

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD
February 18, 2013
Houghton Township Community Building

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Supervisor Vivian called the regular meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Trustee Treganowan led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Vivian, Clerk Jones, Treasurer Chase, Trustee Long and Trustee Treganowan.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS PRESENT: Tom and Elaine Hall, Mel Jones, Patricia Klarich, Gary and Audrey Erickson, and Julene Dahlgren

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL/ ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- Approve minutes of January 21, 2013 regular meeting
- Accept financial report
- Approve payment of bills for all funds as listed on attached sheet
- Adopt agenda for tonight's meeting
- Add bridge update to old business
- Add clarification of dog ordinance to new business
- Add seating capacity of township hall

Motion by Treganowan, seconded by Chase, to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

BRIDGE – Jim suggested that the board may have to consider borrowing money to pay Bridge Fund bills, which would be paid back after Bridgefest. The board would like to see benches and picnic tables on the bridge.

MUSEUM REPORT – Mel visited the Master Piano Shop in Duluth MN in regards to restoration of the historic piano. The owner is to come to Eagle River to see the piano, and then present a bid. The grant application for piano restoration is almost complete, but must include proposed costs.

AGREEMENT DOCUMENT WITH KEWEENAW HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Virginia Jameson has further questions about the document – after these are satisfied, she will seek approval from the KHS.

COPPER DOG RACE – The time for opening the township hall were clarified, and approval for an outdoor bonfire. Tom Hall, Jack Treganowan and Jim Vivian will be the township representatives at the building while the Race Event is here.

BOARD OF REVIEW – Elaine Hall was appointed to replace Dar Huovinen.

MATT ARKO'S ASSESSOR CERTIFICATION – It is still uncertain if he has the correct certification for our township.

TOWNSHIP HALL SEATING CAPACITY – Jim will call and get the correct number we are allowed to have, and post it.

NEW BUSINESS

DOG ISSUE – Gary and Audrey Erickson, Pat Klarich and Julene Dahlgren have had recent serious injuries from dogs attacking them. The dogs were unleashed. Other concerns they presented were dogs contaminating the beach, and running loose around small children. Jim assured them that there will be signage at the beach area by this summer, and a pet station. As far as laws regulating pet control, Jack advised consulting the county laws. The township does not have any ordinance regarding pet control.

SHARI – Lock on the front door should be changed; there should be some way to lock the upstairs entry to the museum and the A.V. room; suggested that everyone who uses the building should sign a rental agreement, even if they are allowed to use the building at no cost; she will look into grants that are available for recycling.

UPPCO – The board agreed that Keweenaw County should be billed for the street light at the courthouse, so the billing does not go through our office.

BUDGET REVIEW – The board and guests present were given a copy of the budget to look at proposed changes, and discuss them. Motion by Long, seconded by Treganowan, to increase the Public Works of the General Fund by \$1000, from \$3500 to \$4500.

FLOOR COMMENTS – A letter from Jim Huovinen with several suggestions was reviewed. The discussion concluded as follows:

Street lights – Billing of county light will be changed; the board will request that the light in the Huovinen yard be moved; it is too soon to get bids for the roof and cupola work; board agreed that we did not want to put a steel roof on the township building; the potluck dinners will not be completely eliminated – the October dinner will definitely be scheduled.

Gary Erickson asked if the board had ever considered hydro-power. Jim has some information on flow tests done a few years ago. It showed that only 6-7 megawatts of power would be generated.

Mel Jones reported on the information sheet for new water customers suggested by Dan Steck. He gave each board member a copy, and the board agreed it was very adequate.

Next meeting: March 18, 2013

Carol Jones, Clerk
Houghton Township

-CERTIFICATION-

I, the undersigned, Carol Jones, the duly qualified and elected 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 18th day of February, 2013.

Carol Jones, Clerk
Houghton Township