



Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting, Monday, June 27, 2016

**Chikaming Township Park Board
Regular Meeting**

Monday, June 27, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Chikaming Township Hall
13535 Red Arrow Hwy
Harbert, MI 49115

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<p>EnRico Heirman called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.</p> <p>Members present: Karen Tarpley, Joseph Reed, Janet Schrader, Kathy Sellers, Shelly Taylor, and EnRico Heirman were present.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Roll Call</p>
<p>Approval of the meeting's agenda.</p> <p>Moved by Tarpley, seconded by Sellers, to approve the agenda for the June 27th meeting.</p> <p align="right">CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA APPROVED</p>
<p>Motion to approve preceding May regular meeting minutes.</p> <p>Moved by Tarpley, seconded by Schrader, to approve the minutes of the May regular meeting.</p> <p align="right">CARRIED</p>	<p>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES</p> <p>MINUTES APPROVED</p>
<p>Heirman expressed that the passing of park board member Chris Thompson is a major loss for the community. He continued that a tentative event is being planned to celebrate his life on July 30th at 11:00 a.m. It is being considered that a memorial tree be planted for Thompson at the Chikaming Township Park and Preserve.</p> <p>Supervisor Wayne Warner invited the board to attend the July 6th Planning Commission work session to observe.</p> <p>Karen Giourandi sent a correspondence to the board regarding Miller beach and the neighboring private sign being moved 40' closer to the public beach. Schrader stated that she measured the beach width to be at the correct 110 ft. distance. She continued that the sign may be in the right spot but that they may be in violation of ordinance or DEQ law by placing it there. Schrader continued that she has inquired about the law and will follow-up with a written inquiry.</p>	<p>Correspondence</p>
<p>Sellers explained that all of the "0's" in the first row of her report should actually be dollar amounts representing budget items. She added that currently \$18,450 has been spent of this year's budget.</p> <p>Sellers mentioned that she spoke with clerk Paula Dudiak and the board</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p>

<p>may be able to roll-over remaining budget amounts from previous years. Dudiak will gather further information about this possibility.</p>	
<p>Dan Coffey, a local realtor, was present to state that he was contacted by local residents regarding options for the preservation of the property next to the Cherry Beach location. Coffey stated that he wrote to Michigan Association attorney David Pierson who provided specific cases where townships successfully condemned properties for public use. Coffey continued that the property owner could be paid fair market value for his property and there are many different types of condemning. Heirman suggested that the letter from Pierson be shared with the township and the conversation regarding this possibility be continued. Schrader mentioned that the DEQ decision on the property was delayed until August 15th.</p> <p>Fran Wersells came forth to state that she has heard several complaints regarding the new mulch added to the plantings at Miller Beach. She continued that she would prefer the mulch to be more natural looking.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>Townline Beach - Nothing new to report.</p> <p>McKinley Beach Access – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Miller Beach Access– Tarpley stated that her husband has been weed whacking around the new plantings on the property. Wersells stated that she still wants the shed there painted. Heirman asked Wersells to pick out a paint selection at the Sawyer Hardware store and he will purchase the paints. John Gooch suggested that the painting of the shed be undertaken as a rotary club project. It was decided that the new plantings will be mulched with a more natural colored mulch.</p> <p>Berrien Beach Access – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Pier Street Beach – Schrader reported that the bushes have been trimmed to allow for more parking.</p> <p>Cherry Beach – Schrader reported that she has caught campers spending the night on the beach and this needs to be better controlled. Heirman added that he had a picnic table moved to the overlook area. Schrader suggested that parking be striped so that parking issues do not arise. The board observed that a new “fire lane” sign has been placed on the overlook and questioned its legitimacy. Schrader will call to have the water fountain turned on here and at the other park locations.</p> <p>Harbert Beach – Reed reported that old metal posts remaining from fences on adjacent properties are slightly sticking out of the sand near the public area. He continued that they are posing a danger to children playing on the nearby dunes.</p> <p>Warren Woods Park and Preserve – Heirman reported that vandalism has been taking place at the Warren Woods Park and Preserve. He continued that broken bottles and blood were found on the property.</p>	<p>Beach/ Park Reports</p>

<p>Heirman suggested that a camera be installed at the property to better manage the problem. Schrader stated that the damage to the fishing platform needs to be reviewed by a licensed contractor. Taylor volunteered to oversee the park and preserve property maintenance moving ahead.</p> <p>Harbert Road Park and Preserve – Reed reported that a large pile of scrap metal was dumped at the park and preserve. Heirman stated that when he was last at the park it had been removed. Reed offered to assist Heirman in overseeing the maintenance of the property.</p> <p>Harbert Community Park – Two pieces are missing from the climbing wall on the playground equipment. Sellers requested that two more trees be added to shade the playground area. Heirman reported that the Rotary Club has applied for a grant to add a concrete pad to the new pavilion as well as a few picnic tables.</p>	
<p>Heirman stated that due to the road closure on Red Arrow Highway it was determined that the Taste of Chikaming will not take place this year. He added that in the future a name change for the event should be considered. Schrader added that she feels participation by the township staff is a major part of the event. Heirman added that the fire department will be hosting a pig roast that should be supported this year instead.</p> <p>Schrader confirmed that she will order the ice rink liner so that it can be shipped when the New Buffalo Marina orders plastic for its boats. This will reduce the cost of the liner as the additional shipping charge will be avoided.</p>	Old Business
<p>Schrader informed the board that Ben Zimmont responded to an email inquiry regarding the status of the DEQ permit request for a property adjacent to Cherry Beach. Zimmont stated that there will not be a second public hearing around the topic.</p> <p>Schrader expressed that she is concerned about the accuracy of the property boundaries indicated by a survey completed by the neighboring property owner at Cherry Beach. She continued that she would like Merritt Engineering to re-stake the south side property line. Sellers advised that it be requested that all property lines be re-staked. Schrader also suggested that the history of title documents be explored to ensure that boundary lines were not misstated at any point.</p> <p>Moved by Schrader, seconded by Sellers, that a title company be selected, at Sellers’ digression, to search for all Beidler property documents since the selling of the property by the original Warren owners. Schrader furthered that the cost of the title search is not to exceed \$1,000.</p> <p>Roll call vote: Taylor – Aye</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>MOTION TO SEARCH FOR TITLE DOCUMENTS</p>

<p>Tarpley – Aye Schrader – Aye Sellers – Aye Reed – Aye Heirman – Aye</p> <p>Moved by Schrader, seconded by Tarpley, that Park Board Chairman Heirman contact Merritt Engineering to request that their most recent survey of the Cherry Beach Property be staked to show accurate boundary locations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Heirman stated that Corey Busch informed him that the sign at Harbert Community Park would be framed in timbers soon.</p> <p>Heirman encouraged the board to do more committee work to present at meetings.</p>	<p>MOTION TO HAVE CHERRY BEACH PROPERTY RE-STAKED</p>
<p>No public comments at this time.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>Moved Schrader, seconded Tarpley, to adjourn meeting at 9:58 p.m. CARRIED</p>	<p>ADJOURNED</p>
<p>MONDAY, July 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p>
<p>Minutes submitted by Jessica Miller</p>	