

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ALPENA-BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
December 19, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.  
MINUTES**

The Charter Township of Alpena Board of Trustees met in Special Session on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Alpena Township Offices, 4385 US 23 North, Alpena, MI 49707.

Present: Supervisor Nathan Skibbe  
Treasurer Laura L. Ellery-Somers  
Clerk Michele P. Palevich  
Trustee Cash Kroll  
Trustee Norm Poli  
Trustee Steve Lappan  
Trustee Matt Dunckel

Absent: None

Others present: Attorney Tim Gulden

Supervisor Skibbe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll was called; the following board members were present: Trustee Matt Dunckel, Trustee Norm Poli, Clerk Michele P. Palevich, Treasurer Laura L. Ellery-Somers, Trustee Cash Kroll and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION – WATER LITIGATION**

Attorney Dan Florip reviewed the time line.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Richard Olrey, Hillman, MI, commented on lead levels in water and additives in the water.

Dennis Schultz, State Ave., Alpena, MI commented that he is hopeful for mediation.

Bob Young, Presque Isle, owns a business in Alpena Township and commented on ending the water litigation.

Larry Clark, 199 Bear Pointe Rd, Alpena, MI commented that it is excellent news that there will be mediation.

Gary Partyka, Channel Rd, #1, Alpena, MI commented regarding the loss of water, city's charge to township and could Judge Mack have set rate. Replies immediately by attorney Dan Florip.

Stan Mischley, 446 Victoria Dr., Alpena, MI asked if lawyer fees are coming out of provisional rate. Attorney Dan Florip replied immediately No.

Ken LaCrombe, Channel Rd #2, Alpena, MI commented that the meeting was informative but questioned why we are going into mediation.

Rob Golding, 9403 W Long Lake Rd, asked where the attorney fees are being paid from. Supervisor Nathan Skibbe advised that the attorney fees are coming out of the water rate.

Mel Jones, 3089 Hinckley Blvd, Alpena, MI thanked the board for the meeting and appreciated the history. Asked if mediator can force a resolution and Supervisor Nathan Skibbe replied no and that the township will be going into mediation with good faith and hopeful of a resolution.

Mark Hunter, 614 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, Alpena, MI commented that the core problem is the city's staff and city council needs to change their attitude.

Bret Finzel, 8266 N Pt Shores, Alpena, MI commented that he appreciated the meeting but are we at the point of diminishing returns. Attorney Dan Florip replied that the calculated new rate a lower part of the rate was going to attorney/expert fees.

Julie Van Dussen, commented on the water rates being one of the highest in the state. Attorney Dan Florip advised that the township is not.

Virginia Tadajewski, a township resident, asked how refunds would be calculated. Attorney Dan Florip advised the refunds would be based on billed usage. Ms. Tadajewski commented on cost of litigation and violators pumping water into the system.

Larry Clark, 199 Bear Pointe Rd, Alpena, MI commented on township residents' rates vs. the city residents' rates and why there is such a large difference. Attorney Dan Florip advised that rates are different due to economy of scale and that the biggest factor is that the township has to buy water and maintain our system.

Mark Hunter, 614 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, Alpena, MI commented that the city's cost is also less because the houses are closer so there is less pipe cost.

Randy Wenzel, 106 Sunset, Alpena, MI commented about mediation. Attorney Dan Florip advised that the Appeals Court is mandating mediation. The losing party does not pay any of winners fees. Mr. Wenzel asked what the fee for illegal pumping is. Supervisor Nathan Skibbe advised that no fine has been set but Ordinance 135 is the mechanism.

Gary Partyka, Channel Rd, #1, Alpena, MI commented on chance of mediation being successful.

Stan Mischley, 446 Victoria Dr., Alpena, MI made mention of his 20 years of service to the township.

Supervisor Nathan Skibbe read an email from Bob and Sue Eller regarding ending the water litigation.

Mark Hunter, 614 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, Alpena, MI mentioned a rate setting commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Clerk Michele Palevich and supported by Treasurer Laura Ellery-Somers to adjourn.  
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Clerk Michele Palevich

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Supervisor Nathan Skibbe