

APPROVED

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

January 14, 2016

The January 14, 2016, meeting of the Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Warner with all Board members in attendance at 6:32 PM. Also present were Township Police Chief Todd Taylor, John Gooch, Harbor Country News and several members of the community.

Supervisor Warner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rettig moved, Sullivan supported to approve the Township Board minutes of the December 10, 2015, regular meeting, as presented. All ayes, Motion carried.

Retting reported the percentages of taxes that had been received to date. The summer taxes collected is 97.46%, winter taxes is 42.93%.

Marske moved, Sullivan supported to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter was received from Schwartz Law Office, PLC concerning additional information that was left out of the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting, the letter was accepted and placed on file.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Janet Schrader expressed concern regarding maintaining the ice skating rink, she requested the township W-2 the person who worked last year for insurance purposes. Schrader ask if we could not W-2 him to explain why, and ask why her questions have not been answered. Warner explained the concerns of the actions that may occur from the result of a W-2 employee, that only works part time. Sullivan ask Warner to help inform the public on this issue. Warner advised that the township does 1099 anyone that earns \$600.00 or more. The reason the Township is requesting a million dollar insurance policy from this contractor is the nature of the business. The risk of an ice skating rink carries a much greater liability. Advice was taken from the risk management report. Marske further explained there would be an additional amount in taxes the township would incur if we treated him as employee.

Chief Taylor presented an appreciation award to officer Duis for his outstanding performance in 2015, Duis has worked with Chikaming Township since 1987. In 2015 he issued 500 complaints, 287 citations, 249 verbal warnings, reviewed 1042 files looking, and 493 traffic stops. Taylor explained that because of these efforts burglaries have been down in our community. Another award will be presented to Marty Sexton, a reserve officer for over 150 hours of volunteer work, he was unable to make this meeting, but will be on the agenda for a future meeting.

Warner concluded with e-mail received from Judy Modica from Shorewood Hills Homeowners Association. The e-mail thanked Chief Taylor and his staff at

Chikaming Township for the excellent work on behalf of the safety of the residents of this community.

OLD BUSINESS:

Warner reminded to the board of budget meeting dates of 1-19-16 and 2-9-16.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by George Lucus from Chikaming Township Open Lands on economic benefits of land conservation.

Chikaming Open Land was founded 15 years ago, they accept donations of land and have been able with the assistance of the Pokagon fund to purchase land. One of the objectives was to explain the negative concern being heard regarding the purchase of land by Chikaming Open Lands. That the property falls off of tax roll, it is correct but the upside is that property value of surrounding areas go up making it a positive impact. Chris Thompson covered information on the rings of value and explained the chart showing the impact of the properties close to and adjacent to the preserve areas. They were happy to announce their most recent purchase being the Jens Jensen preserve from the Krumrie residence off of Holloway Drive. The preserve is 23 acres open to public for nature walks, snow skiing and to enjoy. Chris Thompson continued to give details of the benefits and the programs that will be offered in fall of 2016 with River Valley High School.

Appeal of a Land Division Denial was given in detail from Chuck Garasic of Sweet Haven Resort. The complete package was available to review. Mr. Garasic addressed the board to consider the division of his land. The main reason is economic. He wants to split his property, almost 10 acres so he can obtain a residential loan for his property and commercial for the Sweet Haven Resort. This was denied due to a 66 foot road issue, not conforming and developing a land locked piece of property. In addition there is a proposal to extend building another home and extending his business. Many options were discussed.

Rettig moved, Marske supported to uphold the Denial for the land division with options presented from the board. Mr. Garasic will re-visit his plans. All ayes, Motion carried.

Warner advised the appointment of alternates to the ZBA. Two alternates, Larry Anderson (Bethany Beach) and Phil Bender (Warren Woods Road). Warner explained the purpose of alternates with a majority vote being necessary. With upcoming events and committee members being absent this appointment for alternates is necessary. Marske moved, Sullivan supported. All ayes, motion carried.

A request for approval to attend a Board of Review Training class, in Kalamazoo on February 4, 2016. For Warner, Hawkins, and Gramberg to attend. Marske moved, Sullivan Supported. All ayes, motion carried.

Chief Taylor submitted an alarm letter dated December 11, 2015 requesting a \$500.00 fine be waived. Due to a power outage and this being a complicated and unusual situation.

Marske moved, Dudiak supported to waive the \$500.00 charges. Chief Taylor will advise the resident by letter.

Warner received a resignation letter from a 40 year MFR employee, she was not able to attend tonight. Warner will put on agenda for next month.

Reports from Police, Fire, MFR, Building Department, ZBA, Bridgman Public Library and Park Board were all presented for approval motion was moved by Marske, supported by Sullivan to accept the reports and place them on file, all voted aye. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Leo Krausak inquired about the status of the Ludwig property. There is no status it is still in litigation with the DEQ.

Enrico Heirman (Parkboard) Updated everyone on the activities of the Dog Park. Sawyer Lumber donated the wood Frame. The sides and roof being completed this week.

Ice Rink update, Janet Schrader was recognized for a good job. A big thank you for every one that helped make it happen.

Last update was after completion of the 5 year plan, and by-laws they are in need of an architectural design to allow getting future grants that are due in April.

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

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:55, Rettig moved, Marske supported, All voted ayes. Motion carried.

Warner updated the public regarding the Red Arrow Culvert that bids will start going out next month, it will be a three month project. A portion of any fines from trucks going thru this area go back to the library and township. The Berrien County Road commission advised there would be a web-cam to watch the progress. They are also putting in their project an 8ft strip for biking, like paving the shoulder.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55, Rettig moved, Marske supported. All ayes, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Paula Dudiak

Chikaming Township Clerk