**APPROVED**

**Jan24**

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**December 7, 2023**

The December 7, 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, Sullivan supported approving the Consent Agenda.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Dudiak to approve the Treasurers report as read.

All ayes, motion caried

A motion to approve the paying of the bills was made by Sullivan supported by Marske.

All ayes, motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None**

**Joe Martin – Parks Director Report:**

Joe Martin read the parks report, it will be placed on file.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A request was made to send a letter to Chikaming Township residences that we have

switched from Granicus Host Compliance to Deckard Technologies Rentalscape for our rental program. The current contract will end December 20, 2023 as discussed at our November 2023 meeting of the board.

Rick Fuller and John Wilk, Bridgman Library thanked the board for a representative attending their Board meeting and look forward to the future of possibly having someone on their board. The second Wednesday of each month is the adult reading from 5:30-7:30 if anyone would like to join the group, all are welcome.

Wished everyone a Merry Christmas from Bridgman Library.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Broad Band Service Expansion Update:**

The Robin grant has been awarded to Midwest Energy that will potentially cover a majority of Chikaming Township’s unserved residents. Most parcels not included in the Robin/Midwest project, are west of I-94 and under the Comcast service area.

A motion was made to approve the agreement and the $200,000 in ARPA funds to this project. Motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan the Chikaming Township Broadband Infrastructure American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA Subrecipient Agreement by completed and signed by Supervisor Bunte.

All ayes, motion carried.

**ARPA/Department of Natural Resources Spark Grant Harbert Park Improvements request for Qualifications:**

A requirement of the Spark Grant is to engage in a bid process for qualified engineers or architects. A motion was made by Sullivan, supported by Marske to approve Abonmarche for the design firm.

All ayes, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Dudiak to hire Danielle Brown as a full-time police officer with the Chikaming Township Police department.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to promote Jason Roe to the position of Lieutenant with Chikaming Township Police department.

All ayes, motion carried.

Chief Taylor applied for a Pokagon Fund Grant for two speed measurements signs. The grant was approved to purchase the two speed measurements signs. The signs were purchased at a cost of $6,850.00. The Township will be reimbursed in the amount of $6,700.00.

A motion was made by Bunte, supported by Marske to support the Fire Chiefs in exploring potential regionalization of fire services of New Buffalo Township, New Buffalo City, Three Oaks Township and Chikaming Township municipalities.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to adopt a policy that Chikaming Township Public Safety personnel are compensated based on a 14-day work period with the work period consisting of 80 hours for each hour worked being compensated at the regular rate.

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

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation of Jean Smith to fill the vacancy in the Public Safety Committee, due to the resignation of Steve Smith from the Public Safety Committee

All ayes, motion carried.

The meeting calendar for 2024 year was presented to the Board, a motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to approve the 2024 annual meeting dates calendar.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the recommendations of the Road Committee for 2024 road projects.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the proposal from Antero to move into the engineering phase of the Sawyer Road Streetscape.

All ayes, motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Reminder Saturday December 9th 2:00 PM Christmas Caroling at Harbert Community Park, with the Harbor Country Singers. Hot cider and hot chocolate will be served.

Supervisor Bunte wished everyone Happy Holidays and Happy Everything to all!

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

All ayes, Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

**Paula Dudiak**

**Chikaming Township Clerk**