**APPROVED**

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**September 14, 2023**

The September 14, 2023, meeting of the Township Board was called to order at 6:35 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.

A moment of silence was shared for Jerry Kohn, who passed away on September 8, 2023. He will be missed by our community, friends, and family. His generosity to Chikaming Township will always be remembered.

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 Marske, supported by Sullivan 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 Dudiak.

All ayes, motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letters were presented and read by the board regarding overcrowding at Cherry Beach during the Labor Day holiday and placed on file.

**Joe Martin – Parks Director Report:**

Joe attended the Great Lakes Coalition Annual Meeting in Holland on August 12th, learned that out of the 9 states that touch the Great Lakes, Michigan is one the few that does not have a resiliency program in place. Our representative is pushing for an appropriations bill in Lansing to support such an effort.

Beach boundary dispute and other beach issues were resolved.

Continuing work on Grant applications.

Heavy storms in August wreaked havoc on our trails system at Chikaming Park & Preserve, volunteers and some limited contract work we were able to clear all paths.

Maintenance and cleanup are ongoing, along with three bids being submitted for dead tree removal and cleanup at Berrien Street Beach.

Cherry beach is the biggest challenge this summer. A recap and review of the parking situation with David, myself, Chief Taylor, and attorney Hilmer is set for late September/early October. Items on the table for discussion will be implementation of a fee structure, gate vs kiosk and or attendant, additional parking, possible shuttle service.

Survey results are being compiled. Great response. Full results will be available for the October meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A question about Capozio’s Restaurant closing for the winter or long term was a concern, possibly not enough employees. Could the township look into additional property for housing.

Dave Campbell introduced himself as the new River Valley superintendent.

An update from John Wilk of the Bridgman Library was given, 3,640 people have entered the library to date. Boys & Girls club is using the library to tutor. Continue to look at their website for additional upcoming events.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**AEP Transmission Line Rebuild Project Update:**

Mona from Indiana Michigan Power is coordinating with the Township and Three Oaks for a Town Hall Meeting. October 9, or October 10, 2023. Once the dates are confirmed a virtual meeting will take place to go over the flow of the meeting with Supervisor Bunte and their team. They are asking the communities to share any questions on their website or with the township so we can address them at the Town Hall meeting.

**Rental Ordinance Proposed Amendment Update:**

Postponed until October 5, 2023, Township Board meeting.

**Speed Study Policy update:**

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Dudiak to approve the Township Policy on Petitioning the Board for a Speed Study as presented.

All ayes, motion carried.

**Fire Department Grant Applications Review:**

The board elects to accept the Michigan Department of Treasury Fire equipment grant and utilize the funding to purchase personal thermal imaging cameras for use by the fire department. A resolution was submitted for $10,000.00 for qualified fire equipment.

By roll call vote: Marske, Dudiak, Sullivan, Rettig, Bunte.

Resolution adopted.

A motion was made by Rettig supported by Sullivan to approve Chief Weich to purchase the FirePRO 300 devices with retractable lanyards.

All ayes, motion carried.

A resolution was submitted for a FEMA grant opportunity through their Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, including Chikaming Township, New Buffalo Township, and Three Oaks Fire Departments for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus to replace current apparatuses to meet current standards for a total approved budget of $520,620.00.

By Roll call vote: Sullivan, Bunte, Rettig, Dudiak, Marske

Resolution adopted.

**Broadband Service Expansion Update:**

No additional information on the expansion currently. The township will still be ok with using the ARPA funds through 2024-year end.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Police Chief Taylor presented a request for Application to Michigan Township Participating Plan Risk Reduction Program for Solar/Motion Activated Cameras for Parks and Beaches to the board. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to allow Chief Taylor to participate in the grant opportunity.

All ayes, motion carried.

Parks Director, Joe Martin submitted three bids to the board for tree removal at Berrien Street Beach access. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to accept the bid from Graham Tree Services for $5,200.00.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Dudiak to approve various budget amendments for fiscal year 2023-2024 as presented.

All ayes, motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

A request to consider keeping figures for ten (10) years. on Powerline project.

Short Term rental consider using a local liaison instead of the Granicus.

A thank you to Joe Martin, Parks Director, for doing a good job on the beaches regarding parking.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

The treasurer reported 90% of taxes have been collected as of today.

Reminder the October Meeting of the Board will October 5, 2024.

September 25-27 weather permitting you may notice an increase in low-flying helicopters near transmission lines. Electricity transmission Company ITC is planning to conduct aerial patrols of their high-voltage transmission structures and lines throughout Michigan.

Sparks grant decision was delayed until October 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Marske, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM.

All ayes, Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

**Paula Dudiak**

**Chikaming Township Clerk**