

Charter Township of Portage  
Regular Board Meeting  
April 11, 2011  
Portage Township Office  
47240 Green Acres Road  
Houghton, MI 49931  
(906) 482-4310

The meeting was called to Order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Supervisor Bruce Petersen, Clerk Sandra Luoma, Treasurer Carol Little, Trustees Peggy Anderson, Mark Jalkanen, John Ollila and Jim Zerbst.

Additions to agenda

- 1) Under Correspondence: Houghton County GIS letter
- 2) Under Unfinished business: 12 E -Zoning Board of Appeals-Larry Harris
- 3) New Business 13D- Hazmat meeting

Approval of the Minutes of March 14, 2011, as corrected, was made on a Motion by Little supported by Jalkanen and passed on all YES vote

Approval of the bills as presented was made on a Motion by Anderson supported by Ollila and passed on all YES vote.

Reviewed the Clerk's reports. The due to the General fund has been reduced by payments from the sewer fund and the Hurontown Fire department.

Treasurer's reports. A maturing CD was moved to another bank for better interest.

Zoning Administrator, Jon Marshall, reported activities for the month. There have been three applications processed. There have been six requests for zoning identification of parcels.

Otter Lake fire department has received bids on replacing windows on building.

Correspondence:

- 1) 2010 Census figures are out and show an increase of 2.1% to 3221 in township.(census.gov)
- 2) Supervisor received letter about GIS updating of township maps through the county. Updating will be done in September with the costs to be split.

Public Comment:

- 1) Andy Moyle requested time to address the board on the recent court case with VVQ. Andy Moyle asked if it were possible "to go back to where we left off?"("in points of consensus" and "amending the zoning ordinance for special use in RR) if not "Where do we go from here?"

Moyle restated the impact this will have on the community and asked "if the quarry was forever precluded from applying for a special use permit?" Bruce Petersen stated the advice from the township attorney is that this case not be discussed until it is formally settled. Appeals may still be filed. Moyle was told that removal of existing material from the site is compliant with the Judge's order. The Township plans on enforcing its zoning ordinance.

- 2) Mike Wilmers reminded board that the zoning ordinance should be updated every five years and that reviewing it should be put on the schedule.
- 3) Dave Petersen requested info on the attorney's opinion on the trailer parking issue. On agenda later, see addition below.
- 4) A resident on Jefferson street requests entire street be paved during water project. Motion was made by Jalkanen supported by Little to investigate cost of having Jefferson Street paved either with the Dakota sewer project grant or thru the Township. Motion passed on all YES vote.

Unfinished Business:

- a) Recreation Plan grant-Monies from entrance passes into state parks are funding passport grants available to townships. Supervisor will be looking into what can be done and how much is available.
- b) Update on sewer projects
  - 1) Dakota Heights design permit has been accepted. No bid date set.
  - 2) Hurontown/Dodgeville project. Big spike in flow occurred. The new digital flow meter is being recalibrated by manufacturer. Map showing the areas of concern were reviewed. Laterals may be fractured and manholes in some areas may require more work. Funds are still available in the loan from Rural Development.
- c) Mat Somero property has been sold to Dean Latendresse (Erickson Feed & Seed). The area will be cleared and will be available to the fire department for parking.
- d) Bids were received and reviewed for new carpet in the township office. Rowe was the low bid of \$2000.00. Cleaning the carpet was not viable because of the age (1984) and wear to some areas. Motion was made by Jalkanen supported by Zerbst to have the carpet replaced in the township hall. Motion passed on all YES vote.

New Business:

- a) Pilgrim River Watershed-Trust fund grant application has been sent out. Supervisor requests a special board meeting be set up to review and receive comments. Date not set yet.
- b) Mike Manderfield has offered to replace light fixtures in office that are more energy efficient and give a brighter light. Tubes that are now used are becoming hard to find. Fixtures would be free but township would pay labor. Motion was made by Jalkanen supported by Ollila to accept the offer to replace light fixtures in offices. Motion passed on all YES vote.
- c) MTA regional meeting in Houghton will be on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Five board members showed interest in going.
- d) Supervisor to attend meeting tomorrow with the Houghton County solid waste committee to recommend that the new transfer station include a hazardous material storage and disposal unit. Units have been obtained by the Keweenaw Bay Indian community from a grant thru Lake Superior Watershed hazmat funding. All costs including the building and fencing and operation will be covered by the grant for the first two years.

Committee/Meetings:

- a) Cemetery 3/22/11 – Cemetery to open soon. Sexton will be contacted.

b) Houghton County Chapter MTA meeting-Matt Huuki stated townships are not going to be dissolved through budget cuts and believes township are important because they are so close to the planning and zoning issues.

Addition; The Larry Harris issue is being scheduled by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Reminder, the next Township Board meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Doelle Senior Center at 7:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm on a Motion by Jalkanen supported by Anderson.

Public in attendance: see attached list

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Supervisor, Bruce Petersen

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Clerk, Sandra Luoma