

**APPROVED**

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**May 14, 2020**

**Electronic meeting via zoom, per Governor Whitmer's order**

The May 14, 2020 meeting of the Township Board was called to order electronically at 6:30 PM by Supervisor Bunte, Dudiak, Sullivan, Marske present, Rettig electronically. Also, present Attorney Charles Hilmer. Along with members of the community by video.

A motion was made to add Library Contract Renewal to the Agenda was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske.

By roll call vote:

Bunte, Dudiak, Marske, Sullivan Rettig

All ayes, motion carried.

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

By roll call vote:

Rettig, Bunte, Dudiak, Marske, Sullivan

All ayes, motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence was received from several residents thanking our Public Safety Department for going above and beyond with property checks, Birthday parades and more during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Dennis Kreps, Bridgman Library wanted to stay connected with the township and make sure there were no immediate needs, along with making sure our Little Library was functioning.

Several residents commented on the Lake Shore revetments, most requested the township to pause giving some time before permitting homeowners to proceed with any walls and boulder placement.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Union Pier Project Update:

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project, the sewer portion is progressing, but due to Covid-19 and weather it was delayed two weeks. In mid-July the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will begin. The progress can be followed on the Chikaming township website.

Cherry Beach Update:

Pledge collections to date \$824,771, 81%. The deadline has been extended to July 1<sup>st</sup> due to the COVID-19 situation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to engage Edgewater Resources for evaluations of lakefront revetments.

By roll call vote:

Sullivan, Bunte, Marske, Dudiak, Rettig

All ayes, motion carried.

Township Operations amid COVID-19:

March 16<sup>th</sup> Chikaming Township closed to the public due to the COVID-19 and has been working on a modified schedule with all staff. As we look forward to the next phase of reopening, we are looking at policy and procedures. Advising our residents to call for appointments and use of the drop box for payments.

To date everyone has been accommodating. We will keep everyone up to date as we are updated. Check our website for information.

A request to approve a burn ordinance for the township was presented to the board with guidance from the township Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Chief.

By consensus of the board the burn ordinance was put on hold due to several items needing additional review until further notice.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to amend the Zoning Ordinance to rezone parcel 11-07-0014-0015-02-1 from Recreation to Agriculture. Ordinance 146 will take effect 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

By roll call vote:

Ayes: Sullivan, Marske, Rettig, Dudiak, Bunte

All ayes, motion carried.

A Library Contract renewal request was submitted to the board advising the existing contract with Chikaming Township to provide library service to its residents has a deadline renewal date of June 15, 2020. The previous contract was for three years. The Participating libraries are: Three Oaks Township, New Buffalo Township Library, and the Bridgman Public Library. The funding request is to continue with a Single annual payment of \$30,000.00 shared equally among the three libraries and total annual penal fine revenues from Chikaming Township shared equally among the three libraries. Options for the next phase of the contract were presented to Library board members, but due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and its corresponding economic and social impact they are asking the board that the contract be extended in its current form for one year with the understanding that discussions regarding the contract be intentionally timed with the Township's 2021-2022 fiscal year budget planning cycle.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to extend the contract for one year.

By roll call vote:

Dudiak, Marske, Sullivan, Rettig, Bunte

All ayes, motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Dennis Kreps, Bridgman Library, thanked the board for renewing the contract.  
Deborah Hall-Kaylor thanked David Bunte for his leadership during this difficult time.  
Bill Marske commented that the penal fines had been down for the libraries also and will probably decline more.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Rich Sullivan gave update on Public Safety appointments that were made at the May 13, 2020 meeting. Greg Bunch was elected Chairman (3 year term), Steve Smith was elected as Secretary (1 year term). Chuck Garasic (2 year term). Brian Kern ( 3 years). Trustee Richard Sullivan also serves on board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M., moved by Marske, supported by Dudiak.

By roll call vote:

Marske, Dudiak, Bunte, Sullivan, Rettig

All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

**Paula Dudiak  
Chikaming Township Clerk**