**APPROVED**

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**October 5, 2023**

The October 5, 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, Sullivan supported approving the Consent Agenda.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske to approve the Treasurers report as read.

All ayes, motion caried

A motion to approve the paying of the bills was made by Marske supported by Sullivan.

All ayes, motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**Joe Martin – Parks Director Report:**

Supervisor Bunte read the parks report, it will be placed on file.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A comment was presented to the board regarding the AEP lines, strongly suggesting that the lines be buried underground.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**AEP Transmission Line Rebuild Project Update:**

I & M representatives are planning to participate in a community Q&A forum. All are invited to attend one of the planned forums. Both presentations begin at 6:30 p.m. and doors open at 5:30 p.m. Chikaming Township, Monday, October 9 at Chikaming Township Center and Village of Three Oaks, Tuesday, October 10 at Three Oaks Elementary Gym.

Due to venue capacity limitation, they encourage to join via zoom.

In person and virtual attendees may submit questions in advance by emailing:

[Frontdesk@chikamingtownship.org](mailto:Frontdesk@chikamingtownship.org) for October 9 forum

[Manager@threeoakdsvillage.org](mailto:Manager@threeoakdsvillage.org) for October 10 forum

**Rental Ordinance Proposed Amendment Update:**

The proposed ordinance will be posted on the Chikaming township website with any changes for the public to view and will be revisited at the November 9, 2023 board meeting.

**Broad Band Service Expansion Update:**

Supervisor Bunte attended a meeting this afternoon. There are 863 challenges that were removed from the list due to previous grant conflicts. The bottom line is we are waiting for the totals next week through the State. They then can get agreements finalized and totally completed by 2025. This is a long progress; we will be updated again at the end of November. Within 30 to 60 days, we should know who the recipients in Chikaming Township will be.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Police Chief Taylor presented a request for a budget amendment proposing taking $10,000.00 from the full-time officer line-item 205-301.200 and moving it to line-item training expenses 205-301.831 to cover cost of academy expenses. A motion was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve Frank Richter as an alternate for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to approve the renewal package presented to the board from Buursma Agency continuing with our current Blue Cross Blue Shield plan at a 3.4% increase, including the current Dental at 3.87% increase. Bunte amended the motion to include the cost be split between the Township and the employee.

All ayes, motion carried.

A review of a property owner’s requests to purchase property on Elm Valley Road was presented to the board. After discussion it was discovered that only one of the parcels presented to the board were in Chikaming Township, the other two being in Three Oaks Township. Due to the topography of the land and the location the board unanimously decided to decline the offer and ask Supervisor Bunte to reply to the owner.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

A request to consider the land purchase due to Warren Woods entrance being dangerous and maybe having an Elm Valley entrance would be easier for people.

Concerns regarding fire pits on rental properties were brought up, supervisor Bunte will address with resident.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

The treasurer reported 95% of taxes have been collected as of today.

There is a need for a Public Safety Committee member, as of today one of the members has resigned. They meet Three times a year.

The Road Advisory committee also needs a new committee member if anyone is interested, please let Supervisor Bunte know.

We received an email from Michael Juengling, Berrien County Road Department.

The speed for the section of Red Arrow Highway does NOT qualify for a speed reduction and will remain 55 mph (unposted).

A request from Supervisor Bunte to move the December 14th Board Meeting to December 7th was agreed upon by the board, due to vacation schedules. It will be changed on the Meeting Calendar.

Trunk or Treat will be Saturday October 28th at River Valley High School/Elementary School.

Dorothy Simmons, passed away July 16, 2023. Dorothy was Chikaming Treasurer for 18 years. She was a wonderful person and an amazing asset to our community.

The family has planned a celebration of life service, 2:00 p.m. October 8, 2023, at Harbert Community Church.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM.

All ayes, Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

**Paula Dudiak**

**Chikaming Township Clerk**