

APPROVED

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
February 9, 2023**

The February 9, 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.

A motion was made to add Old Business #2 Berrien County Broadband and add #11 to New Business USDA grant Application for Sawyer Streetscape Design that came in late.

Motion by Marske, supported by Sullivan.

All ayes, motion carried.

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

All ayes, motion carried.

December Treasurer's Report was given to the board. January to be on next meeting.

All ayes, motion carried.

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

All ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Several emails and letters were given to the board for review and will put on file as read.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Parks Committee Update on Job Description and MParks application:

Chikaming Township was awarded the MOLD grant through MParks for community project restructuring of the Township Parks and Recreation Department with a 7-member volunteer board led to organize and be an integrated part of Township administration with staff. They will assist in development of a five-year master plan, create community outreach and plan redevelopment projects and assisting with fund development.

There were three applications submitted for Director of Parks position.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to appoint Deborah Hall-Kaylor, Rich Sullivan and David Bunte to form a committee to interview applicants.

All ayes, motion carried.

Broadband Internet County update:

A letter asking for confirmation of Chikaming Township's commitment to expand broadband services from Berrien County was received before the meeting via email. The letter was read, after discussion a motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske to move forward and confirm our \$200,000 commitment from our ARPA funds was approved.

All ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A resolution was submitted to the board whereas the River Valley School District wishes to enter into an agreement with Chikaming Township for the provision of a school resource police officer for a 36-month grant. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve the resolution.

By roll call vote: Sullivan, Rettig, Bunte, Marske, Dudiak
Resolution Adopted.

A Motion was made to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Chikaming Township and River Valley School District regarding placement of a school resource police Officer ("SRO") Officer Paige Holtz to be placed in the River Valley School District. A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske.

All ayes, motion carried.

Resolutions were presented for salaries of the Board of Trustees with a 5% increase for the 2023-2024 fiscal budget year.

Township Supervisor Salary of \$77,776.14 by roll call vote: Ayes: Sullivan, Rettig, Dudiak, Marske. Bunte Abstain.

Township Clerk Salary of \$50,142.30, by roll call vote: Marske, Bunte, Rettig, Sullivan. Dudiak Abstain.

Township Treasurer Salary of \$34,542.30, by roll call vote: Dudiak, Bunte, Sullivan, Marske. Rettig Abstain.

Township Trustee- Sullivan Salary of \$8,357.44 by roll call vote: Marske, Dudiak, Bunte, Rettig. Sullivan Abstain.

Township Trustee- Marske Salary of \$8,357.44 by roll call vote: Rettig, Bunte, Sullivan, Dudiak. Marske Abstain.

All resolutions adopted by Supervisor and Clerk.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve a Poverty Exemption Resolution.

By roll call vote: Marske, Sullivan, Rettig, Bunte, Dudiak
Resolution adopted.

The Board approved by a motion from Marske, supported by Sullivan to accept the annual request to collect property taxes for River Valley, Berrien RESA, Lake Michigan College and New Buffalo Schools by agreements.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Dudiak to approve the board to attend the Michigan Townships Association Conference in Traverse City April 17-20, 2023.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made to approve Ordinance #153 for the proposed amendments to Chikaming Township Zoning Ordinance #144 moved by Dudiak, supported by Marske.

By roll call vote: Sullivan, Rettig, Bunte, Dudiak, Marske.
All ayes, motion carried.

By consensus of the Board approved the appointments for the Boards and Commission members expiring terms of March 31 (end of fiscal year). There is one opening for an alternate for the Zoning Board of Appeals. All others have agreed to continue.

A draft Cemetery Ordinance was submitted by Nathan Oman, Cemetery Sexton and Clerk Dudiak to the board. Several questions were presented, and a request was made that answers and additional questions to be emailed to the sexton for further review. The township rules and regulations were submitted to aid in the Ordinance process.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve various budget amendments to the 2022-2023 budget respective departments.

All ayes, motion carried.

A recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve a Special Land Use #213 for applicant Raymond Weber at 14693 Meadow Lane, Lakeside was approved. Motion made by Dudiak Supported by Marske.
All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske to proceed with the grant application to USDA and approve the 25% match for the Sawyer Streetscape Design Engineering.
All ayes motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (3-minute limit)
None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Tower Hill Camp will be having their 100th year Anniversary Open House April 19th, 2023, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on the Tower Hill Grounds.

A thank you to Greg Nelson for the First responder call in January to a local resident in need of assistance for his service to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.
All ayes, Motion carried.
Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk**