

APPROVED

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
October 10, 2019**

The October 10, 2019 meeting of the Township Board was called to order at 6:30 PM by Supervisor Bunte with Rettig, Marske and Sullivan, Barb Anderson, Deputy Clerk present. Also, present Attorney Charles Hilmer, John Gooch, of the Harbor Country News, Francesca Sagala, of the New Buffalo Times, along with several members of the community.

Supervisor Bunte led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Consent Agenda was given to the board, Marske moved, Sullivan supported to approve the Consent Agenda.
All ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence was given to the board and placed on file as read.
A letter was received on October 10, 2019 via certified mail from Warner Norcross +Judd LLP regarding the proposed Zoning Ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Fran Wersells commented on a proposed 19% increase from I & M open meeting she attended and thanked everyone for paving the portion of Lakeshore Road from Townline to Berrien in Union Pier.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Draft Zoning Ordinance was approved at the October 2, 2019 Planning commission meeting and was sent to the Township Board of Trustees for approval.
A review of the process and timeline was read by Supervisor Bunte composed by Doug Dow, Chair of the Planning Commission. Supervisor Bunte thanked all the people involved in the process for their many hours of labor on this thirty-six-month process.
A hearing was requested by a homeowner of beach front property via Certified mail today. After reviewing their request with our attorney, the board feels it is in our best interest to review the request and delay the approval at this meeting. A special meeting will be set for discussion, and a possible hearing for the property owner given a 15-day notice as required by the Michigan and Zoning enabling act.
A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to set a special meeting date in the near future before the next scheduled meeting, consulting the Zoning administrator and our Township Attorney.
All ayes, motion carried.

A Cherry Beach Project Update was given by Supervisor Bunte.
A huge thank you to all those that pledged money and to the committee for their hard work in accomplishing the goal, they have raised \$1,650,000.00 in matching funds that were required for the grant.
December 11, 2019 will be the award date for the Trust Fund Grants in Lansing, and Supervisor Bunte will be in attendance. He will also be attending a meeting next Wednesday for a brief presentation of support for the grant.
There were over 900 donors from 26 states and 3 countries that pledged their support for this parcel of land.

An update on the Red Arrow Highway/Union Pier Improvement Project;
Project began in June of 2018; we are currently at a 60% completion stage with Wightman. Project will be managed by Berrien County Road Department and we are partnering with New Buffalo Township on improvements. Final numbers total is estimated at approximately \$4,100,000.00 for the entire project. Chikaming Township and New Buffalo approximately

\$1,500,000.00 which is \$750,000.00 per township. How we are going to raise these funds is what this is regarding. We would like to tap into some of the municipal funds that are currently being held by the Pokagon Fund in the amount of 100,000.00. We will also be looking into other grants and many other financing opportunities to assist in this project along with USDA grants in 2020.

Retting made a motion, supported by Marske to allow Supervisor Bunte to move forward with a letter of inquiry to Pokagon Fund for \$100,000.00 and any other grants as available. All ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commendations to Officers Lyster and Wyman from Chief Taylor, due to lack of communication will be moved to our next meeting. A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske to move this agenda item to the Township Board November Meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

A Resolution on Public Safety Millage being renewed at 1.9 mils was introduced, which is an increase of .5 mils from the current 1.4 mils. This proposal would be placed on the March 2020 ballot. The millage began in 1992 at 1.4 mils and has not increased since. The General Fund has committed, on average, 150,000 – 200,000 to cover budgeted expenses in Public Safety for past years. This increased revenue will allow the Township to no longer rely on the General Fund to subsidize. A group of concerned citizens will be working to inform the public to support our Police Department, Fire Department and Medical First Responders. Marske moved, supported by Sullivan to approve the millage resolution as read.

By roll call Vote:
Rettig Yes
Sullivan Yes
Marske Yes
Bunte Yes
Dudiak Absent
Resolution Adopted.

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Bunte for Trick or Treat Hours to be Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Marske moved, supported by Sullivan to approve the Board Agenda Item Report and Policy for adding items to the Board agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

DISCUSSION TOPIC – WHAT IS THE CHIKAMING BRAND AND HOW DO WE MARKET IT?

Discussion was had by several members of the community. Attention to detail, simple things like our updating and cleaning up the sign when you enter the township. We now have water and sewer; things have changed a lot over time. Cost of living is escalating; housing is being looked at as work-based housing. Zoning restrictions created some problems, and now is being looked at. Brand Chikaming township is unique, local and second homeowners, a lot of leadership skills, being responsible with the updates we have done has a subtle impact in a good way.

Our people are our Brand, our chiefs are supportive along with all of our area being peaceful and charming.
Live, Work and to Play

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (3 minute limit)

Dennis Kreps Bridgman Library announced they will be having a Halloween Party October 23, 2019 6:30 -7:30.

Trustee Sullivan curious about Sawyer Road to Bridgman no four-foot shoulders. Decision was made by the Road Department because of cost.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Trinity Lutheran School Halloween Parade will be Thursday October 31, 2019 at 11:30.in Sawyer.
Trunk & Treat will be October 26, 2019 from 5-7:00 p.m. at the River Valley Middle High School on Three Oaks Road.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM, by Rettig, supported by Marske. All ayes, Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk**