

APPROVED

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
February 14, 2019

The February 14, 2019 meeting of the Township Board was called to order at 6:30 PM. by Supervisor Bunte, Dudiak, Rettig, Marske and Sullivan. Also present Attorney Charles Hilmer, John Gooch, of the Harbor Country News, Francesca Sagala, of the New Buffalo Times, along with 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.

A motion to accept the minutes of the February 5th Budget Work Session was made by Rettig, supported by Sullivan, Marske abstained.
All ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence was given to the board and placed on file as read.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Status of Zoning Ordinance was requested. Supervisor Bunte advised there is a sub-committee meeting once a week of Doug Dow, John Chipman, Van Thornton and Rich Sullivan working on revisions.

Teleconferencing was addressed, suggesting no decision be made tonight.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cherry Beach update was given by Supervisor Bunte. After renegotiations with all parties involved. Mr. Beidler is willing to pledge \$150,000.00 in match funds, with the board pledging an additional \$75,000.00 which is an addition to \$175,000.00 pledged in 2018. Mr. Beidler is willing to continue to keep the property off the market until a decision is made by the DNR Trust Fund by December 2019.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan for the township to commit an additional \$75,000.00 including any additional funds for fund raising.

All ayes, motion carried.

The Bids for demolition of 15944 Locke Road in Union Pier will be put on hold until an environmental study is completed. Two bids were received to date.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion to allow Chief Taylor to move forward on the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Program allowing initial funding of \$1,200.00 was moved by Marske, supported by Sullivan.

All ayes, motion carried.

The sergeant's position was posted in December of 2018, all finalized on January 18, 2019. Officer Brandon Jones was awarded this position. A Motion to accept the promotion of Officer Jones was approved.

All ayes, motion carried.

Reserve Officer of the year went to Greg Nelson for his dedication to the Police Department with 312 volunteer hours completed in 2018.

Officer Paige Holtz was awarded a Certificate of Achievement by Chief Taylor, Officer Holtz was instrumental with programs at the school.

Chief Taylor presented his annual review and thanked the township and community for continued support.

Supervisor Bunte commended Chief Taylor and his staff for their professional services and dedication to the township. The Board is proud to have such a great department.

A motion was made by Marske, supported by Sullivan to adopt the Policy for Property Tax Exemption for the 2019 year and approved by:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Sullivan, Rettig, Bunte, Dudiak, Marske

Nyes: None

A resolution to adopt Poverty Exemption, Income Guidelines and Asset Test was moved by Marske, supported by Rettig.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Marske, Dudiak, Bunte, Rettig, Sullivan

Nyes: None

Resolution was adopted.

A motion by Dudiak, supported by Marske to accept the IRS Mileage Rate effective January 1, 2019 of .58/ mile was approved.

All ayes, motion carried.

Budget Amendments for the Road Maintenance Fund were presented by Supervisor Bunte, due to the increase in the budget for Harbert Road of \$135,000.00. A motion to approve the amendments was moved by Rettig, supported by Sullivan.

All ayes, motion carried.

Salary Resolutions were presented to the board for the fiscal year 2019-2020, per attached individual resolutions.

A motion for approval of the board for a Tasting Room Permit for Transient Artisan Ales located at 15936 Red Arrow Highway was made by Dudiak, supported by Marske.

All ayes, motion carried.

A discussion on Teleconferencing resulted in the Township continuing to support our Attorney's view point on the issue. The Open Meeting Act does not address permitting an elected official to vote or participate in the meeting, therefore until any changes to the Act the Township will follow the Open Meeting Act. The meetings are open to the public, anyone is permitted to listen but not participate. There is no current policy on teleconferencing Township.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

The Treasurer reported that this was the final Day for collection of taxes at the Township without a penalty. February 28, 2019 is the last day to accept at the township level. After that date taxes will have to be paid at the county. To date 97.46% winter taxes and 91.55% of the summer have been collected. Great turnout from Chikaming Township residents as usual.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

None

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM, by Rettig, supported by Marske.

All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Paula Dudiak
Chikaming Township Clerk**