

**APPROVED as Amended**

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2016**

The December 8, 2016, meeting of the Township Board was called to order at 6:30 PM. by Supervisor Bunte, with Dudiak, Rettig, Marske, and Sullivan present. Also present John Gooch, of the Harbor Country News, along with several members of the community.

Supervisor Bunte led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rettig moved, Sullivan supported to accept the Township Board November 10, 2016 minutes. Bunte abstained. Dudiak, Rettig, Marske, Sullivan all ayes, motion carried.

Marske moved, Sullivan supported to approve the Township Board November 30, 2016 Special Meeting minutes. Rettig abstained, not being in attendance at the meeting. Bunte, Dudiak, Marske and Sullivan in favor, motion carried.

Dudiak moved, Marske supported to approve the Treasurers report as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer Rettig advised that 97% of the Summer taxes have been collected as of November 10, 2016.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

A statement from newly elected Supervisor David Bunte was given thanking everyone in the office for their support in first few weeks. Supervisor Bunte advised the board and public of some changes to the structure of our meeting that he would like to institute. One being the microphones and sound system being used for every meeting. In an effort to keep our meetings running efficiently, we will continue the public comment section before we address old and new business and a second comment section following. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes. Public comments during the discussion by the board will not be entertained unless specifically requested by a board member. The Goal is to improve both our internal and external communication for a more efficient and effective government.

Letters and emails from the community were distributed to the board and will be put on record that they were received. Correspondence via email was given to the board concerning the Berrien County Animal Control Ordinance. Which is on our agenda and will be discussed at that time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The pine tree that was planted by Jeanne Dudeck at the township was decorated with six hundred lights donated by Enrico, Park Board chair. Jill Underhill also from the Park Board added several festive decorations at the township park. A huge thank you to both.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Family Dollar update was given by Supervisor Bunte. On November 18, 2016 after being sworn in met with Attorney Hilmer and Van Thornton, building/zoning administrator. All six points from a previous email were reviewed for all noncompliance issues. They felt like they had little to no ground to continue not issuing an occupancy permit that they had been requesting for the last two weeks. After discussion they decided that it was in the townships best interest with two conditions one being finalizing and completing the requirements of the landscaping and the other being the finalizing the signage being within the site plan. A six month temporary occupancy permit was given. We will continue to have an open dialogue with them to maintain these conditions. A ribbon cutting was attended by Bunte, Dudiak and Marske on November 5, 2016. Bunte ask everyone to support the Family Dollar.

Next topic for discussion was the Sidrys vs Chikaming Township status report. A discussion with attorney Hilmer resulted in a special meeting on November 30, 2016, then briefly going into a closed session. At that time a decision was made that Supervisor Bunte and Trustee Sullivan attend the settlement hearing on January 13, 2017, which was previously scheduled for December 9, 2016. Rettig advised that January 6, 2017 at 2:00 a meeting had already been requested for a variance with the Zoning Board of Appeals. This will be on hold until further notice.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Berrien County animal control ordinance review and discussion of the townships position. Each member was given a copy of the ordinance. Comments and concerns about entering and investment property and the language, along with fines was brought up. Steps for operating procedures and number of items were very vague. A recommendation was made to ask our chief of Police to review the ordinance and give us his expert advice. Several board members plan on going to the meeting. The Public hearing is on December 15, 2016 with a final vote on December 22, 2016. Vote would be by the board of commissioners, therefore it is important for someone to attend the first meeting to convey our community's concerns. A copy will be given to Todd Taylor after this meeting.

Sullivan moved and Marske supported a discussion to approve retention of legal counsel for the Park board for legal advice on Cherry beach with a Letter of Intent and Conflict Waiver needing signatures. After discussion a motion was amended by Dudiak supported by Marske to approve retention of legal counsel from Foster & Swift , Michael Homier with this being specific to Cherry Beach authorizing supervisor Bunte to sign the Letter of Intent and the Conflict Waiver. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve a demolition application prepared by our new building/zoning administrator was discussed and reviewed. Rettig moved, supported by Marske to accept the demolition application as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion to provide healthcare benefits for Clerk and Supervisor. Bunte and Dudiak were not included in discussion. The board discussed the requirements and possible problems of being specific to elected officials. Suggestions were made. A motion was made by Sullivan, supported by Marske to provide healthcare benefits for elected official working 30 hours or more per week. All in favor, Bunte and Dudiak abstain. Motion carried. Motions to amend the budget will come at a later date.

Marske moved, Dudiak seconded a discussion to approve a policy concerning all Chikaming Township employees, commission and board members on township email by January 1, 2017. After discussion a motion by Marske, supported by Bunte was made to approve Chikaming Township employees, commission and board members to have township email and be using township email by January 1, 2017. With written Policy to follow and approve. All in favor, motion carried. Bunte would like to have Pete Plikaitis, as our internal administrator.

Marske moved supported by Sullivan to approve new official training for Clerk and Supervisor with Michigan Township Association in Kalamazoo on January 19, 2017. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to approve 2017 Chikaming Township meeting dates and office closing. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Bunte, seconded by Dudiak to approve the planning commission request for a twelve month (December 2016 through December 2017) moratorium to be placed on newly proposed commercial developments requiring a site plan review in the Red Arrow Hwy. green corridor. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Dudiak supported by Marske to hire the consulting firm of McKenna Associates for Chikaming Township ordinance review. All in favor, motion carried.

Chief Taylor asked the board for a budget amendment, due to his grant application with the Pokagon Fund being denied. He has requested an additional amount of \$2,000.00 for computer purchases. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to approve Chief Taylor's request. All in favor, motion carried.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Reports from Police, Fire, MFR, Park Board, were all presented for approval. Motion was made by Marske supported by Sullivan to accept the reports and place them on file. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bills from the last board meeting were presented by Rettig for approval to be paid, Marske moved, supported by Sullivan, to accept the bills presented to be paid by Chikaming Township. All voted aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Additional comments from the public:**

General discussion regarding motions were answered.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM, Rettig moved, Marske supported. All ayes, Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by,

Paula Dudiak  
Chikaming Township Clerk