

APPROVED

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
JULY 14, 2016**

The July 14, 2016, meeting of the Township Board was called to order at 6:30 PM. by Supervisor Warner, with Dudiak, Rettig, Marske, and Sullivan present. Also present John Gooch, of the Harbor Country News, along with several members of the community.

A moment of silence for the two Berrien County bailiffs that lost their lives at the Berrien County Courthouse was observed.

Supervisor Warner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rettig moved, Marske supported to accept the Township Board June 9, 2016 board minutes.

All ayes, motion carried.

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

CORRESPONDENCE – presented to the board

A letter from Rich Sullivan was submitted to the board. Kathy Sellers requested the letter be read, Clerk Dudiak read the letter to the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bridgman Public Library 50 years of service to the community will be held Thursday, July 28th 5:00 pam to 7:00 pm, program at 5:30.

Comments were received and answered under public comment and old business.

OLD BUSINESS:

An update and report on all township beaches were presented by Enrico, chairperson for Chikaming Township:

July 30th at Chikaming Township Park and Preserve on Warren Woods Rd, there will be a dedication held for Christopher Thompson at 11:00 along with the Chikaming Park Board naming a trail in his honor.

Taste of Chikaming time has always been a conflict in August due to the Berrien County Youth Fair, next year a movement to rejuvenate the Taste will be in place.

A tree ordinance for honoring the memory of Chris Thompson was requested by Sarah Doty along with several members of the public. Tom Hackley supported the tree ordinance and forming a committee to help create such an ordinance. Information will be looked up as to the steps to change and or create new ordinances, by all people involved.

Current information regarding Cherry Beach was presented. The deadline for comments and information to the DEQ for Cherry Beach is August 15th. A public meeting was requested to show the DEQ the general public is not for any changes in Cherry Beach area. Recommendation by board was to communicate with Enrico, Chikaming Township Park Board Chair. Ideas and public support will help the community to voice opinions.

Until the board hears back from Sarah Doty, no date for a special meeting or putting it on the August agenda was decided. Sarah will forward to clerk any new information she receives. Letter was sent to DEQ as requested directly after the June board meeting regarding property dispute at Cherry Beach, copies given to Park Board and Sarah Doty.

Dudiak presented requested Information from the June meeting to the public-Clerk Report:

Copies of Permits and correspondence were given to Trustee Sullivan regarding Red Arrow Cabins. Discussion was had to support the information given. All conditions were met and a final occupancy permit was given. It meets all State requirements.

Job description for Zoning Board Administrator also given as requested by Sullivan. Sullivan advised he wanted the Receptionist/Front Desk job description not the ZBA, Dudiak commented it was being changed but a copy would be available to him and to the public.

Email presented regarding demolition of homes through the county was distributed to the board. The county contractor gets building permits and pays for them.

Public was advised concerning the length of time for open building permits. The state standard is 180 days; our township is 360 days after inactivity. The process then starts with the assessor going to site to determine action to be taken. Advised that we do not have a Code enforcement officer. We do have an ordinance for Dangerous buildings, Ordinance No. 78. The ordinances need to be updated and we as a board are going to be discussing this along with property maintenance codes and the pool codes later in this meeting.

Starting August 15th Red Arrow Highway culvert project will begin with a 2 ½ month completion date. Update on East Road was given by Supervisor Warner. East road should be completed by end of next week.

A presentation from Marcy Hamilton from the Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission addressed the public on the topic of Lake Michigan Tributaries NPS watershed Management plan. This was started with a grant for managing the tributaries from Stevensville to the Indiana state line. Detailed reports and maps of waterways and discussion were heard. Marcy left us with a website for anyone to be able to obtain more information on any of the subjects she brought up. hamiltonm@swmpc.org. Maps will be in the office of township for public view.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made to recommend the appointments to the personnel committee per township personnel manual. Personnel committee will be:

Wayne Warner, Supervisor

Bill Marske, Trustee (one year term)

Tim Hawkins, community member at large

Dudiak moved, supported by Rettig, Marske abstained, Sullivan no, Warner, Dudiak and Rettig yes. Motion carried.

A motion moved by Rettig, supported by Sullivan to set a date on a hearing on the appeal by Dollar General Store for the regular August Board Meeting. With all materials available to each board member by July 28th. Marske left the room, he is the township representative for the Planning Board and had already made a decision on the planning commission. Warner, Dudiak, Rettig and Sullivan approved, motion carried.

A motion was presented to the board to review the 2015 international property maintenance code and pool codes. It was moved by Dudiak, Supported by Marske.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion to approve the buyback of three graves at Lakeside Cemetery was moved by Rettig, supported by Marske. 75% of the current value.

All ayes, motion carried.

Discussion was brought up concerning the follow through with ordinances. Rich Kubsch advised the board and public as to the process followed up by Tom Hackley. Trustee Sullivan wanted the planning commission to develop a committee for ordinances. Township board should direct the planning commission to start the process.

After much discussion regarding the current Zoning Administrator being a temporary employee, lead into a heated debate resulting in Rich Kubsch resigning from Chikaming Township Zoning Administrator position.

Kathy Sellers, Chikaming Township Park board member requested to put on the agenda for the August Township Board meeting the suggestion regarding all three boards getting together.

Chief Davidson presented two graduates from Fire Fighter School:

Katherine Oldenberg and Bradley Miller they were congratulated on their dedication of 7 months of training.

Chikaming Township Fire Department Open House flyer was presented and is available to all. August 6th Noon – 4pm.

Chief Taylor advised he accepted a letter of resignation from Officer Zandarski, he accepted a full time position in Grand Rapids. A letter of appreciation will be sent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No additional public comments.

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

Bills 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.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM, Rettig moved, Dudiak supported. All ayes, Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by,

Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk