

# **CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MAY 2, 2008 MEETING**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Acting Chairman Chuck Garasic called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with members Fred King and Brian Kern present. Also present were Police Chief Jim Stormont, Fire Chief Mike Davidson, Park Board members Joanne Sims, Dan Buckenmeyer and Brad Williamson, Supervisor Jeanne Dudeck, Police Officer Todd Taylor and Recording Secretary Marisue Hojnacki.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** King moved, supported by Kern to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 3, 2008 MINUTES:** Garasic moved, supported by King to approve the April 3, 2008 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) Chief Stormont asked for a recommendation to hire Ryan Layman as a part-time Police Officer pending all background checks. Stormont said that one of his part-time officers Steve Campbell was going to resign and the Park Board is in need of more patrolling on the beaches. Kern moved, supported by King to recommend the hiring of Layman to the Township Board. Motion carried.
- 2) Chief Stormont asked for a recommendation to purchase two computer monitors for \$350 and to purchase software from Core Technologies for Lein in the Police Station at a cost of \$200. Stormont said that he may be able to get the monitors from PC Services for less. Garasic moved, supported by King to recommend the purchases to the Township Board. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) Park Board members were present to discuss safety issues and ordinance enforcement at the beaches, parks & preserves. Williamson said that the issue of safety and security was in the forefront, especially during the high traffic summer months from June to Labor Day. The problems are mostly on the weekend evenings. They are getting more complaints from neighboring property owners. They would like to discuss how they are going to address this in the future. He said that over the next three or four years they need to address this problem. It is not getting better, it is getting more complex. The main problems are parking and trespassing. He said that they understand the trespassing and littering are not priorities as far as the police are concerned. He felt that maybe they should develop a beach safety patrol that would interface between the public and the police. Sims said that they hire beach security and Seventrees did a better job, but they can't enforce anything. She felt that if they could enforce

some of these things word would get out and people would start obeying the rules. Stormont said that the prosecutor will not try a trespasser unless the owner asks them to leave and they refuse. Stormont agreed that more police would be good. Kern said that his neighbor has been sued for someone stepping on glass on his beach. He won, but the beaches are considered an "attractive nuisance". Davidson wondered if they still had a Cadet Program. Dudeck said that Taylor had introduced a Reserve Program for the Township. Dudeck felt that they should get Seventrees again this year and put up signage at the entrances stating that there is only 66 feet of beach. She also felt that maybe they could be stronger in their brochure about the beach regulations. Williamsons said that they think that the majority of the beach users are from rentals and day people, then second homeowners. Garasic wondered if there was a Public Act that would give the township the authority to collect a tax from rentals to help pay for the policing of the beaches. Dudeck said that she will look into it. Garasic said that the Lodging Association, which is now a Convention and Visitors Bureau, has just hired a person to write press releases for them. He said that he could put the park board members in touch with that person and they could do a letter that would go out to the 22 members. Sims said that she is talking with a person on the New Buffalo Township Park Board and they are trying to come up with a campaign to keep the beaches clean like Smokey the Bear.

- 2) Pokagon Grant for recreational safety brochures project. All the members expressed their appreciation on the nice job Dudeck had done writing the grant proposal. Garasic will get the mockups to Dudeck before the Township Board meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) Chief Davidson asked that the Commission recommend to the Township Board that he purchase a rugged or semi-rugged laptop computer either a Panasonic or Dell. It is in his budget. Davidson said that it would be weather proof and stay in the trucks. The Panasonic cost is about \$2,800. He will ask for one a year until he has three, one for each truck. A semi rugged Panasonic is about \$1,600. He is waiting for a quote on the Dell. Garasic moved, supported by Kern to recommend the purchase to the Township Board. Motion carried.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

The Police, First Responder and Fire Reports were placed on file.

**Adjournment:** King moved, supported by Kern to adjourn at 10:01 ~~p.m.~~ a.m. Motion carried.

Marisue Hojnacki  
Recording Secretary