

APPROVED

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
May 11, 2023**

The May 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, Rettig 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:

A letter was given to the board advising the board of a Notice of Public Hearing by New Buffalo Township Building and Zoning Department regarding property at 17425 Red Arrow Highway requesting a setback variance to construct a 678 sq ft. 2nd floor addition to a preexisting non-conforming home. An email was given to the board from Sarah Doty concerning paving Cherry Beach Road.

Joe Martin – Parks Director Report:

An update was read regarding contracts and improvements that have been made.

May 20,2023 Beach Cleanup is set for all 7 of our beaches.

10AM – Town Line Beach, 11 AM – McKinley Beach, 12 Noon – Miller Beach, 1PM – Berrien St. Beach, 2PM – Pier St. Beach, 3PM – Cherry Beach, 4PM – Harbert Street Beach Questions: parksdirector@chikamingtownship.org 269-612-7049 Pails & gloves will be provided.

July 19, 2023, at Harbert Community Park: Children's film festival.

Verbal commitment for our first concert in the park in late July.

Conducted a successful volunteer MTB trail cleanup at Chikaming Township Park and Preserve. Special thanks to Alex Schrader for organizing.

Drone footage of Chikaming Township Park and Preserve is posted on the township website on Our Parks drop down.

The complete report will be filed with the meeting package.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Comments were heard from a resident on North Locke Road, regarding large cement trucks traveling down the road speeding and tearing up the road up and down the road many times a day. She did contact Lt. Jones; he has advised her he would put up a speed sign up and that may help.

Cherry Beach Road neighbors and residents do not want the road paved. They would like it to remain as it is. The potholes act as speed bumps and are useful.

The concern is that the road would need to be widened along with trees and lawns being removed to accommodate the paving and cars speeding down the road.

A concern was read about the New Buffalo-Bridgeman Transmission Line Rebuild Project that will soon be undertaken by Indian Michigan Power in Harbor Country.

Many concerns were brought up in the letter. Letters were left in the meeting room for all to take and read.

Request regarding the beach limit signs was answered that the signs will be put on the beaches before Memorial Day.

OLD BUSINESS:

Department of Natural Resources Spark Grant Update:

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to approve a resubmission of Harbert Park Improvements grant application. Harbert Park scored 77 out of 100, this was the highest of the three the Township had applied for therefore a submission for Harbert was suggested.

All ayes, motion carried.

Cemetery Ordinance:

By consensus the board allowed the Cemetery Ordinance to be put on hold and be used as the updated Rules and Guidelines before it be put in Ordinance form to allow changes if necessary. The Rules and Guidelines will be placed on our website and distributed to our suppliers. The new rules will be implemented immediately.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kevin Stack, Berrien County Road Department discussed the current condition of Cherry Beach Road and how it was put on the list of roads to be improved. Chikaming Township has had a road advisory committee and has had an asset management plan that started in 2017 for seven years. Many roads have been taken care of during this period improving the township roads with the help of the road millage provided by Chikaming Township residents. Cherry beach was next on the list of discussions as to how or what to do with the concerns of taking down trees and the road being narrow due to gravel and was scheduled for July of this year.

If necessary, a Public Meeting could take place to make these determinations. We have time and can pull the project if requested. But ultimately the roads belong to the County Road Department and final decisions would be made by them. Safety is their first concern, with Cherry Beach having a very small safety issue many options can be discussed. Further discussion will take place.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve increasing the Special Land Use application fee to \$1000.00 from the current \$750.00.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to approve the Special Land Use request presented by Chikaming Township Planning Commission for applicant, Ben Parker of 9192 Murphy Grove, Lakeside requesting to construct an 18.5' x 16.5' accessory structure to be used as Accessory Dwelling Unit. SLU #214.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske to approve the Special Land Use request presented by Chikaming Township Planning Commission for applicant, Robert Palladino, 12312 Red Arrow Highway Sawyer requesting to allow multifamily in a C-Commercial district. SLU #215.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Sullivan to approve Paula Dudiak and Bill Marske to Chair a committee to gather input and make future recommendations to the board on the future of the Lakeside Honor Board.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Dudiak to approve the combination of two non-conforming lots under the same ownership, Alonzo Zahour. Property ID 11-07-7300-0017-00-5 and 11-07-7300-0018-00-1.
All ayes, motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

A resident of Union Pier commented to the Board on how nice the new blooms and trees looked in Union Pier and thanked all those involved.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Speed Limits on Township Roads

Supervisor Bunte led the discussion explaining the process of submitting a petition for a Speed Study and advising that complete instructions are on our website. Many people have concerns with the weather turning nicer and traffic increasing. Unfortunately, when speed limits are requested to be lower, they can go higher, we need to remember we are a Rural Township governed by Rural regulations. The State reviews each individual request and advises the Township of the outcome.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske to adjourn the meeting at 7.49 PM.
All ayes, Motion carried.
Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk**