

APPROVED

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
September 8, 2022**

The September 8, 2022, 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 to approve the Consent Agenda.

All ayes, motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Treasurer Rettig. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske.

All ayes, motion carried.

Paying of the bills was read by Treasurer Rettig. A motion to approve the paying of the bills was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan.

All ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A speed limit change request was conducted, Michael Juengling, Traffic Safety Supervisor of Berrien County Road Department advised he was submitting a request to lower the speed limit from 40 mph to 35 mph to more accurately reflect the traffic flow on a portion of Harbert Road.

Other miscellaneous emails were distributed to the board put on record as received and read.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Paul Jancha, running for District Court Judge introduced himself, with a brief synopsis of his life and goals.

Martha Cares concerns regarding fire pits being regulated by the township was heard.

Sara Skinner introduced herself as the new Supervisor for Bridgman Library.

Layton Olson thanked the Park Board for honoring a month to monarch butterflies, discussed broad band, and submitted a sample watershed map to the board.

Alex Ott introduced himself, he is a candidate for Berrien Count Commissioner in District 9 and is asking for our local support.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Swearing in of Part Time MFR/Firefighter Samuel Nowak
Samuel Nowak was sworn in by Clerk, Dudiak. Samuel was approved at the township's meeting on August 11, 2022.

2. Update on Demolition and Clean Up of Property – 7312 Harbert Road
Discussion was had regarding protecting the township from any potential lawsuits or problems that could occur during this process was discussed. Chikaming Township Code Enforcement and Police Department will be on site, pictures and videos will be taken to protect the township. A 30-day notice will be given to the property owner.

NEW BUSINESS:

A petition and resolution were presented to the board from Chris Quattrin, Berrien County Drain Commissioner. A motion was made by Marske, supported Dudiak to approve the petition and resolution for Maintenance, improvement, and consolidation for Wolcott Avenue Drain #680 and #562.

By roll call vote: Sullivan, Rettig, Bunte, Dudiak, Marske
Resolution and petition adopted.

A request was presented to the board from Chief Taylor to allow \$1,330.00 to be used out of the Police training budget line items for a new Shed in Three Oaks. The Three Oaks Range which houses the shed is for qualifying firearms. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to approve the request.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to allow the Police Department to apply for and participate in the OHSP Traffic Safety Grants through the State of Michigan.

All ayes, motion carried.

The board discussed burning using fire pits being a nuisance upon request of a concerned Chikaming Township resident. The discussion included samples of potential Burn Ordinances. The board will review the sample ordinances and consider possible changes to our current ordinances.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Rettig to support the ReLeaf Michigan tree planting program grant submitted to the board by the Park Board. The grant is a 50/50 cost match. The Park Board will take \$2,000.00 from their current budget. ReLeaf will grant \$2,000.00.

All ayes, motion carried.

At the August 22, 2022, meeting of the Park Board, a motion was made and passed to recommend the appointment of Dan Parz to fill the vacancy for the term ending in 2024. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Dudiak to approve Daniel Parz to fill the vacancy.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Dudiak to approve a Capitalization and Useful Life Policy that was requested by our auditors. As we continue to make improvements in infrastructure, parks and community center, the depreciation of these assets needs to be accurately accounted for.

All ayes, motion carried.

Chief Allen Weich presented an application for a part time Medical First Responder Terry Germain to the board. A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan.

Terry retired from his full-time position here and would now like to be a part time employee we are happy to have him back with us at Chikaming township.

All ayes, motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (3-minute limit)

A comment regarding our singing Highway has returned. Supervisor will talk to the road department for further discussion.

A comment concerning open wood fires being a health threat but going to gas fire pits would be a much healthier option for the community.

Sawyer Road Corridor Planning Session – Stakeholder and Business Meeting will be held September 22, 2022, at 3:00 PM at Chikaming Township Building followed with a 5:00 PM Public Meeting at the Chikaming Township Building.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

A thank you was read that was given to our Cemetery Sexton, Nathan Oman for helping when needed was read.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rettig, supported by Bunte to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM. All ayes, Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk**