

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ALPENA-BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
August 29, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.  
SPECIAL MEETING**

The Charter Township of Alpena Board of Trustees met in Special session on Monday, August 29, 2022 at 5:30 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 Steve Lappan  
Trustee Norm Poli  
Trustee Russ Rhynard

Absent: None

Others present: Attorney Tim Gulden

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Russ Rhynard to approve the agenda as presented. Voice Vote. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – NEW HIRE**

Chief Mark Hansen recommended the hire of Edward Hoskinson Jr., who is currently a Paid-on-Call, as a full-time fire fighter/MFR. Moved by Clerk Michele Palevich and supported by Trustee Cash Kroll to hire Edward Hoskinson Jr. as a full-time fire fighter/MFR contingent on a physical. 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.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT – WORKSHOP DATES**

The Township Board agreed to meet on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in a workshop session to discuss the Fire Department at the Township Offices located at 4385 US Hwy 23 North.

## **WATER RATE DISCUSSION**

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe discussed revenue, increasing expenses, service line breakages, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund request for a \$15,800,000.00 low interest 40-year loan for infrastructure improvements including replacement of over 2,600 service lines, water loss of approximately 38%, designation of disadvantage community, debt forgiveness of up to 50%, ready to serve charge, minimum usage charge, quarterly billing vs. monthly billing, replacement of 5 master meters and a water authority discussion. Clerk Michele Palevich informed that the Water Department owes \$165,000.00 to the general fund for money borrowed to cover expenses, the water fund is \$65,000.00 short to pay August, 2022 invoices and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are being used for the M-32 water tower repairs/painting for over \$300,000.00. Trustee Russ Rhynard requested that rate increase be reviewed and commented on the litigation with the City of Alpena and the minimum usage charge.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Comar requested clarification regarding minimum usage charge vs. ready to serve charge and suggested a special assessment for the cost of replacing service lines.

Judy Gougeon commented on 3 rate increases in a year.

Mary Comar commented on not knowing which lines need replacement until there is a leak.

Scott McKenzie asked for revenue and expense numbers. Clerk Michele Palevich advised as of August 25, 2022 the Water Department revenue was \$1,172,590.34, expenses were \$1,256,270.36, with a loss of \$83,680.04.

Sue Wagner commented on minimum usage rate for her garage.

Terry Gougeon commented on 2 digs occurring on the same site within days.

Jim Meddaugh commented on amount paid to the city, loan payback.

Mary Comar commented on the escrow money and storm water runoff.

Mary Comar questioned replacement pipe material and commented on the 5 master meters.

## **DISCUSSION**

Trustee Russ Rhynard requested that the rate adjustment and payment to the City of Alpena be on the next agenda.

Trustee Norm Poli commented on Fleis & Vanderbrink Operations and their pro-active approach to maintain the water system.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Norm Poli and supported by Trustee Cash Kroll to adjourn. Voice Vote.  
Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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Clerk Michele P. Palevich

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Supervisor Nathan Skibbe