

APPROVED

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
June 11, 2020
Electronic meeting via zoom, per Governor Whitmer's order**

The June 11, 2020 meeting of the Township Board was called to order electronically at 6:32 PM by Supervisor Bunte, Dudiak, Rettig, Sullivan, Marske present. Also present Attorney Charles Hilmer. Along with members of the community by video.

Supervisor Bunte led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made to amend the agenda to remove the Property Division Request at 15412 Red Arrow Highway by Marske, supported by Sullivan.

By roll call vote:

Marske, Dudiak, Rettig, Sullivan, Bunte

All ayes, motion carried.

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

By roll call vote:

Sullivan, Rettig, Bunte, Dudiak, Marske

All ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was received from a few residents concerning the conditions of the cemeteries during Memorial Day weekend. Supervisor Bunte advised the cemeteries are now in good shape and will continue throughout the summer.

A letter from Harbor Country Community Leaders regarding safely and successfully reopening short-term vacation rentals in Harbor Country was presented, sharing their recommendations.

All correspondence was presented to the board and placed on file as read.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Union Pier Project Update:

May 29, 2020 Red Arrow Highway at Union Pier Road expected to remain closed until the week of June 15th.

June 5, 2020 Red Arrow Highway at Union Pier Road is expected to remain closed until the week of June 22nd. Work completed, 24" sanitary sewer installation in Townline Avenue continues. Two sanitary manhole structures were set. Potential activities expected (6/8-6/13) , complete sanitary sewer installation in Union Pier intersection.

Transfer flow to new meter piping.

Cherry Beach Update:

We are waiting on the State to award the funding to the MDNRT. They cannot send out the official project agreements until the funds have been appropriated by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

Under the Governor's Executive Orders, we have remained closed to the public since March 16, 2020. As of June 8th, the public is being allowed access to the township's Lobby as well as by appointment with new procedures in place to protect staff and other residents. A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to approve the new policies and procedures for access to the township facilities as presented.

By roll call vote:

Dudiak, Marske, Bunte, Rettig, Sullivan

All ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Taylor presented a Life Saving certificate and a uniform pin to Sgt. Jones and a Life Saving certificate to Rick Cooper for their involvement and the exceptional courage that was performed on May 27, 2020 when a 46 year old male went into cardiac arrest. Sgt. Jones arrived on the scene and flawlessly performed CPR and used the AED. The 46 year old male and his family were in attendance during the presentation.

Chief Taylor introduced Mr. Alex Carpp to the board. He passed the police academy and passed all preemployment screening processes. Mr. Carpp possesses the good moral character of a police officer and was recommended to the board for hire as a full-time police officer with the Chikaming Township Police Department. A motion was made by Sullivan supported by Marske.

By roll call vote:

Dudiak, Marske, Rettig, Bunte, Sullivan

All ayes, motion carried.

Chief Taylor requested the transition of the 2016 Ford Explorer currently being utilized as a police car to a regular Township business vehicle. A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske to approve the transition.

By roll call vote:

Marske, Rettig, Sullivan, Bunte, Dudiak

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to amend the Police department budget in specific line-items. Taking \$3,500.00 out of 205-305-000.807.300 (part-time wages) to 205-305-000.977 (New car) line item.

By roll call vote:

Rettig, Bunte, Dudiak, Marske, Sullivan

All ayes, motion carried.

A resolution was presented to approve a Truth in Taxation Hearing for July 9, 2020 to recoup anticipated revenues for this fiscal year, which will reinstate .55 mills that would have been lost. Motion to approve was made by Marske, supported by Dudiak.

By roll call vote:

Marske, Dudiak, Bunte, Rettig, Sullivan

All ayes, resolution adopted.

The Library Contract will automatically renew for another three years, beginning June 2020. No new contract is necessary at this time and will continue to be reviewed.

Due to the Covid 19 crisis, the township needs to take extraordinary action in assisting businesses to re-open. A request to appoint Van Thornton as the Deputy Building Official and authorize him to act as directed by his superiors was discussed. A Motion was made by Sullivan, supported by Marske to appoint Van Thornton.

By roll call vote:

Sullivan, Marske, Dudiak, Rettig, Bunte.

All ayes, motion carried.

Due to the merger of New Buffalo Savings Bank and TCU there will be a change in the deposit insurer from FDIC to Federal Home Loan Bank. A motion was made by Marske, Supported by Bunte to approve the change.

By roll call vote:

Bunte, Rettig, Dudiak, Sullivan, Marske

All ayes, motion carried.

Our Assessor, Toni Swisher submitted a proposal to resign as an employee of Chikaming and propose a flat fee per month with no additional expenses to Chikaming. With the full intent to continue all of the audits in place as well as the general duties and responsibilities of the Assessor. She anticipates being available via email/phone along with multiple pop in's throughout a regular workweek. She would change from a township employee to a contract employee beginning July 1, 2020. She will be contracting an additional township with this change, but will continue with Chikaming Township with minimum amount of changes.

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to accept her contract at \$6,250.00 per month with a yearly total of \$75,000.00.

By roll call vote:

Dudiak, Marske, Bunted, Rettig, Sullivan

All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION TOPIC: Lakefront Erosion and Protection

With a limited number of beaches to go to, the Township recognized the challenges and would like to do the best it can to help our property owners and the public. A discussion was had regarding forming a committee to address each situation individually.

Several comments and concerns were heard via zoom from the public. Further information will be presented as it progresses.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Dennis Kreps, Bridgman Library, thanked the board for continued support of the Libraries. A complaint concerning people going down the dune at Cherry Beach was heard from a resident.

A lakefront owner very concerned about losing his home along with people asking for the township for guidelines.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 P.M., moved by Bunte, supported by Marske.

By roll call vote:

Marske, Dudiak, Bunte, Rettig, Sullivan

All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk**