

APPROVED

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
July 13, 2023**

The July 13, 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.

Dudiak moved, supported by Marske to approve the Treasurer's Report presented to the board.

All ayes, motion carried.

Paying 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:

Letter from Tower Hill Camp & Retreat Center advising that they are still operating as a year-round retreat and youth camp located on 63 acres in Chikaming Township.

A notice of Hearing Decision for a house located at 14879 Lakeshore Dr., Lakeside Michigan was presented. The Owners of the home, property #11-07-0019-0056-00-4 are currently seeking bids for boarding up and repairs, or demolition of structure.

A formal letter of resignation was received from Police officer, Alec Carpp on July 7th, 2023. He accepted a position with ISG investigations Jacksonville FL and intends to move on 7/12/23.

Joe Martin – Parks Director Report:

It was a successful 4th of July weekend, hectic but without any major incidents.

Possible use of the staging area across Red Arrow Highway for excess parking.

Lakeside Parade was a hit.

A Code Red alert about Beach items being left at our beaches, was successful. We are happy to report that all pads, floats, beach chairs were removed by our June 30th deadline.

Jackson Family Cycle donated a top-notch bike tool kit for Chikaming Park & Preserve.

Joe Carr of Treecore removed several large trees that fell across our trail system.

Received two bids for tree removal at Berrien Street beach.

The complete report will be filed with the meeting package.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A complaint about traffic and no lighting around Chikaming Country Club during the 4th, being very dangerous on the roads, along with additional comments of how nice the fireworks were with minimum noise this year.

A brief update on the budget from Allison Fuhrman the Legislative Aide for the office representative Joey Andrews was given.

Additional comments and concerns regarding AEP project were heard.

OLD BUSINESS:

Broadband Expansion and Robin Grant Update:

The Grant was awarded to Midwest Energy Corp. There is an interactive map to see if your parcel is served or underserved. Go to Berrien County.org Look for BCBIT. Estimate of cost \$100.00 installation and \$65-100 service monthly.

OLD BUSINESS:

AEP Transmission Line Rebuild Project Update and discussion

Great Lakes Drone & Chipman Design Group did a proposed view showing before and after pictures. Supervisor Bunte presented the slide show during the meeting. The presentation was all volunteer with no cost to the township. The Board asked Supervisor Bunte to possibly schedule a public meeting with AEP officials for Questions and Answers. Also the possibility of hiring outside counsel to represent the township if needed was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to allow Chief Taylor’s request for application to the Pokagon Fund Municipal Grant for two speed signs.
All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to increase the Police Departments uniform line-item by \$3,000.00 to accommodate new hires with uniforms.
All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve a proposed updated Road Asset Management Plan presented by SWMPC and proceed with the project not to exceed \$15,000.00.
All ayes, motion carried.

A review and discussion on the current Rental Ordinance concerning repeat offenders and give the township the police power to hold repeat offenders accountable to our community. The result was to draft changes and present them back to the board in August.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve a resolution for a request of a speed Study for the section of Red Arrow Highway from Old M-11 to Youngren Road.
By roll call vote: Marske, Dudiak, Bunte, Rettig, Sullivan
Resolution adopted.

The Board was presented with examples of electronic monument signage for the Township Hall sign. Prior to our current zoning ordinance, this was prohibited in the township. The Zoning Ordinance has now been amended to allow certain types that are less obtrusive, therefore we are revisiting the request. Supervisor Bunte will pursue sign options, cost and sign location and get back to the board.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

John Wilk – Bridgman Public Library thanked the community for using their library. He advised the public of the upcoming events such as the July 28/29 book sale that can be found on their website along with our link on Chikaming Township.org to the Library.
Sad news that Gary Skinner passed away, husband of the current Library Director Sara Skinner.
Additional AEP concerns were heard.
The possibility of alerting the community of our Noise Ordinance on Code Red as an announcement was requested.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

None

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to go into a closed session to discuss Riverside Cemetery expansion.
By roll call vote: Sullivan, Rettig, Bunte, Dudiak, Marske
All ayes, motion carried.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Bunte to close the Closed Session
All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Sullivan to reopen the Regular meeting.
All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to support the decision of the Board made in the closed session, to allow Supervisor Bunte to pursue Riverside Cemetery expansion.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM.
All ayes, Motion carried.
Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk**