

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ALPENA-BOARD OF TRUSTEES
July 26, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
REGULAR MINUTES**

The Charter Township of Alpena Board of Trustees met in Regular session on Monday, July 26, 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 Cash Kroll
Trustee Russ Rhynard
Trustee Norm Poli

Absent: Trustee Steve Lappan (Excused)

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, Clerk Michele Palevich, Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll, Trustee Russ Rhynard and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. Absent: Trustee Steve Lappan.

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Hale commented on blight on Pine Road.

Mark Smith commented on blight on Pine Road.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Moved by Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Trustee Cash Kroll 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 and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Steve Lappan. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

July 13, 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 – June 1, 2021, Alpena County Road Commission County Road Report – 5/24/21 to 07/04/21, Planning Commission Minutes – July 12, 2021, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – Thunder Bay Project, Ninth St Development, EGLE Notice of Authorization – Wetlands Protection, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op – ARP Funding and DTE Notice of Hearing. Moved by Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Clerk Michele Palevich to receive and file correspondence. Voice Vote. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

FIRE CHIEF RESIGNATION

Clerk Michele Palevich advised the Township Board that Chief Dave Robbins has submitted a letter of resignation. Motion was made by Clerk Michele Palevich and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to accept Chief Dave Robbins resignation effective August 31, 2021. 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.

ADVERTISING FOR FIRE CHIEF POSITION

Moved by Clerk Michele Palevich and supported by Trustee Cash Kroll to begin immediately advertising on the Township’s website and on Indeed.com for the Fire Chief position. 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 UPDATE

Trustee Cash Kroll informed the Township Board that we are waiting for Ryno Scholtz’s, volunteer consultant, report. Clerk Michele Palevich suggested that we not hire any additional staff until the new fire chief is hired and Trustee Cash Kroll requested that applicants be made aware of the delay in hiring. Supervisor Nathan Skibbe advised that he received an offer of \$190,000.00 for both ambulances. The Township Board discussed not making any decisions on the ambulances until after a new fire chief is hired and using a bid process if disposal is chosen.

PRATTSCAPE LLC, INVOICE

Moved by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Cash Kroll to pay PRATTscape LLC, Inc. in the amount of \$4,480.00 for spring clean ups, mowing and trimming for the 3 water towers and 9 sewer lift stations for the April, May and June, 2021. 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.

BIDS FOR 2022 CLEAN UP & LAWMOWING OF WATER TOWERS & LIFT STATIONS

Moved by Trustee Cash Kroll and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to request bids for spring clean-up and lawn maintenance for the 3 water towers (US 23 S. Ossineke, Piper Rd. and M-32 W.) and 9 sewer lift stations (Island Dr., Harbor Dr., Hobbs-Werth, Lay-Werth, Michigan Ave., Princeton Ave., Wall Ave., M-32 Sign and French Rd) for the 2022 season. Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers will prepare bid and send to local lawn maintenance companies. 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.

CORONA LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND (CLFRF)

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe advised that the Township could receive \$915,536.00 in American Rescue Plan Act funding and the Township Board could either accept, deny or defer the funds. Supervisor Skibbe recommended that the Township accept the funds and advised that the Township has 4 years to earmark the funds. Moved by Clerk Michele Palevich and supported by Trustee Russ Rhynard to accept the Corona Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) funding. 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.

RYNO SCHOLTZ – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Moved by Trustee Cash Kroll and supported by Clerk Michele Palevich to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Ryno Scholtz for volunteer consulting services. 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.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 137 (BLIGHT ORDINANCE)

Attorney Tim Gulden introduced proposed Ordinance No. 147 that would strengthen the Township's enforcement of blight. Moved by Trustee Norm Poli and supported by Trustee Russ Rhynard to introduce Ordinance No. 147 to amend section III ("VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES") of Ordinance No 137, the Township's Blight Ordinance, in order to improve the ordinance enforcement procedures. 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.

INSURANCE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

Clerk Michele Palevich informed the Township Board that the renewal premium for the package policy decreased from \$77,750.00 to \$61,000.00 for the renewal term effective August 6, 2022, and that the premium included the additional premium of \$1,399.00 for Cyber Liability coverage that the Township had not previously purchased. Supervisor Nathan Skibbe advised that Clerk Michele Palevich, Doug Chroninger and Arron Flick of 1010 Technology and agent Quintin Meek met and discussed cyber liability coverage. Trustee Norm Poli commented on the date proposal was received and limited time to request additional quotes. Motion was made by Trustee Russ Rhynard and supported by Trustee Cash

Kroll to approve the renewal proposal at \$61,000.00 and to request quotes for the 2022 renewal. 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.

AGREEMENT REGARDING SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe advised the Township Board that Alpena Public Schools is becoming the third partner in cost sharing for the Thunder Bay Junior High School Liaison Officer program with Alpena County Sheriff Office and Charter Township of Alpena. The Township Board was presented with an agreement effective July 1, 2021 through June 20, 2022. Moved by Trustee Cash Kroll and supported by Clerk Michele Palevich to approve the Agreement Regarding School Liaison Officer at an annual cost of \$26,443.33 to be paid quarterly. 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.

GOVERNMENTAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS – MINUTE & ORDINANCE BOOK QUOTE

Clerk Michele Palevich presented the Township Board with quote from GBS – Governmental Business Systems for ordinance and minute books at a cost of \$685.25. Moved by Trustee Norm Poli and supported by Supervisor Nathan Skibbe to purchase 2 ordinance books and 1 minute book at a cost of \$685.25 to be paid from GL #101-215-727.000. 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.

WATER DEPARTMENT – WRITE OFFS

Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers informed the Township Board that write offs in the water department have a range from \$10.00 to \$10,000.00 and suggested there be a threshold so that the Township Board is aware of how much is being written off. Moved by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Cash Kroll that write offs over \$500.00 in the water department be brought to the Township Board for approval. Roll call vote was taken. AYES: Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll, and Clerk Michele Palevich. NAYES: Trustee Russ Rhynard, Trustee Norm Poli and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe. Absent: Trustee Steve Lappan. Motion failed.

ZANN BROS CONSTRUCTION – ESTIMATE

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe presented the Township Board with an estimate from Zann Brothers Construction to repair the outside wall by the employee ramp. Moved by Trustee Norm Poli and supported by Trustee Russ Rhynard to approve the estimate for \$3,300.00 from Zann Brothers Construction for wall repairs (replace blocks) by the back employee ramp to be paid from GL #101-265-931.000 (Maintenance & Repair Building). 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Hale commented on the length of the process for blight.

DISCUSSION

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe, Trustee Russ Rhynard and Attorney Tim Gulden commented on the blight ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and supported by Clerk Michele Palevich to adjourn. Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Clerk Michele Palevich

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe