

## **APPROVED**

### **CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2016**

The October 13, 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.

Supervisor Warner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rettig moved, Marske supported to accept the Township Board September 8, 2016 minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

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

Treasurer Rettig advised that 95.45% of the Summer Taxes have been collected as of October 11, 2016.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letters and emails from the community were distributed to the board and will be put on record that they were received. Correspondence was received three hours before the meeting will be looked into before answers are given.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The public urged the board to check the Family Dollar Store for permits and compliance and communicate with our inspectors to answer the questions that were ask in the email received October 13, 2016 at 3:30 regarding the Family Dollar Store. A question was brought before the board also inquiring about the paving of Tatro Ave next to the Family Dollar Store without approvals. Supervisor Warner advised that the board needs time to accurately read and investigate the many questions before anything can be answered. Trustee Sullivan agreed and explained to the public to be fair to all that time was needed before answers were given. Many concerns about not having a building inspector or a Zoning Board Administrator were discussed with concern that the Family Dollar is moving forward without them being checked. The reason for the letter was to make sure things get looked into before it's too late. A report will be presented with answers regarding all the information the board discovers.

Gretchen Evans from Bridgman library submitted an annual report. Chikaming Township has 490 active card holders at their library mostly held by adult's showing interest in reading books which accounts for 19% of their circulation.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Clerk Report: Nothing this month to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Warner and Sullivan met with the library directors to get more information to present to everyone on the amount the monies given to each library. The residents of New Buffalo, Three Oaks and Bridgman support their libraries economically a lot more than Chikaming. For many years Chikaming Township has divided their penial fines equally between New Buffalo and Three Oaks. During the past three years the split between New Buffalo, Three Oaks and Bridgman was 40%, 40%, 20%. A 33%, 33%, 33% split was recommended by the directors. They asked if there was a way Chikaming could up more funds and find a way to chip in more money. Other communities have a millage for their libraries and other sources that we do not. State programs made these recommendations to have townships pay for the libraries. We will bring it back up in the clerks report and urged the public to advise us if they have any idea's.

Angela Reichert gave an update on sculptures in Chikaming township, first starting by thanking the public and the board for their participation and support for the Public Arts initiative. This year is a buy one get one free year. The sculpture here at the township will be left here for one more year. Angela also updated the park board that the piece at the park by the pond will be going back to Krasal Art center. She will continue to update us as time goes on.

Warner presented a Resolution asking for the approval of refunding GRSD bonds. By approving the refunding the GRSD will save \$90,000.00 over the life of the bonds. Each member has been ask Bridgman City, New Buffalo City, New Buffalo Township, Chikaming Township and Lake Township all have a 20% investment. It will save our township money and the GRSD has the money to pay this back. A motion was made by Sullivan, supported by Marske to approve the resolution for refunding the GRSD bonds.

Roll Call vote: Sullivan, Rettig, Warner, Dudiak and Marske all Ayes.

Motion carried to refund the bonds. Resolution will be filled out and returned as requested.

Blue Cross Blue shield sent Chikaming Township options for the renewal of our Employee health plan. Options were discussed in detail. The current plan has been discontinued. The Township met with representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield for further explanation of the options.

Option 1 was suggested to be the option after discussion by the board.

It moved by Sullivan, supported by Marske to approve the renewal of the health plan Option 1.

All ayes, motion carried.

A discussion was had to determine the hours for Trick or Treat for Chikaming Township. Recommendation by Warner for Trick or Treat to be Sunday, October 30, 2016 between the hours of 4 and 6 pm. It was moved by Marske, supported by Dudiak to accept the Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> date and time. All ayes, motion carried.

A report from Planning commission committee of Andy Brown, Grace Rappe and Bill Marske was presented to the board on their search for a new Zoning and Building Administrator. Out of 7 or 8 applicants the committee selected their top 4 during phone interviews. They now have recommended two, Lydia Dutton and Van Thornton to work in conjunction with each other. Lydia being zoning administrator and Van Thornton as building inspector. Warner suggested that two people from the board now interview.

Sullivan and Rettig agreed to accept the task of interviewing. After interviews a recommendation a special meeting will be held, so we don't have to wait until next month.

Warner received a written resignation from our current building inspector; Christopher A. Miller effective thru October 5, 2016. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to accept the resignation with a letter being sent him. All ayes, motion carried.

Warner presented the board with two recommendations for filling office positions. First position for a full time front desk person – Pete Plikaitis who is also the deputy Treasurer for Chikaming Township. Second was Kim Livengood as a part time utility person, assisting were needed. She is a former employee and has been very instrumental in the progress of the building department. Both will be cross trained to assist each in both departments. There were seven applicants for these positions they were interviewed by Julie, the office manager. It was moved by Marske supported by Dudiak to hire Pete Plikaitis full time and Kim Livengood as part time for Chikaming Township.

All ayes, motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

A requested was presented to the board for Chief Davidson to attend a conference entitled, Emerging Issues in Emergency Services. Along with training and being a Berrien county representative Chief Davidson would like to attend the conference October 21, 2016 in Frankenmuth at the Bavarian Inn Lodge. It was recommended to honor this request, by Sullivan, supported by Marske. All ayes, motion carried.

A request for Chief Taylor to attend Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, February 8 thru the 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 was presented to the board. Event being 2017 Winter Professional Development Conference. Marske moved and was supported by Sullivan for Chief Taylor to attend the conference. All ayes, motion carried.

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

##### **Additional comments from the public:**

Mr. Leo, from Prairie Club spoke regarding variances. He commented on the variance problems that have occurred in granting variances which has caused turmoil during the last several months and would like the board to consider no variances. Stick to the code may be the better way to go. No more variances.

Mr. Anderson discussed being disappointed with the packages prepared for the Zoning Board of Appeals, therefore is very excited about a zoning administrator being recommended to the board. A question regarding a full time or time job for the new zoning administer.

Marske replied both would be part time. Two different jobs. Recommendation was to wait for the minutes from the planning board. Also salaries and job description are needed before anything can be finalized. Sullivan also commented

that we need everything in writing, before we can continue. If we are going to look at one full time position with part time what is the cost difference for the township.

Mr. Hackley suggested another meeting or discussion to get clarification from the planning on what they are recommending and keep things going rather than not continuing.

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 8:00 PM, Rettig moved, Dudiak supported. All ayes, Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by,

Paula Dudiak  
Chikaming Township Clerk

10/19/16