**APPROVED**

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**August 10, 2023**

The August 10, 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, Dudiak supported approving the Consent Agenda.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to amend the agenda to add a resolution for 9 day early voting.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan 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 of appreciation for the Board’s involvement regarding the AEP project was presented to the board. A letter on behalf of the team at Lexipol congratulating the achievement in online training by our public safety department was also presented.

**Joe Martin – Parks Director Report:**

The music in the park was well received by the public, perfect weather and no incidents were reported. The supervisor presented a drone video that was done during the music in the park. A thank you was given to Greg Alm for doing a great job on the video.

Coastline Childrens film Festival was July 19 and was also well attended.

Looking at an end of summer event in late September, more details will follow.

Mountain Bike Trail cleanup was postponed due to weather and is rescheduled for this weekend.

Invasive species at our parks are being addressed.

Joe will be attending the Great Lakes Coalition Annual meeting on August 12th in Holland.

Survey via M-Parks (MOLD) is underway please look on our website scan the code and submit your survey.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A comment comparing the Union Green Project to the AEP project was made by a concerned citizen regarding the aesthetics and how many people were not in favor of the Union Green project and that went through.

A complaint regarding too many people, not enough parking at Cherry Beach was heard, and additional comments regarding Dogs, wondering why ticketing and fines are not given out. Several questions were asked to be considered:

Regarding the park survey, could it be sent to the Cherry beach list of donors, so that everyone would get it? Can we be more proactive with signs put them up before not after, and can we charge for parking, is there an advocacy committee for the parks?

George Lucas is running for State representative for the 38th district. He is running on the republican ticket, is a Chikaming township resident, current realtor and would like to represent our area.

John Wilk and Rick Fuller from Bridgman Library reported in July 5000 people crossed their threshold. There are still reading programs. They are teaming up with the Boys and Girls club. Always appreciate our support and welcome all to the Bridgman Library.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**AEP Transmission Line Rebuild Project Update:**

Continued discussion regarding the possibility of hiring outside counsel to represent the township if needed was discussed. Supervisor Bunte provided two proposals from law firms.

We will continue to pursue meetings, authorize the Supervisor to contact law firms when necessary. Mona Livingston from AEP is looking into 4 different areas, (1) Smaller easements (2) Alternative routes (3) Keeping wood Poles (4) Tree replacement. Supervisor will continue dialog with AEP and will update residents.

**Electronic signage for Township:**

The board made a decision to hold off on further discussions until the Sparks Grants are applied for Harbert Park. The possibility of funding for the sign could be included at that time. Further discussion will be in the fall.

**Rental Ordinance Proposed Amendment Update:**

A meeting will be conducted with the Police and Fire Department and our attorney to dive deeper into the proposed amendments to the ordinance. This will be reviewed again at the September meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A retirement recognition was given by Chief Taylor for Officer Duis. Officer Duis served the residents of Chikaming Township for 37 years. A certificate/plaque for his dedicated services to the people of Chikaming Township will be given to him.

A motion was made by Bunte, supported by Marske to hire Jason Roe for a full-time police officer for Chikaming Township. A warm welcome to Jason Roe.

All ayes, motion carried.

Allison Allman of Kruggel Lawton presented our 2022-23 Audit review. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to approve the 2022-2023 Fiscal year Audit as submitted.

All ayes, motion carried.

A request from Layton Olson that the Township adopt a resolution regarding a Love of Nature Calendar and corresponding events in the spring of 2024 was submitted to the board. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to adopt the resolution.

By roll call vote: Marske, Dudiak, Bunte, Rettig, Sullivan

Resolution adopted.

A motion was made by Sullivan, supported by Marske to approve a resolution for a request of a speed study on Prairie Road from Youngren Road to the north end.

By roll call vote: Dudiak, Bunte, Sullivan, Rettig, Marske

Resolution adopted.

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Bunte to approve a resolution for a request of a speed study on Warren Woods Road from Three Oaks Road to Prairie.

By roll call vote: Bunte, Sullivan, Marske, Rettig, Dudiak

Resolution adopted.

A motion was made by Marke, supported by Sullivan to approve a resolution for a request of a speed study on Three Oaks Road from Indian Trail Road to Elm Valley Road.

By roll call vote: Sullivan, Bunte, Dudiak, Rettig, Marske

Resolution adopted.

A motion was made by Sullivan, supported by Marske for a resolution to participate in Multijurisdictional Exploration of Current Police and Fire services, brought before the board from Cross Municipal Collaborative.

By roll call vote: Dudiak, Rettig, Sullivan, Marske, Bunte

Resolution adopted.

A motion was made to approve a letter of Agreement for the Metro Act Right of Way Permit Extension issued by the Township to Michigan Bell Telephone Company D/B/A AT&T which expires on December 31, 2023.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made to approve a Township Purchasing Policy by Marske, supported by Sullivan.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve a Lot Combination for Robert Paladino at 12312 Red Arrow Highway to combine property codes 11-07-7280-0014-02-4 and 11-07-7280-0016-00-1.

All ayes, motion carried.

A resolution was submitted by the clerk with a motion from Bunte, supported by Marske to move forward into negotiations with the Berrien County Clerk’s Office for the 9 days of Early Voting.

By roll call vote: Bunte, Marske, Rettig, Sullivan, Dudiak

Resolution adopted.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

A thank you for the work we have done with AEP, wants a public forum.

A request to contact AQUA Vacation Rentals at 269-588-9600 Tonya and Henry Arana, they would like to assist with any changes to the rental ordinance.

There was an objection to new signage does not want LED sign.

Additional information about Cherry Beach, too many people, party busses and RV’s.

Would like to see another bike rack.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

To the Clerk from Supervisor Bunte. Great job on the election August 8, 2023. Our voter turnout was one of the highest in the county. The passing of our Road Millage is a tribute to a good election.

Kim Wolnik our Director of First Impressions will be leaving and taking a new job in Grand Beach, her last day will be 14th of August. Wish her the best in her new endeavor.

Gloria Payne from Lake Charter Township will be taking over that position starting on August 21, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM.

All ayes, Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

**Paula Dudiak**

**Chikaming Township Clerk**