

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ALPENA-BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 27, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
REGULAR MINUTES**

The Charter Township of Alpena Board of Trustees met in Regular session on Monday, March 27, 2023, 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 Norm Poli
Trustee Russ Rhynard

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 Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Trustee Steve Lappan to approve the agenda with New Business item 8. North Pointe Shores – Special Assessments removed. Voice Vote. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda included: Payment of Bills, Minutes – February 27, 2023 (Regular), March 7, 2023 (Special), Correspondence: Thunder Bay Beacon, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Letter, Alpena County Road Commission Minutes – February 6, 2023, Alpena County Road Commission Road Report, Alpena Power Newsletter and department reports. Moved by Trustee Steve Lappan and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to approve payment of the bills, approve Board of Trustee minutes and receive and file correspondence and department reports 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.

CLOSED SESSION

Attorney/Client Privilege – Water Litigation

Moved by Clerk Michele Palevich and supported by Trustee Steve Lappan to enter closed session in order to consult with the Township attorney regarding trial strategy in the water and sewer rate litigation pending before the Alpena County Circuit Court pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(e). 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.

The Board entered closed session at 6:04 p.m.

The Board left closed session at 6:51 p.m.

Trustee Steve Lappan left the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 152 (ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT)

The Township Board was presented with Ordinance No. 152 to amend the Charter Township of Alpena Zoning Ordinance Article 2 (definitions), Article 3 (General Provisions), Article 4 (District Regulations), Article 7 (Supplemental Regulations) to address aggrieved person, child care facilities, chickens/duck/geese, solar energy, wireless facilities, wind energy, and building height. Moved by Trustee Cash Kroll and supported by Trustee Norm Poli to adopt Ordinance No. 152 (Zoning Ordinance Amendment), but without the provisions related to solar energy that appeared in the original version of the ordinance. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Steve Lappan. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – EMERGENCY SERVICES CONSULTING

The Township Board discussed facilitators, mediators and consulting services for the fire department. Moved by Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Trustee Cash Kroll for Supervisor Nathan Skibbe to begin data gathering and compile a template of fire department questions to be returned by each board member and the Fire Chief within 10 days of receiving, to prepare a request for proposal for consulting services and initially reach out to professionals. Voice Vote. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – TRAINING & RECRUITMENT GRANT PURCHASE AMENDMENT

Training Officer Jim Stachlewitz advised that not all the training equipment items approved for purchase were available and requested an update to the original motion to purchase other items. Moved by Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to amend the original motion from the December 14, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting to purchase the modified list of items not to exceed a total expenditure of \$41,597.36. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Trustee Norm Poli, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Steve Lappan. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – AAA TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT

Chief Mark Hansen requested approval to proceed with an application for a AAA Traffic Safety Grant that requires a 10% match. Moved by Trustee Cash Kroll and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers for Lieutenant Scott Waterson to apply for a AAA Traffic Safety Grant for up to \$15,000.00 for extrication type equipment such as auto cribbing for vehicle stabilization and spreading rams and if grant is awarded the 10% match would be paid from GL #205-336-974.000, Equipment in the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Steve Lappan. Motion carried unanimously.

ALPENA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION – DUST CONTROL AGREEMENT

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe presented the Township Board with an Alpena County Road Commission Road Agreement for the 2023 Dust Control Program. Moved by Trustee Norm Poli and supported by Trustee Cash Kroll to approve the 2023 Dust Control Program in the amount of \$33,000.00. The Township Board discussed the effectiveness of the program and cost of having 2 applications of the brine solution. An overriding motion was made by Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Clerk Michele Palevich to table the Dust Control Agreement to the next Board of Trustees meeting in order to obtain the cost for 2 dust control applications. Voice Vote. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

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

FOPLC TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe advised that the Personnel Committee through negotiations had reached a tentative agreement with the FOPLC bargaining unit. Moved by Clerk Michele Palevich and supported by Trustee Russ Rhynard to approve the tentative agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (FOPLC) bargaining unit as presented. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Steve Lappan. Motion carried unanimously.

COMPENSATION FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

The Township Board discussed establishing a compensation commission. Moved by Clerk Michele Palevich and supported by Trustee Russ Rhynard to have Attorney Tim Gulden begin preparation on an ordinance to establish a compensation commission. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Steve Lappan. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Szymanski commented on the Fire Department.

Dick Genshaw commented on the Fire Department.

Larry Clark commented on the by-path extension.

Burt Fransico commented on the Fire Department.

DISCUSSION

Clerk Michele Palevich commented on response time of the Township Fire Fighters/MFR.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Norm Poli and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to adjourn. Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Clerk Michele P. Palevich

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe