**APPROVED**

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**February 08, 2024**

The February 8, 2024, 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. Rettig absent. 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 Dudiak, supported by Marske to approve the Treasurers report.

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 from FEMA was submitted to the board commending the Township for the efforts that have been put forth in implementing the floodplain management measures for the Township.

**Joe Martin – Parks Director Report:**

Joe Martin presented the parks report. It will be placed on file.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

John Wilk and Rick Fuller were present from Bridgman Library. Activities for the month of February were presented to the board, as well as upcoming recurring monthly events.

George McManus introduced himself asking for support. He is seeking the position of Berrien County Drain Commissioner and will be on the August 6th, 2024, ballot.

A thank you to Joe, Martin for all the work he has done communicating with the public.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The virtual meeting with AEP which was scheduled for February 8th during the regular Chikaming Township Board Meeting was postponed to the March 14, 2024, meeting due to technical difficulties with a motion from Marske, supported by Rettig.

All ayes, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to hire Zackory Wainscott as part-time firefighter/MFR for Chikaming Township Fire Department. The position, including equipment and uniforms are included in the 2023-2024 budget and will carry over to the 2024-2025 budget.

All ayes, motion carried.

A recommendation from the Parks department to move forward with the Kiosk system and cellular booster was presented to the board for Cherry Beach. The booster will aid the police and fire departments as well as patrons on the beach with a much stronger cell signal and increase capabilities in reaching dispatch and connectivity to 911.

The stand-alone LUKE 11 parking pay station equipment, labor and shipping would be $11,150 and the Booster with equipment approx.$6,900, along with $2,000 incurred for concrete and additional materials for installation. All indications show the fee structure will pay for the system within one full season of activity. Fee structures were discussed, recommending a season pass and a daily flat fee which will be determined at a later date.

It is also recommended for additional parking spaces to be cleared in the adjacent lot acquired by the Township while minimizing any live Tree removal. The Park board is advocating for 19 spaces.

Parks director, Joe Martin, will continue to work with DNR, Eagle and the Berrien County Road Department and report back to the board with updates.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve the Property Tax Exemption Policy and a Resolution to adopt the Poverty Exemption, Income Guidelines and Asset Test for 2024.

All ayes, motion carried.

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

Two reserve officer candidates for the Police Department Training Academy were announced by Chief Taylor.

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to approve Chikaming Township to collect River Valley, Berrien RESA and Lake Michigan College (100%) and New Buffalo (50%) Summer taxes.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Sullivan, supported by Rettig to approve the 2024-2025 board and commission appointments for expiring terms.

All ayes, motion carried.

The 2024 -2025 Salary Resolutions were presented and were adopted by roll call vote.

Resolutions adopted.

The Pier Street Beach Citizens Group requested funding for a viewing platform project at Pier Street Beach in Lakeside in the amount of $17,500. A motion was made by Bunte, supported by Marske to begin and engage vendors in the amount of $8,750 which will come from the current budget year and a request for an update before any additional funds can be used from the new fiscal year 2024/2025 which begins in April of 2024.

All ayes, motion carried.

The planning commission has recommended McKenna for the Master plan update. A motion was made to approve their request by Marske, supported by Sullivan.

All ayes, motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

John Chipman thanked the Township Board for their support for the trails. A certificate was given to the Board for 2023 Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Effort Award to Chikaming Township for its funding for the Berrien County Trails Master Plan. Presented by Southwest Michigan Planning Commission on the 19th day of December 2023.

The Linear Park will be completed next summer us12.

Jo Haley thanked the Board for our investment in the Pier Street Project.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Lakeside meeting for street scape will be coming up soon and Public Hearing on the Master Plan, please watch the website for updates on dates.

February 14th is the last day to pay property taxes without penalty.

February 27, 2024, Election Day, vote here at Chikaming Township.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Bunte, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM.

All ayes, Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

**Paula Dudiak**

**Chikaming Township Clerk**