

APPROVED

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
July 14, 2022**

The July 14, 2022, meeting of the Township Board was called to order at 6:30 PM by Supervisor Bunte, Dudiak, Rettig, Sullivan present, at Chikaming Township Center. Also present, Attorney Hilmer, David Johnson, Francesca Sagala and several members of the community. Marske absent.

Supervisor Bunte led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

All ayes, motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Treasurer Rettig. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Dudiak, supported by Sullivan.

All ayes, motion carried.

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

All ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Olson presented the board with a draft resolution on Annual Butterfly Migration and information on County Broadband asking the board to review.

A Park Board member requested that the board reconsider a joint meeting with the Park Board.

Rick Fuller, Bridgman Library is filling in for the Bridgman Library as they are actively looking for a director.

A petition regarding dissolving the Elected Park Board in Chikaming township is being circulated, a former member of the Park Board advised she believes they will get enough signatures and would like to know the board opinion with a public meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bradley Miller was sworn in by Clerk Dudiak, following the June 9, 2022 Board Meeting to hire Bradley Miller as a full-time Firefighter/MFR.

Chief Allen Weich, family members and coworkers welcomed Brad to the team.

After the Zoning Ordinance Amendment was tabled last month and after discussion, the board by consensus removed the request to approve the change to the zoning ordinance on Union Pier Overlay until the committee has completed several other Amendment changes. The committee meets once a week and will continue until the process is complete with hopes of having their portion in less than 10 weeks. Bunte advised this process could take us to the end of this year to be finalized.

Follow-up on 7312 Harbert Road property:

The board is waiting for the signed Order from the County Judge before we can proceed with demolition of an unsafe structure. The cost and related information will be discussed at the August Board meeting.

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Rettig to approve the fines presented by the Code Enforcement Department to add to the rental fines as stated, \$100.00 Late Fee, \$50.00 renting without a valid rental license and a \$50.00 fine for reinspection or no shows. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Sullivan, supported by Rettig to proceed with our attorney to draft ballot language for a Library Millage of .35 mills for the November 2022 ballot. The libraries are suggesting a .35 millage for the residents of Chikaming for a 6 year period, estimating \$250,000 to be split equally amongst Bridgman, New Buffalo and Three Oaks libraries.

The board decided by consensus to accept the decision of the Park Board to revisit the request for a joint special meeting in six months, due to the recent changes in the Park Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Sullivan to take no action on the foreclosed properties in Chikaming Township and send a response to the county. All ayes, motion carried.

Chief Allen Weich along with former Chief Mike Davidson presented a plaque to David 'Mick' Oldenberg and Terry Germain for their many years of service to the Chikaming Township Fire Department and Medical First Responder unit. Mick Oldenburg will be assisting part time. Terry has retired to spend more time with family and grandchildren. Chief Allen Weich then presented a State of Michigan special tribute to Mike Davidson for his years of service with a plaque from the state. A huge thank you to all of them for their deep dedication was given.

By Board consensus, the board will support Chief Allen Weich in his efforts with department heads to investigate opportunities to share staff members across departments. Utilizing Greg Nelson, current Code Enforcement officer to assist with the fire Department and Medical First responders.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (3 minute limit)

Questions regarding a non-for-profit organization to purchase a piece of land that is going up for foreclosure was brought to the board. Board recommended to revisit the questions at a later time until further information was available.

Rick Fuller advised the board that the Bridgman Library does not and will not charge Chikaming township residents for the use of their library. Chikaming is in the three political entities they serve. Lake Charter, City of Bridgman and Chikaming.

An additional statement concerning the Park Board Petition was heard. The Supervisor advised that until a petition is completed and submitted to the Clerk, nothing will go forward until after the August election.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Township Operating Millage

The maximum allocation given to the Township is 1 Mil.

Due the Headlee Act the millage now stands at .0367 thus reducing operating funds.

From our Treasurer, 2021 Taxes received was \$22,596,650.08 only 9.7% stays locally.

There is an updated 2022-2023 Tax Dollars and Revenues at work, information sheet on the website to help understand each department.

Many questions and answers were given to help clarify what impact this would have to the township financially and why and how it has dropped in the past.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Supervisor Bunte advised the public that the Township was awarded a USDA Grant in the amount of \$95,000.00, for consultant work on Sawyer Road. This is the third grant we have received from USDA.

Please go to our website to fill out forms for Berrien County Trails Open House/and Masterplan.

The Berrien County Road Department will begin soon on the next section of Red Arrow Highway from Main to Lakeshore to be completed this fall. The Berrien County Linear Pathway will be completed from Harbert to Lakeshore also.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Bunte to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. All ayes, Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk**