

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**Monday, August 15th, 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:** Supervisor Ray Chase, Treasurer Mary Long, Clerk Marjie Marshall, Trustee Tom Hall, Trustee Kathy Harri-McEvers

**ABSENT:** None

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL:** Motion by Kathy, seconded by Mary to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:**

- Motion by Tom, seconded by Kathy, to approve minutes of July 18t, 2022 Regular Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Tom, to accept Treasures Report. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Tom, seconded by Mary, to approve Payment of Bills. Motion passed unanimously via roll call.
  - General Fund: Check #5618 to US Treasury for \$1010.44, #5619 to Verizon for \$26.03, #5620 to UPPCO for \$485.32, #5621 to UPPCO for \$202.00, #5622 to Daily Mining Gazette for \$117.60, #5623 to Harter Supply for \$30.00, #5624 to UP Engineers for \$4,600.00, #5625 to Carol Jones for \$631.61, #5626 to Kathy Harri-McEvers for \$78.50, #5627 to Marjie Marshall for \$507.92, #5628 to Mary Long for \$626.92, #5629 to Ray Chase for \$387.87, #5630 to Sara Huuki for \$369.40, #5631 to Tom Hall for \$78.50, #5632 to John Dodge for \$225.00, #5633 to Linda Dodge for \$225.00, #5634 to Dave Schumacher for \$443.28. (Total \$10,045.39)
  - Water Fund: Check #1674 to US Treasury for \$268.12, #1675 to UPPCO for \$109.70, #1677 to Cardmember Services for \$178.60, #1676 to Mel Jones for \$110.82, #1678 to Mary Long for \$48.49. (Total \$715.73)
  - Cemetery Fund: Check #1157 to US Treasury for \$50.50, #1158 to Dave Schumacher for \$207.79. (Total \$258.29)
  - Bridge Fund: No activity
  - Park Fund: #1038 to Dan Steck for #1,957.43. (Total \$1,957.43)
  - For a Final Total of \$12,976.84

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

- Motion by Marjie, seconded by Kathy, to increase the Water Fund Insurance/General line by \$82.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Kathy, seconded by Marjie, to increase the Water Fund School & Education line by \$30.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Kathy, seconded by Ray, to increase the Water Fund Supplies Line by \$75.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Kathy, seconded by Marjie, to increase the Cemetery Fund Insurance line by \$5.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Kathy, seconded by Ray, to increase the General Fund Township Board Supplies by \$57.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Mary, seconded by Kathy, to increase the General Fund MTA Dues line by \$17.55. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Mary, seconded by Ray, to increase the General Fund Elections Miscellaneous line by \$2.14. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Tom, seconded by Mary, to increase the General Fund Clerk Capital Outlay line by \$627.99. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Kathy, seconded my Ray, to increase the General Fund Treasurer Miscellaneous Expense line by \$55.99. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion by Kathy, seconded by Mary, to increase the General Fund Parks & Recreation Repairs and Maintenance line by \$24.75. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Mary, seconded by Ray, to increase the General Fund Parks and Recreation Other Functions Worker's Comp line by \$394.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Ray, seconded by Mary, to increase the General Fund Parks and Recreation Capital Outlay-Cemetery line by \$6,900.00. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Motion by Kathy, seconded by Ray, to buy back from Rebecca Freund the green burial plot she purchased. She is moving away from the area and no longer needs it. Motion passed unanimously.
- Linda gave an update of the water system grant project. Our Intent To Apply (ITA) is due 11/1/22 but we are encouraged to submit it earlier to get an agent assigned to our project. The Committee has been in touch with a couple land owners regarding storage tank placement. Garden City Road and M-26 both have viable locations. The next step is to contact Dick Supina for design/pricing to move forward to the ITA. The actual application is due July 2023. During this meeting a committee was formed; including Paul Mihelcich, Mel Jones, Linda Kline, Steve Kline, and Dave Schumacher. Linda was named Chairperson.
- Steve Kline gave a Cemetery Project update. The survey has been completed. Property corners and key plot layout references have been marked. Now that the survey is done road work can begin when funds are available. A copy of the full Committee Report with recommendations can be found at the Clerk's Office.
- Motion by Ray, seconded by Tom, to approve the Clerk scheduling repair work on the office printer. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Board advised that Congressman Jack Bergman will be doing a meet and greet in Eagle Harbor Township tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.
- Motion by Ray, seconded by Kathy, to submit a letter of support to B-H-K Community Action Agency in their effort to apply for and receive a MI HOPE Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- **Assessing – Sara Huuki:** Sara is working with the attorney that prepared the deeds for all of the GMO parcel sales. She went through each on individually and found that one was omitted. The attorney is preparing a Scrivener's Affidavit.
- **Water Department – Mel Jones:** The results from our lead and copper tests came back. Amounts were negligible, well below limits. We have no lead service lines. Paul Mihelcich stated that there are a few things that should be cleared up before we get too far into the water grant project.
- **Cemetery/Committee – Marjie Marshall:** No report
- **Elections – Marjie Marshall:** The State Primary was successfully completed. I couldn't have done it without Carol Jones' help.
- **General Maintenance – Dave Schumacher:** Nothing to report.
- **Parks – Dan Steck:** Park use is up and people seem to be enjoying it. We're providing a good service to the community with the restrooms, lots of people are using them.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Clerk's position-There was brief discussion regarding using a 9 month/3 month schedule with a Clerk/Assistant Clerk. However, an Assistant Clerk is not a voting member of the board making it not feasible.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Mike LaMotte from Fitzgerald's questioned the Board as to why the Township Attorney showed up at their worksite asking to see permits for the accessory building under construction. Rodger Kershner stated that he had received questions regarding the project and that, as the Township Attorney, he was looking into it. Marjie asked under what parameters does the Township Attorney take action on behalf of the Board. Mr. Kershner said that had never been established by the Board. Marjie and Ray both stated that the township attorney should not be taking any action on behalf of the Township unless requested to do so by the Board.

Discussion continued regarding Fitzgerald's permit. Sara Huuki provided insight on the permitting process from her experience with issuing permits/zoning. Del Rajala from Keweenaw County advised that all permits for the Fitzgerald project were applied for, approved, and signed back in June. Keweenaw County and Mr. LaMotte are working together to rectify the situation at hand.

- Elaine Hall mention that the dumpsters have been over stuffed a few times lately and asked about the second dumpster we usually get.
- Mary Long advised that Waste Management is switching from the bag system to the tag system. The cost is the same, customers will buy their own garbage bags which can't be any bugger than the blue bags.
- Paul Mihelcich suggested that Houghton Township build a concrete extension out into the lake on the footings from the old pier. This would keep the river flowing straight and stop land erosion at Fitzgerald's.
- Bud Cole thanked Mike LaMotte for all the work he does with the Fitz, adding what an asset it is to the Township. He then asked about Rodger Kershner challenging his right to vote. Mr. Kershner stated that Bud Cole is not eligible to vote in Houghton Township due to Michigan Residency Laws. Clerk Marshall said that Bud Cole is eligible to vote in Houghton Township as a Civilian Overseas Voter to which Mr. Kershner stated that the Clerk was wrong. Marjie indicated that several agencies have confirmed Mr. Coles' eligibility to vote in Houghton Township, and that Mr. Kershner is free to challenge it if he sees fit.
- Bud Cole commented that the park looks fantastic and gave kudos to Dan Steck, Dave Schumacher, Tom Hall and everyone else that's worked on it. He also expressed concern that there are cameras pointing at the bathrooms and that people are watching those videos.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 7:10p.m

Next regular meeting – September 19th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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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 15th day of August, 2022.

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Marjie Marshall, Clerk, Houghton Township