

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ALPENA-BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
March 22, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.  
REGULAR MINUTES**

The Charter Township of Alpena Board of Trustees met in Regular session on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Charter Township of Alpena Offices, 4385 US 23 North, Alpena, MI 49707.

Present: Supervisor Nathan Skibbe  
Clerk Michele Palevich  
Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers  
Trustee Steve Lappan  
Trustee Cash Kroll  
Trustee Russ Rhynard  
Trustee Norm Poli

Absent: None.

Others present: Attorney Tim Gulden

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken; the following board members were present: Trustee Norm Poli, Trustee Steve Lappan, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. Absent: None.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Clerk Michele Palevich and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to accept the agenda as presented with the following additions to Old Business - B. Fire Department Models and C. Public Input Sessions. Voice Vote. Carried by unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bruce Wozniak commented on the Pandemic Resolution.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Moved by Trustee Cash Kroll and supported by Trustee Steve Lappan to approve the payment of bills as presented. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli, Trustee Steve Lappan and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: None. Motion carried unanimously.

## **MINUTES**

**February 22, 2021 (Regular), February 23, 2021 (Budget), March 3, 2021 (Special)  
and March 11, 2021 (Budget)**

Moved by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Russ Rhynard to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Voice Vote. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence included: Alpena County Road Commission - February 2, 2021 Minutes, Alpena County Road Commission - February 18, 2021 Minutes, Alpena County Road Commission - County Road Report 01/25/21 – 02/21/21, Alpena County Road Commission – Bagley Street/Long Rapids Rd Signal, State of Michigan – Notice of Hearing DTE Gas Company, State of Michigan – Notice of Hearing DTE Gas Company and Richard P Szymanski – Pine Road. Supervisor Skibbe will follow up on Mr. Szymanski's concern. Moved by Trustee Steve Lappan and supported by Clerk Michele Palevich to receive and file correspondence. Voice Vote. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING UPDATE**

Chief Dave Robbins recommended the hire of current paid on call Matt Benedict as a full-time Fire Fighter/EMT to the Township Board. Moved by Trustee Cash Kroll and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to extend an offer of employment of full-time Fire Fighter/EMT to Matt Benedict contingent upon pre-employment physical, drug screening and agility test. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli, Trustee Steve Lappan, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Dave Robbins advised that he had 6 or 7 resumes that he would initiate the interview process with and recommended that the Township advertise the Fire Fighter/EMT position again on Indeed.com, as we have had the most responses from this site. Moved by Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Trustee Steve Lappan to have Chief Dave Robbins and Clerk Michele Palevich write an employment ad for the Fire Fighter/EMT position and post on Indeed.com for 2 weeks. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Trustee Norm Poli, Trustee Steve Lappan, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: None. Motion carried unanimously.

The Township Board and Chief Dave Robbins discussed amending the rout for the April 3, 2021 10 a.m. Easter Bunny tour through the Township on a fire truck to include more of the northern area of the Township. A press release will be issued.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT MODELS**

Trustee Norm Poli presented the Township Board with a handout entitled Fire Department Models to Consider. Trustee Norm Poli suggested hiring a consultant and discussed models to consider and millage costs/revenues. The Township Board discussed having the Fire Department Ad hoc Committee review the pros/cons of different options and present their findings to the Township Board. The committee would meet at the Township Boardroom and meetings would be available to the public via zoom and posted on YouTube. Meeting dates will be posted on Township's website. Trustee Steve Lappan will contact possible consultants.

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS**

The Township Board discussed having public input sessions after the Fire Department Ad hoc Committee presents the different options to the Township Board.

**RESOLUTION – PANDEMIC**

Trustee Russ Rhynard read a resolution regarding the pandemic. Moved by Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Trustee Cash Kroll to approve the resolution as presented with the following change on page 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph - replace “Alpena County” with “Charter Township of Alpena”. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Trustee Steve Lappan, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**OMEGA ELECTRIC ESTIMATE – M-32 LIGHTING/CAR DAMAGE**

Moved by Trustee Norm Poli and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to approve the Omega Electric Estimate in the amount \$7,634.00 for the M-32 lighting that was damaged due to a car accident contingent to the insurance carrier knowing this occurrence could result in additional damages being submitted. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli, Trustee Steve Lappan and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**ALPENA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION – 2021 DUST CONTROL PROGRAM**

Moved by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and supported by Clerk Michele Palevich to approve the Alpena County Road Commission Road Agreement for 2021 Dust Control Program in the amount of \$30,500.00. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli, Trustee Steve Lappan, Clerk Michele Palevich and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Supervisors Nathan Skibbe presented the Township Board with the following budget adjustment:

101-372-702.000	Building Inspector	-\$7,000.00
101-382-701.000	Electrical	\$2,000.00
101-384-702.000	Mechanical	\$5,000.00

Moved by Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Trustee Cash Kroll to approve the budget adjustment as presented. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli, Trustee Steve Lappan, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: None. Motion carried unanimously.

**MICHIGAN REGULATION AND TAXATION OF MARIHUANA ACT**

The Township Board discussed Marihuana Retail Store/Microbusiness as a revenue source. Supervisor Nathan Skibbe advised that the Planning Commission will be discussing the zoning requirements.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Beverly Banks will continue to work on the Fire Department Ad hoc Committee, commented on third party consultation and that there is more homework to do and things to explore.

**DISCUSSION**

Trustee Russ Rhynard commented on Rehmann Robson updating their consultation.

Trustee Steve Lappan advised he would get proposals for fire department consultants.

Clerk Michele Palevich clarified that the JR Henry Consult was specific to only the Non-Emergency Transfers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Norm Poli to adjourn. Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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Clerk Michele Palevich

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Supervisor Nathan Skibbe