

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ALPENA-BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
April 13, 2021 –11:00 a.m.  
REGULAR MINUTES**

The Charter Township of Alpena Board of Trustees met in Regular session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 11:01 a.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: None

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.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 (Zoom Meeting), Trustee Russ Rhynard and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. Absent: None.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Trustee Steve Lappan and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to approve the agenda as presented. Voice Vote. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

**MINUTES**

**March 22, 2021 (Budget Hearing) & March 22, 2021 (Regular)**

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence included: Alpena County Road Commission Minutes – March 2, 2021 and Alpena County Road Commission County Road Report – 2/22/21 to 03/28/21. Moved by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Russ Rhynard to receive and file correspondence. Voice Vote. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **PRESENTATION – MIKE MAHLER FROM TARGET**

Mike Mahler, Economic Development Director for Target Alpena, informed the Township Board on current and upcoming projects in the community.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC HEALTH PAYROLL REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (PSPFPR)**

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe advised that the Township was awarded \$69,026.79 but had received \$69,497.83. Therefore, \$471.04 will be returned from the Public Safety Fund once the State of Michigan contacts us for the refund.

### **SOUTH BAY – PARTRIDGE POINT PARK SIGN**

Moved by Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Trustee Steve Lappan to give the South Bay Corridor \$1,782.80 for the purchase of the MDOT approved directional signs at South Partridge Point Road. The Township Board discussed alternative funding for the signs. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Trustee Russ Rhynard. NAYES: Trustee Norm Poli, Trustee Steve Lappan, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. Absent: Trustee Cash Kroll. Motion failed.

### **POLICY & PROCEEDURE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**Trustee Cash Kroll exited the Zoom Meeting at 11:50 a.m.**

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Fire Department – South:** Chief Dave Robbins informed the Board that there was a total of 53 call outs of the south station in March. Chief Dave Robbins advised that Matt Benedict would begin full time on April 19, 2021 and that Luke Meissner was doing well. An additional 5 candidates are being scheduled for interviews. Photos of the new fire truck in production were shown. Chief Dave Robbins also requested Fire Department documents on the website be moved to a more prominent location on the website. Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers followed up with Chief Robbins on the following items: Paid on Call pay increase, fire department staffing flow chart and interview status.

**Fire Department – North:** Chief Bill Forbush presented the Township Board with a power point presentation entitled Northside Fire Project and informed that there had been 149 EMS runs since January 1, 2021 and 4 fire responses. Deputy Chief Rob Edmonds presented the Alpena Fire Departments Training and Education. Captain Andy Marceau explained his role as the Community Risk Reduction officer.

**Fire Department – Ad hoc Committee:** Trustee Steve Lappan updated the Township Board as to the status of the task of listing pros and cons of various fire department options. Trustee Steve Lappan advised that the committee will be meeting Monday and hopes to complete the task at that time.

### **CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPOSAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Moved Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and supported by Clerk Michele Palevich to form a City Fire Department Proposal Review Committee consisting of the following members: Supervisor Nathan Skibbe, Trustee Steve Lappan and Trustee Russ Rhynard. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Trustee Steve Lappan, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Cash Kroll. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Attorney/Client Privilege – Water Litigation

Moved by Clerk Michele Palevich and supported by Trustee Russ Rhynard that the Township Board enter into closed session in order to discuss confidential water litigation with the Township's attorney. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trust Norm Poli, Trustee Steve Lappan and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Cash Kroll. Motion carried unanimously.

The board entered closed session at 1:27 p.m.

The board came out of closed session at 2:26 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Beverly Banks, a member the Fire Department Ad hoc Committee, commented on the continued communication challenges and that she did not receive a copy of the proposal letter from the City of Alpena.

### **DISCUSSION**

Clerk Michele Palevich commented that the proposal letter from the City of Alpena was given to all Board of Trustees including those on the ad hoc Fire Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Norm Poli and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to adjourn. Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

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Clerk Michele Palevich

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Supervisor Nathan Skibbe