

APPROVED

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – MARCH 9, 6:30 PM

A duly posted and advertised public hearing on the 2017-2018 fiscal year operating budgets for the General Fund, Building Fund, Public Safety Fund, and Water and Sewer Departments was called to order at 6:30 by Supervisor Bunte with Dudiak, Marske and Sullivan in attendance. Rettig absent. Also present: Attorney Charles Hilmer.

Copies of the proposed budget and the annual reports, submitted by the various departments and commissions were available to the public and Meetings were advertised in the Harbor Country News. Copies were also available at the Hearing and Chikaming Township website. The millage to be levied on the 2017 property tax roll was detailed in the prepared budget for the General Fund of .3727 and Public Safety Millage of 1.4000.

The various budgets, annual reports and highlights of the budget year were presented. Questions were answered and information was provided. Marske moved and Sullivan supported to close the hearing at 6:38.

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2017

The March 9, 2017, meeting of the Township Board was called to order at 7:00 PM. by Supervisor Bunte, with Dudiak, Marske, and, Sullivan present. Rettig absent. Also present John Gooch, of the Harbor Country News, Francesca Sagala from New Buffalo Times and several members of the community.

Supervisor Bunte led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sullivan moved, Dudiak supported to accept the Township Board February 9, 2017 minutes as presented. Marske abstained due to not being present. All ayes, motion carried.

Marske moved, Sullivan supported to accept the February 28, 2017 budget workshop minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters and emails from the community were distributed to the board and will be put on record that they were received. Property Tax assessments went out late by the company that sends them out creating a great many calls and inquires. The review process will be extended to March 22, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing additional on the update of the Chikaming Township Board to name Chikaming Township Park Board as Stewards of Ordinance 126.

Status report on the ongoing Sibrys vs Chudik situation.

Supervisor Bunte entertained a motion for a closed session with the board to consult with Attorney Hilmer regarding a settlement strategy in a pending litigation with Paul and Anne Sidrys due to the nature of this discussion and financial effect of this

discussion.

A motion was made by Sullivan, supported by Marske to go into closed session at 7:12 p.m.

Roll Call vote: Sullivan, Aye, Marske, Aye, Dudiak, Aye, Bunte, Aye.

Board returned from closed session at 7:46 p.m.

Motion to support to enter into a settlement agreement and release to Paul and Anne Sidrys was moved by Marske, supported by Sullivan.

Roll call vote: Marske, Aye, Sullivan, Aye, Bunte, Aye, Dudiak, Aye.

Motion Carried.

Supervisor Bunte updated the public that the MDEQ/Beidler (Cherry Beach) permit was received via email to the office on March 7, 2017. Copies are available in the office. Discussion from Enrico Heirman, Chikaming Township Park Board was heard. The park board has a solid strategy to try to delay the permit by an appeal. The park board asked the township to authorize them to proceed due to the time limits as to when this has to be completed, thus buying time to communicate with the owner and continue discussion with their committee and lawyers.

Motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan for the Township Board to grant the Park Board authorization to prepare and submit an appeal to MDEQ regarding the above matter. All ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve Federal Guidelines for Poverty for 2017 was moved by Dudiak, supported by Marske. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion for a Resolution to authorize Clerk to establish an Election Day Absent Voter Counting Board for all elections beginning March, 2017 was moved by Sullivan, supported by Marske. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion to request to Amend 2016-17 Township Budget increase of \$20,000.00 from Fund Balance to General Administration Department due to increased expenses was moved by Marske, supported by Sullivan. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion to request to Amend 2016-17 Township Budget increase of \$10,000.00 from Fund Balance to the Treasurer's Department due to increased expenses was moved by Dudiak, supported by Marske. All ayes, Motion carried.

Motion to request to Amend 2016-17 Township Budget increase of \$30,000 from Public Safety Fund to the First Responders Department was moved by Marske, supported by Sullivan. All ayes, motion carried.

Marske moved, Sullivan supported a motion for Chikaming Township to apply for a grant from The Pokagon Fund for Township Recycling in the amount of \$33,000.00. All ayes, motion carried.

Dudiak moved, Sullivan supported a motion for Chikaming Township to apply for a grant from The Pokagon Fund for Library Funding in the amount of \$30,000.00. All ayes, motion carried.

Marske moved, Sullivan supported a motion for Chikaming Township to apply for a grant from The Pokagon Fund for Celebrate Chikaming event in the amount of \$3,000.00. All ayes, motion carried.

A request from the River Valley Elementary PTO for a Resolution for Charitable Gaming License to conduct a raffle at their Fiesta Night event on March 30, 2017 at the River Valley Middle/High School at 15480 Three Oaks Road, Three Oaks, MI 49128 was presented to the board. A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to approve the resolution. .

Roll call vote: Sullivan,aye,Bunte, aye, Marske, aye, Dudiak, aye. All ayes, motion carried

REPORTS:

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

PUBLIC SAFETY;

Chief Davidson request to attend FDIC conference from April 26-29, 2017 was approved.

Chief Taylor thanked the Berlin family for a donation they made to the police department.

A Performance award was presented to officer Dave Duis for a job well done.

Melissa Flick was rewarded for going above and beyond her duties in the department.

Marty Sexton, a reserve officer, was also rewarded for his many hours of volunteer service.

A slide show presentation was given on crime statistics for 2016 with questions and answers from the public.

Cody Fischer was recommended to the board for a part-time police officer position.

Motion was made to approve this request by Marske, supported by Sullivan.

All ayes, motion carried.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Gretchen Evans from Bridgman Public Library shared her upcoming events with all.

Enrico Heirman, Chikaming Township Park board commented on the welcoming attitude in the office.

PAYING OF BILLS:

Bills were presented by Dudiak for approval, Marke moved, supported by Sullivan, to accept the bills presented to be paid by Chikaming Township. All voted aye. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS;

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM, Dudiak moved, Marske supported. All ayes, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk

Approved
March 23, 2017