

APPROVED

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2019**

The December 12, 2019 meeting of the Township Board was called to order at 6:30 PM by Supervisor Bunte, Dudiak, Rettig, Marske and Sullivan present. Also, present Attorney Charles Hilmer, John Gooch, of the Harbor Country News, Francesca Sagala, of the New Buffalo Times, along with several members of the community.

Supervisor Bunte led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Consent Agenda was given to the board, Marske moved, Sullivan supported to approve the Consent Agenda.

All ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Janet Schrader announced there will be a Kirk Schrader ride the end of September 2020, details will be given when completed.

Chief Taylor reminded everyone to keep your houses and cars secure during this holiday season.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cherry Beach Project:

The State Grant was awarded to the Cherry Beach Project on December 11, 2019, from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund (MDRTF). This \$2.475 million state grant would not have been possible without the help from generous individual pledges and foundations grants that pledged 40% of the necessary matching funds.

CONGRATULATIONS CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP.

NEW BUSINESS:

With the assistance of the Personnel committee 6 applicants applied and four were interviewed for the Sexton/Facilities Manager position. A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to hire Forest Galanda for the Sexton /Facilities Manager position. The sexton's job description has been re-worked to include sexton role for both cemeteries, maintenance of the township center and water department reservoir. Additional duties will include assisting the water department. Job description and resume was submitted to the board.

All ayes, motion carried.

A discussion to increase opening/closing fees for Riverside and Lakeside cemeteries had been presented to the board. The Opening/Closing fees from \$400.00, \$450.00 and \$500.00 for Resident to \$425.00, \$475.00, and \$525.00 and nonresident from \$560.00, \$660.00 and \$715.00 to \$575.00, \$685.00 and \$740.00.

An increase in the Foundation fees from .35 per inch to .40 per inch plus a 2" wash with a minimum of \$75.00.

Motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to accept and approve as presented to begin immediately.

All ayes, motion carried.

DISCUSSION TOPIC – Addressing Coastline Erosion

Deborah Hall-Kaylor, Chair, Park board began the conversation presenting a proposal from Abonmarche for engineering and surveying services that was prepared to assist Chikaming Township with designing and permitting coastal protection for access to Harbert Road Beach.

Many thoughts and concerns were discussed due to the erosion and high lake levels we are currently seeing.

George Webb stressed his immediate concern with existing Berrien Street Access Path photo's in Union Pier, Harbert Road Public Beach Access and preliminary concept Plans for public beach access discussing the problem with his brothers home.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (3 minute limit)

A suggestion to have a community Clean Up Day with all municipalities to clean up the beaches in the spring due to the high water bringing in debris that will all need to be picked up. Janet Schrader congratulated the board on their recent hire of Forest Galanda for the Sexton/Facilities Manager.

Dennis from Bridgman public library presented the Bridgman Public Library Happening for the upcoming month and holiday season.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Supervisor Bunte shared a letter sent to Sabina, Chikaming Township Deputy Treasurer/Assistant to the Assessor thanking her for helping with tax documents needed. Also a letter of thank you was sent from the Dowagiac Police Department to Chief Taylor for providing equipment for one of their patrol vehicles and stepping up to help and always having each other's back.

The township board wore purple and presented a slide show in memory of our Chikaming Township Sexton, Kirk Schrader who passed away November 27, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM, by Rettig, supported by the entire Board of Trustees.

All ayes, Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk**