into having a long term plan in regards to utilizing the spring in a safe manner. Simmons and Saari will research the steps it would take to make the water potable. They will then report back to the board in the near future.

Communications: None

New Business: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to Adopt Ordinance 58-Building Code/ Residential Code Enforcement Agency Ordinance (replacing Ordinance 14). Motion carried on a roll call vote. All Ayes.

A motion was made by Segalin supported by Brunello to reappoint LeRoy Johnson- Zoning Administrator- as the Noxious Weed Officer for two more years. Motion carried.

There was some discussion on the 1st draft of the proposed 2020 Budgets for the General, Water and Sewer funds. Road signage was discussed. The first draft is for Board review only. The board will be holding 2020 budget workshops in the near future to discuss them in detail.

Discussion was held regarding having a Fall Clean-up. The Board did not want to have another clean-up at this time due to further costs to the Township of the disposal.

Reports:

Supervisor: Simmons sent written responses to the citizens that had complaints of receiving a garbage bill on seasonal homes. He also met with the Karl Ahonen, Auditor in regards to the 2016 Audit soon to be being finalized.

Simmons further reported the infiltration flow issues with sewer are lower. Simmons would like to have a new policy on the water bills- some township residents taking advantage of the water bill overdue payment amount of \$250.

He also checked into BS&A software upgrade for the General Ledger, Payroll and Accounts Payable for Clerk and Treasurer's offices- this will allow all funds to be integrated under one software program. The quote was \$32,000 to \$40,000.

Treasurer: Attended a PAUD and Hazard Mitigation Meetings. Graser reminded the Township residents that the past due water bills will be going onto their taxes as of October. 31, 2019.

Clerk: Segalin stated they are working on the 2020 Budgets. The Utility Department had one (1) water be shut off due to non-payment this month.

Trustees:

Brunello- None

Lyons- Attended a PAUD meeting.

Michaels- Wondered if the office computers are protected with ransomware. Al Estola would know- Segalin will check into this. Michaels asked the board if they would be willing to write a letter to Senator McBroom in Lansing concerning SB431- Gravel pits.

Saari- Attended a GRSWA meeting.

Fire Dept.: Scott Carlson Fire Chief reported that Engine 94 is back in service again, but still needs to have the water level meter fixed. Carlson received a quote of \$1086.20 for repairs. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Saari to allow the truck to be fixed. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Public Comment: A citizen stated that it is sad that the board won't allow a shelter around the Lake Rd. spring. Simmons reminded him that he and Saari will be checking into the legalities of building a shelter and such to make the water potable.

Closed Session: None

Adjournment: A motion was made by Segalin supported by Graser to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm. Motion carried.

James Simmons, Supervisor

Mary Segalin, Clerk