



Grant Township Board
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
October 10th, 2023, 6:00 pm
Grant Township Community Center
220 Gratiot Street, Copper Harbor, MI 49918
Phone: (906) 289-4292

Call To Order

Supervisor Scott Ochodnický called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Present

- Supervisor - Scott Ochodnický
- Treasurer - Misty Filsinger
- Clerk - Greg Lis
- Trustee - Ned Huwatschek
- Trustee - Art Davis

Absent

- None

Agenda & Minutes Approvals

1. **Motion to approve October 10th, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Agenda** put forward by Ned, seconded by Misty. **Motion carries 5-0.**
2. **Motion to approve September 12th, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes** put forward by Misty, seconded by Ned. **Motion carries 5-0.**
3. **Motion to approve September 20th Budget Review Meeting Minutes**
 - **Minutes not ready for approval**

Supervisor Scott Ochodnický has appointed Sam Raymond as Deputy Supervisor

Supervisor Hours for October 2023 - Saturday October 7th 2pm-4pm in CH, Saturday October 14th 2pm-4pm in LLB, and Saturday October 21st 2pm-4pm in CH.

Solid Waste Recycling/Garbage Attendant Information

- Summer schedule is in effect through Friday October 27th, 2023
- Winter schedule begins week of Sunday October 29th, 2023
- Winter schedule to be posted everywhere on Saturday October 21st, 2023
- LLB will have a regular recycling pickup schedule for the 2023-24 winter season

Meetings Update:

- Keweenaw Point Trails Phase III Construction Progress meeting #6 was held October 2nd, a brief virtual meeting will be held tomorrow October 11th, and the substantial walkthrough meeting will be held October 18th (walk/ride entire trail)
- Budget Review Meeting was September 20th – discussion was primarily about mid-year payroll review
- Affordable Housing kickoff meeting was held September 14th
- A Special Meeting for late October or early November is anticipated to finalize the Recreation Plan Committee, appoint founding members, and to discuss a possible TNC land acquisition in which the Township has an existing MNRTF Grant TF16-0054 in place

Department Reports

1. Township Fund Balances Report
 - a) General fund balance is \$607,336.63
 - b) Fire dept. fund balance is \$541,405.51
 - c) Copper Harbor DDA fund balance is \$90,841.85
2. Maintenance Department Report
3. Public Safety Report
 - a) Copper Harbor Fire Department
 - a. Tom Boost gave a detailed report of the month's regular meeting, held on Oct 1st 2023.
 - b) Lac La Belle Fire Department
 - 1 new Lac La Belle Volunteer Fire Department member: Nick Meneguzzo
 - \$10,000 MI Fire Equipment Grant award
 - c) First Responders
 - We need EMT's, etc.
 - Emergency response times could be an hour, or two hours in the winter, unless we can find more personnel

Board/Committee Reports

1. Copper Harbor Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – Regular meeting held in September, currently working on several 4 year term renewals
2. Board of Review – Nothing until December
3. School Board
4. 5-Year Recreation Plan Steering Committee – to become 'Recreation Plan Committee'
 - a. Founding Resolution to be voted on at next Regular Board meeting, Nov 14th 2023.

- b. All 5 previous members, plus all 3 new Letters of Interest will all be invited to join the Committee, for an initial Committee of 8 or 9 members
- 5. Parks Committees
 - a) Lac La Belle –
 - i. Asking for any suggestions or help with Grant writing.
 - ii. Jim Valsa led a park clean-up day.
 - b) Copper Harbor – No meeting held.
- 6. Pedestrian & Bicycle Access Committee – Nothing until December

Old Business

- 1. Researching LLB dump site Restrictive Covenant areas
- 2. Reviewing options for brush pile removal
- 3. Next step is to acquire a survey

New Business

- 1. **Resolution #16-2023** to retain Attorney Michelle Halley of Marquette, Michigan as the default Grant Township attorney, with an initial one time retainer of \$2000 and an hourly rate of \$250.00/hour for any actual hours of work. **A motion to adopt resolution #16-2023** was put forward by Scott, seconded by Greg.

Roll Call

- Ochodnicky – Aye
- Filsinger – Aye
- Lis – Aye
- Huwatschek – Aye
- Davis – Aye
- **Motion Carries 5-0**

- 2. **Motion to approve hourly wage rate increase to \$20.50 for Forrest Fill**
– Put forward by Scott, seconded by Greg.

Roll Call

- Ochodnicky – Aye
- Filsinger – Aye
- Lis – Aye
- Huwatschek – Aye
- Davis – Aye
- **Motion Carries 5-0**

- 3. **Motion to approve Trent Davis employment contract extension to Dec. 20th 2023** – Put forward by Scott, seconded by Misty.

Roll Call

- Ochodnický – Aye
- Filsinger – Aye
- Lis – Aye
- Huwatschek – Aye
- Davis – Aye
- **Motion Carries 5-0**

4. **Motion for approval of \$3900.70 BagBarn quote and purchase of 10,000 medium size orange bags** – Put forward by Scott, seconded by Art.

Roll Call

- Ochodnický – Aye
- Filsinger – Aye
- Lis – Aye
- Huwatschek – Aye
- Davis – Aye
- **Motion Carries 5-0**

5. **Motion to approve up to \$1500 for Ward's Husqvarna quote for snow blower tractor upgrade** – Put forward by Scott, seconded by Greg.

Roll Call

- Ochodnický – Aye
- Filsinger – Aye
- Lis – Aye
- Huwatschek – Aye
- Davis – Aye
- **Motion Carries 5-0**

6. **Motion to approve up to \$2000 for ASC Absentee Ballot Drop Box** – Put forward by Greg, seconded by Art.

Roll Call

- Ochodnický – Aye
- Filsinger – Aye
- Lis – Aye
- Huwatschek – Aye
- Davis – Aye
- **Motion Carries 5-0**

7. **Motion for approval of Keweenaw Point Trails Phase III Pay Request #1, \$65,068.58 (already paid, included in bill pay numbers tonight)** – Put forward by Scott, seconded by Greg.

Roll Call

- Ochodnický – Aye
- Filsinger – Aye
- Lis – Aye
- Huwatschek – Aye
- Davis – Aye
- **Motion Carries 5-0**

8. Motion for approval of Keweenaw Point Trails Phase III Pay Request #2, \$56,607.03 included in bill pay numbers tonight – Put forward by Scott, seconded by Art.

Roll Call

- Ochodnický – Aye
- Filsinger – Aye
- Lis – Aye
- Huwatschek – Aye
- Davis – Aye
- **Motion Carries 5-0**

Agenda Request (Guests) Section – Julia Petersen from The Nature Conservancy as well as Robin Meneguzzo from Keweenaw Community Foundation were in attendance to ask for a letter of support from the Township Board regarding a public safety grant.

- ***Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) Rural Readiness Grant → request for a letter of support from the Grant Township board for a \$50K planning grant application for a Keweenaw County Emergency Response Center (described in attached).***
 - ***If the request is approved, we will provide a template letter-of-support as a starting point.***
 - ***The Keweenaw County Sheriff's Office, TNC-Michigan, and the Keweenaw Community Foundation are the co-applicants on this grant.***

<https://www.keweenawcommunityfoundation.org/keweenaw-heartlands-project>

Motion to adjourn and approve this month's bill in the amount of \$222,872.06 – Put forward by Greg, seconded by Misty.

Roll Call

- Ochodnický – Aye
- Filsinger – Aye
- Lis – Aye
- Huwatschek – Aye

- Davis – Aye
- **Motion Carries 5-0**

Meeting adjourned at 6:44pm

APPROVED