

APPROVED

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
April 14, 2022**

The April 14, 2022, 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, Rettig supported to approve the Consent Agenda.

All ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters and email were presented to the board for review and put on file.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jill Underhill, Chikaming Township Park Board advised there are calendar of events cards in the lobby to pick up and join the activities this year.

Bryan Granke presented the board with an information package concerning Guidelines for Good Exterior Lighting Plans and wishes to speak to the planning commission to pursue an ordinance for the township. Cherry Beach passes, short term rentals, speed limit signs were all briefly questioned.

Chief Taylor thanked Rich and his wife for their generosity for painting the police department as part of the upgrade and remodeling job, which is almost complete.

Stanley Wilk inquired about Berrien Street improvements concerning the upcoming drain project.

Kevin Whiteford from South Haven introduced himself for state representative for the 38th district.

OLD BUSINESS:

Library Services Proposed Agreement:

Sullivan, Trustee, voiced his concerns on the outcome of the March Special Board Meeting. Big mistake in changing our view on the agreement, wants reciprocal agreement with all three libraries, and several other changes before it is agreed upon.

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Sullivan to table any decision making on the proposed Agreement until changes with reciprocity, detailed records of uses at year end and reviewing the renewal clause.

All ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Taylor introduced David Waskevich as a new Reserve Officer for the Chikaming Township Police Department. Officer Waskevich was sworn in by Clerk and will begin working for Chikaming Township volunteering his time to the department.

Motion was made by Marske, supported by Bunte to approve David Waskevich as a reserve Officer.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to allow the Police Department to move forward with the purchase of a 2022 Dodge Durango in the amount of \$38,071 from the new patrol car line-item in the 2022-23 fiscal year budget.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Dudiak to amend the budget line items for 2021-22 fiscal year budget for the Park Board to accommodate and avoid negative balances for yearend expenses.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve the application for farmland agreement #22-3-23 for Jerry A. Kobel Sr., parcel #s 11-07-0026-0020-04-5 & 11-07-0026-0005-00-3. Prior approval was given by Berrien County Conservation District and the Berrien County Planning Commission.

All ayes, motion carried.

A resolution for a letter of support to Benton Harbor Habitat for Humanity Project was presented. A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Sullivan to allow Supervisor to sign was approved.

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

All ayes, resolution adopted.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve the rezoning request recommended by the planning commission for parcel number 11-07-0002-0059-00-9 O Sawyer Road, vacant land.

All ayes, motion carried.

A resolution was presented to allow the township to put an Operating Millage on the August 2, 2022 ballot was made by Marske, supported by Rettig.

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

Resolution adopted.

Supervisor Bunte presented an overview of the Drain projects that were presented by the Drain Commissioner's office, Spicer Engineering, Merritt Engineering on April 4th, with approximately seven (7) projects coming in Chikaming Township in the next year to two (2) years. The projects will be reviewed over the course of these projects, with Chikaming Township responsible for approximately 20% of a total cost of \$18-20 million funding will need to be reviewed, with capital improvement funding, public meetings to prepare and road impacts in Union Pier.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to approve the Supervisor to sign off on behalf of the Township the Quit Claim Deed on the former Sawyer Fire Station parcel and adjacent parcel that was donated to the Township.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Dudiak to approve a speed study request for Harbert Road by resolution.

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

Resolution adopted.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to adopt the proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 13 to increase minimum monthly charges for water usage 4% per one year from the effective date of the new ordinance and shall increase 4% annually thereafter for the following 3 years.

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

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to adopt the proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 111 to provide connection now or hereafter of premises to the sewage disposal system to increase sewage disposal services to \$35.00 per month, per unit.

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

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Sullivan to approve Supervisor Bunte to sign a letter of support for Project T, Benton Harbor LLS's application for an allocation of low income housing tax credits.

All ayes, motion carried.

A resolution was presented from the County Board of Commissioners requesting our assistance in maintaining Chikaming Township's portion of the Linear Parkway. The Chikaming portion of Red Arrow Linear Park will be considered parks and recreation and become part of parks for future maintenance.

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

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

Due to the upcoming drain work in Union Pier, a request to amend our approved projects to the Road Maintenance budget was made by Marske, supported by Rettig. Adjustments will be made to the 2022 road plan and 2023 projects.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (3 minute limit)

George Lucus introduced himself and is running for State representative for the 38th district and if elected would become the first Chikaming Township resident to be a state representative.

Additional comments were heard on Berrien Street Drain beach issues and exterior lighting, trash removal and rentals.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Harbor Country Mission

Dave Heyn from Harbor Country Mission presented a synopsis of his work throughout Harbor Country. Showing dollar amounts spent throughout the community from free items, to appliances, unlimited clothing, and furniture along with pet food for those at risk for losing their animals. Volunteers also do home repair, provide transportation for work along with supplies needed to do their jobs. Dave started at Sawyer Highland five(5) years ago and has continued his love for the community by now having two locations one in Sawyer and one in Bridgman as Harbor Country Mission, a non profit organization. He can be reached at Admin@harborcountrymission.org or 269-326-0077. Donation receipt tax record forms are available, they will come to your home and pickup any used item and repurpose them.

No additional comments or questions were made.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

A thank you to all the Chikaming Township employees for the Red Arrow Highway Clean up on Tuesday April 12, 2022, it was much appreciated and looks great.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. All ayes, Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk**