

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

Monday, June 20th, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Supervisor Ray Chase called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Board and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance

MEMBERS PRESENT: Treasurer Mary Long, Clerk Marjie Marshall, Trustee Tom Hall

ABSENT: Trustee Kathy Harri-McEvers

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL: Motion by Mary, Seconded by Tom to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

- Motion by Mary, seconded by Marjie, to approve minutes of May 16th, 2022 Regular Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Tom, to accept Treasures Report. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Mary, seconded by Tom to approve Payment of Bills. Motion passed unanimously via roll call.
 - General Fund: Check #5580 to Up and Running for \$122.50, #5581 to Howard & Howard for \$600.00, #5582 to Verizon for \$25.43, #5583 to UPPCO for #167.28, #5584 to MTA for 222.55, #5585 to UPPCO for \$484.70, #5586 to Dennis Greenhouse for \$55.00, #5587 to Ace hardware for \$22.68, #5588 to Susan Sanford for \$100.00, #5589 VOID, #5590 VOID, #5591 to Marjie Marshall for \$507.93, #5592 to Mary Long for \$556.92, #5593 to Ray Chase for \$387.87, #5594 to Sara Huuki for \$369.40, #5595 to Tom Hall for \$78.50, #5596 to Carol Jones for \$62.33, #5597 to Tom Hall for \$32.76, #5598 to Dave Schumacher for \$273.20, AP to Waste Management for \$390.00..(Total \$4,459.05)
 - Water Fund: Check #1664 to UPPCO for \$58.32, #1665 to Whitewater for \$40.00, #1666 to Mel Jones for \$443.28, #1667 to Cardmember Services for \$565.97, #1668 to Mary Long for \$20.78. (Total \$1,128.35)
 - Cemetery Fund: Check #1153 to Matt Baxandall for \$110.00, #1154 to Dave Schumacher for \$242.41. (Total \$352.41)
 - Bridge Fund: No Activity
 - Park Fund: No Activity
 - For a Final Total of \$5,939.81

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Marjie advised the board that she will be resigning as clerk. She will post the position on the website and the sign board in front of the Township Hall. Guests attending the meeting were asked to help look for a candidate.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Mary, to approve the Audit Agreement with Susan Sanford for year ending March 31, 2022, and to authorize Ray to sign the agreement. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Tom, to approve Linda Kline to research grant funding for the Houghton Township water system. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Jim Huovanen, seconded by Tom Hall, to appoint Steve Kline as Cemetery Committee Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- **Assessing – Sara Huuki:** Sara advised via email that Houghton Township received two covenant deeds in regards to TRG Threshold. These were multiparcel deeds within multiple townships. This went through both Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. TRG Threshold Timber Michigan parcels went to Verdant Timber Michigan LLC, C/O The Rohatyn Group out of Boston MA, 02109. There were 50 parcels within Houghton Township that changed ownership.
- **Water Department – Mel Jones:** Mel met with EGLE for our Sanitary Survey. 3 years ago EGLE recommended we inventory our pipes to determine what we have. Our system is galvanized and was

installed in 1938. EGLE is also recommending that we install a 20,000-gallon water tank 100' up garden City Road. We could take a loan out to fund the project, repayment of which would come through a surcharge on the water bills. Our existing fire hydrants are not sufficient for fire protection. They are only suitable to flush the pipes.

- **Cemetery/Committee – Marjie Marshall/Steve Kline:** The committee met several times and came up with recommendations moving forward. Those recommendations included a land survey, road repair, raising plot prices/adding fees, donation box, media coverage of the project, and using the survey results as an aid for preparing a cemetery master plan. A quote for the survey was obtained in the amount of \$6,900.00, which includes a \$2,300.00 retainer to start work. Motion by Marjie, seconded by Tom to utilize ARPA money for the land survey. Motion passed unanimously. Rodger Kershner advised that no survey of the cemetery be undertaken as a survey would likely disclose that graves are mislocated and lead to disputes and possible litigation.
- **Elections – Marjie Marshall:** Marjie and Carol Jones have attended mandatory election training and are prepping for the upcoming election.
- **General Maintenance – Dave Schumacher:** Nothing to report.
- **Parks – Dan Steck:** Dan reported via email that the park opened on Memorial Day. Approximately 200 people have used the pavilion restrooms in the 20 days since opening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Gary Bays advised that he was very pleased with the work that Harrison did while working with the water department on Gary's property.
- Ted Burkhart asked about the dead trees in the deer park. Ray advised that Dave is scheduled to remove the dead trees as soon as he can fit it into his schedule.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 6:58p.m.

Next regular meeting – July 18th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Marjie Marshall, Clerk
Houghton Township

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, Marjie Marshall, the appointed Clerk for the Township of Houghton, Keweenaw County, Michigan, DO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 19th day of July, 2021.

Marjie Marshall, Clerk, Houghton Township