**APPROVED**

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**November 9, 2023**

The November 9, 2023, meeting of the Township Board was called to order at 6:30 PM by Supervisor Bunte, Dudiak, Rettig, Marske and Sullivan present at Chikaming Township Center. Also present, Attorney Hilmer, David Johnson, Francesca Sagala and several members of the community.

Supervisor Bunte led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Consent Agenda was given to the board, Marske moved, Sullivan supported approving the Consent Agenda.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to approve the Treasurers report as read.

All ayes, motion caried

A motion to approve the paying of the bills was made by Marske supported by Sullivan.

All ayes, motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter to notify Chikaming Township of the final Flood hazard determination for Berrien County was completed. With this being complete additional requirements must be met within 6 months from date of the letter (October 25, 2023) copies of the letter were forwarded to Attorney Hilmer and the Zoning Administrator.

**Joe Martin – Parks Director Report:**

Joe Martin read the parks report, it will be placed on file.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

John Wilk, Bridgman Library reported 4,067 people came through the doors during October. Many children and adults enjoyed the Halloween festivities. The library will be closed starting at 2:00 on November 22nd for Thanksgiving.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2023-2028 Road Asset Management Plan:**

John Egelhaaf, Executive Director of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission presented an updated Local Road Asset Management Plan for Chikaming Township, which includes adjustments to be made for the next six years (2024-2028).

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve the plan.

All ayes, motion carried.

**AEP Transmission Line Rebuild Project Update:**

Approximately 80 people along with approximately 20 AEP specialists attended October 9th, 2023, meeting at the Chikaming Township Center. The Three Oaks meeting was also well attended. A letter will be sent regarding the reconsiderations. We have not received any further communications to date. the final letter to date. The project will be delayed until winter of 2025.

**Rental Ordinance Proposed Amendment Update:**

A motion was made by Marke, supported by Rettig, to approve the proposed amendments to the Rental Ordinance.

Roll call vote, Marske, Dudiak, Bunte, Rettig – Aye Sullivan – Nay

Motion carried.

**Broad Band Service Expansion Update:**

The project is moving along; we will be updated again at the December meeting.

Go to [www.teammidwest.com](http://www.teammidwest.com) for all updates. Chikaming township is included in the Eastern section with Weesaw.

**ARPA Spark Grant Agreement for Improvements to Harbert Community Park Resolution**:

A resolution on American Rescue Plan Act local Parks and Trails Spark Grant Agreement for Harbert Community Park Improvements was presented to the board.

A motion was made to approve the resolution by Marske, supported by Dudiak.

Roll call vote: Dudiak, Rettig, Bunte, Marske, Sullivan

All ayes, Resolution adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to approve a proposed MFR Mutual Aid agreement presented to the board by Chief Allen Weich contingent on approval by Lake Charter Township Fire Department.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske authorizing Chief Weich to attend the 2023 Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association’s Annual Conference.

November 30 thru December 2, 2023, for continuing education.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made to allow our Parks Director, Joe Martin to submit a grant for Mobi Mats for Berrien Street Handicap Accessibility through SWMRA Lighter Quicker Cheaper Challenge grant.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made to switch from Granicus Host Compliance to Deckard Technologies Rentalscape.

Rettig, Bunte, Dudiak, Marske – Aye Sullivan – Nay

Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the RFP for the Master Plan submitted by the Planning Commission.

All ayes, motion caried.

Following the Township’s purchase of the land adjacent to Riverside Cemetery, the previous landowner would like a decision on whether the current farmer can continue to farm the land until we are ready to move forward with design and construction of the cemetery expansion. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to allow the current leaseholder to continue farming.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to approve the request from the Planning Commission to allow the property at 14239 Three Oaks Rd, Sawyer Michigan to have an Accessory Dwelling Unit, Special Land Use #216 and the parcel to be flagged not to be used as rental.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Rettig to approve a Lot combination requested for property codes 11-07-7540-0033-00-2 and 11-07-7540-0033-01-1 for Powers Family Trust.

All ayes, motion carried.

Fire Chief, Allen Weich presented quotes for Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units to the board. After receiving the FEMA AFG FY22 SCBA Grant, October 13th Chiefs from Chikaming, Three Oaks and New Buffalo Township reviewed the quotes and recommended to award West Shore Fire, Inc for 56 SCBA units (56 backpacks/harness, 56 masks, 112 bottles) in the amount of $468,775.00. A request for a budget amendment for approximately $8,500, for the 5% match was requested.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Bunte to approve the purchase by Chief Weich from West Shore Fire, Inc and include the budget amendment.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made to amend the Fire Department Budget for an additional $50,000.00 for apparatus repairs as presented was made by Marske, supported by Dudiak.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Bunte to approve the proposed Open Burning Permit Rules and Regulation for clarification from Fire Chief as revision 23.11.09.

All ayes, motion carried.

A proposal presented by Fire Chief, Allen Weich for Short-Term Rental Fees was denied.

Motion by Marske, supported by Rettig to deny request.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Sullivan, to approve a request for Qualifications documentation for Harbert Park Improvements project, along with publication.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Bunte approve a request from the staff to adjust the Township office hours to 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. effective December 1, 2023.

All ayes, motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

It was suggested the Noise Ordinance have fines assessed. Due to the Short-Term rental Ordinance having fines assessed.

A concerned resident stated that our current short-term rental company, Granicus, did a good job.

A thank you for putting more ”teeth” in the rental ordinance, now wondering how it will be enforced.

A recommendation to send a letter out to all rental permit holders explaining the changes, with details, and suggest that a letter go out every year regarding the new program.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Reminder December Board meeting will be held on December 7th, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM.

All ayes, Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

**Paula Dudiak**

**Chikaming Township Clerk**