

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD  
MINUTES  
November 10, 2011**

The November 10, 2011 meeting of the Chikaming Township Board was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Dudeck with members Bohac, Rettig, Warner, Marske present. Attorney Charles Hilmer, Rob Andrew, Merritt Engineering, and John Gooch, Harbor Country News were also present.

Marske moved, Warner supported to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2011 regular meeting. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Rettig for the month of October 2011 with balances as follows: General Fund cash - \$1,343,006.97; Trust & Agency cash- \$23,099.00; Summer Tax Fund - \$64,838.10; Winter Tax Fund - \$0.00. It was noted that the Tax Savings account at New Buffalo Savings Bank was closed and the funds of \$70.65 were transferred to the Tax checking account. Warner moved, Marske supported, to approve the report as submitted. Motion carried.

Bohac moved, Rettig supported, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Information regarding Public Act 152 of 2011, The Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act which was signed into law on September 28, 2011 was provided to Board members at the October 13, 2011 meeting. The Act states that a public employer or local unit of government has three options regarding their health plan for employees and elected officials. Option No. 1 known as the Hard Cap would not work for Chikaming Township as our annual insurance costs are more than the formula allows. Option No. 2 would require the Township to pay 80% and the employee to pay 20% of the health plan premium. All Board members agreed that Option No. 2 would have a devastating effect on employees with family coverage. Option No. 3 per Section 8 of the Act allows a township to opt out of the requirements with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board each year that medical coverage is in place. Section 9 of the Act states that if a local government does opt out, the public employer shall permit the state treasurer to reduce by 10% each economic vitality incentive program payment, known as Statutory Revenue Sharing. Chikaming Township does not receive any of these funds. It was noted that a decision on the issue would need to be made annually at the November meeting to address the renewal of the Health Plan on January 1 of the following year. After consideration of the options, Marske moved, Warner supported to opt out of the requirements for the 2012 year and leave the employee deductions, which are approximately 10%, the same; and have the slightly reduced premium be reflected in the Township expense. Roll call vote: Marske – yes; Warner – yes; Rettig – yes; Dudeck – yes and Bohac – yes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Dudeck reported on the annual meeting with the Berrien County Road Commission, that she and Bohac attended on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. Copies of the packet were provided to Board members which included the 2012 Seal Coat Proposal, a map showing conditions of the roads in Chikaming and various other information.

Supervisor Dudeck reported that Medical First Responder Edgecomb was home and he will be returning to work when he is able.

There were no comments from the public.

Upon review of the monthly reports, Marske moved, Rettig supported to accept the October 2011 reports from the First Responder, Fire, Police, and Zoning Administrator and place them on file. Motion carried.

After reviewing the bills paid October 25, 2011 thru November 10, 2011, along with the addition of the check issued for \$36,109.00 from Trust & Agency for the donations received for the Fire Simulator, Marske moved, Warner supported, to authorize the amount of \$162,220.66. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Rettig moved, Bohac supported to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Chikaming Township Board will be held on **Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Chikaming Township Center meeting room.

Elizabeth Bohac  
Township Clerk  
November 11, 2011