



Grant Township Board

Regular Board Meeting

December 10, 2024, 6:00pm

Lac La Belle Fire Hall & Community Center

11819 Superior St

Lac La Belle, MI 49950

Phone: (906) 289-4777

Call To Order 6:00

Roll Call

Present – Meg, Greg, Art, Staci, Cheryl

Absent – NONE

Agenda & Minutes Approvals

- **Motion** to approve, December 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Agenda by Meg, 2nd by Cheryl. All in favor – **Motion Carries**
- **Motion** to approve November 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes by Greg, 2nd by Art. All in favor – **Motion Carries**

Supervisor's Remarks

- Correspondence regarding LLB VFD
- Copper Country Recycling Initiative (CCRI)
 - Request to include Grant Township in their press release (in conjunction with Waste Management and Marquette Material Recovery Center) to stop putting glass into single-stream recycling bins. Glass is difficult to process for handlers and equipment.
- Winter Wonderfest Craft and Bake Sale is Saturday, December 14, at the Mariner North 12-5. Park Lighting at 6pm followed by fireworks.
- BS&A Payments update
 - Coming 2025, residents will be offered the most modern in-person and online payment methods. When implemented there will be a link and video at the bottom of the website page.
- **Starlink (Business Edition)** with High Performance WIFI Router and High Performance 2m Starlink Router Cable for \$2,500. Please contact Clerk, Cheryl Ochodnicki if you are interested.

Department Reports

1. Treasurer's Report
 - a. General fund balance is \$447,486.94
 - b. Fire dept. fund balance is \$224,844.14
 - c. Copper Harbor DDA (Downtown Development Authority) fund balance is \$87,046.17
 - d. Water fund balance is \$274,371.90
 - e. Sewer fund balance is \$212,177.69

2. Maintenance Department Report – Truman Jones
 - a. Changed out 1 grinder pump. Had to pump 200g out of can
 - b. Repaired a trash pump that had been in the basement
 - c. Changed 1 brass water meter to new style. Have 8 of 114 left to change.
 - d. Truman, Forrest and Kirk continue to update SOPs.
 - e. Looking into an auto upload meter reader
 - f. Met with MTU regarding bog mat project. Discussed Truman's and Forrest's hours spent on project.
 - g. Nearly done with winterizing equipment.
 - h. Installed a slop sink at the sewer plant – cold water only at this time.

3. Public Safety Report
 - a. Copper Harbor Fire Department – Put tracks on snobulance.

 - b. Lac La Belle Fire Department – See below

4. Cemetery Report
 - a. Gate closed and locked 12/16/24.
 - b. Pulled flags after Veteran's Day.
 - c. Reset a headstone thought to be stolen. Discovered it had fallen and been buried by dirt washing down hill.
 - d. A new base was created for a headstone.
 - e. Tree branches were trimmed.

Committee Reports

1. Copper Harbor Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – met in November, voted to have Zane (OHM) design and submit plans for parking near the park. Those plans came in today (12/10).

2. Recreation Plan Committee – met last week. Had a special meeting with Rock Solid regarding concepts and plans for Hunter's Point: ADA boardwalk; parking; ADA kayak launch – all at the west end of the harbor. Discussed Union Park – survey data: pulling

pieces together on plans for amenities and features; looking for grants to pursue and plan to have a list next week; getting together a proposal to present the Twp. Board.

3. Parks Committees
 - a. Lac La Belle – see above regarding Union Park.
 - b. Copper Harbor – nothing new.
4. Pedestrian & Bicycle Access Committee – did not meet.
5. Wellhead Protection Plan Committee – In January there will be an agenda item regarding 3-5-minute segments of educational outreach.
6. Housing Committee – met last week. Continued to brainstorm: opportunities; would housing be feasible on HWY41/M-26 lot? (already slated for parking, etc.); tiny houses - Doug McKenzie did research and got info from a developer; Lisa McKenzie (WUPHDR) attended a seminar and brought ideas on how to go about getting housing started. There is a housing toolkit/program to use for step-by-step guidance.
7. Materials Maintenance Committee – did not meet.

Old Business

1. **VOIP** Phone system for the Grant Township Office
 - a. REMC is coming next week to switch us over; Wednesday the 18th.
2. **Motion to approve** a Letter of Support for Staci Gibson to pursue grant opportunities for workforce Housing on her property on Block 10, Copper Harbor made by Meg, Art 2nd; Meg – Y, Greg – Y, Art – Y, Cheryl – Y, Staci – Abstain. **Motion Carries.**
3. Grant Township Hall Rental Agreement
 - a. Review updates.
 - b. Make several changes; email to board members; Meg will send to lawyer.

New Business

1. **Motions of support for the Grant Township Recreation Plan Committee**
 - a. Discussion: Sam noted the map would be based on input from the survey, community and committee; grants would drive the projects and development would take place in phases.
 - b. **Motion to approve** a request for proposal for an engineering firm to develop a Conceptual Map for Union Park that would provide a visual footprint of the desired amenities per the 2024 Union Park Survey made by Meg, Greg 2nd, all in favor. **Motion Carries Unanimously.**

- c. **Motion to approve** a request for proposal for detailed design drawings/construction documents based on Rock Solid's Hunters Point Concept Trail Plan made by Art, Cheryl 2nd, all in favor. **Motion Carries Unanimously.**

2. Glass recycling

- a. **Motion to stop** accepting glass into our single-stream recycling made by Meg, Staci 2nd, all in favor. **Motion Carries.**
- b. **Motion to approve** request from CCRI to include Grant Township in their press release (in conjunction with Waste Management and Marquette Material Recovery Center) to stop putting glass into single-stream recycling bins made by Meg, Greg 2nd, all in favor. **Motion Carries.**

3. **Motion to pursue** funding to develop a Master Plan for Grant Township made by Meg, Greg 2nd, all in favor. **Motion Carries.**

- a. Allow for strategic long-term budgeting
- b. Requirement for many State and Federal Grants
- c. Necessary first step should we enact a Zoning Ordinance at the township level

4. **Motion to approve** a Letter of Support for the Gull Rock Lighthouse Keepers Association to obtain funding from the Great Lakes Lighthouse Association for construction improvements of the Gull Rock Lighthouse made by Meg, Greg 2nd, all in favor. **Motion Carries.**

5. Board of Review

- a. **Motion to reappoint** the following to the Board of Review for two-year terms: Barry Koljonen, Marty Faassen, Tom Boost made by Art, Staci 2nd, all in favor. **Motion Carries.**
- b. **Motion to approve** required PA 660 Training for all BOR members and the BOR Secretary not to exceed \$600.00 made by Cheryl, Greg 2nd. Roll call vote Meg – Y, Art – Y, Greg – Y, Staci – Y, Cheryl – Y. **Motion Carries.**
- c. BOR met 12/10/24 – no business items.

Agenda Request (Guests) Section

Public Comment Period

- ❖ Policy/Rules for Public Comment
 - Any Resident/taxpayer wishing to address the Board, must be first recognized by the Chair, then identify themselves by name

- Each speaker will be given three (3) minutes to comment.
- Comments are to be directed solely to the board, not to audience
- No official Board action will take place on items presented in the public comment period. The Board will respond during a future public meeting as an agenda item
- Grant Township Board contact info: <https://granttownshipmi.org/contact.php>

- Truman discussed glass recycling. Requested we wait until March to put into effect so that the public has ample notice.
- Sam discussed short-term rentals and the need for affordable housing in Copper Harbor and Grant Township as a whole.

Financial Wrap-up

Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$53,776.29, broken down as follows:

Water.....	\$ 245.26
Sewer	\$ 2,755.51
Fire.....	\$ 10,564.70
General.....	\$ 10,615.09
Nov Payroll.....	\$ 26,437.27
Election Payroll.....	\$ 3,158.46

And adjourn, made by Art, Greg 2nd, roll call vote: Meg – Y, Art – Y, Staci – Y, Greg – Y, Cheryl – Y. **Motion Carries.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:05



Lac La Belle

Volunteer Fire Department

11819 Superior Street
Lac La Belle, MI. 49950
FIRE HALL PHONE: (906)-289-4777
EMAIL: llbvfd@pasty.com

CHIEF: RICHARD OLSON
(906)-369-2658

1ST ASST. CHIEF: STEVEN ERBISCH
(906)-370-4450

MONTHLY REPORT

November 2024

FIRE CALLS: 1 – tree on power wire Betsy

SERVICE CALLS: 0

EMS RUNS (FD ASSIST): 0

MONTHLY MEETING: November 7, 2024 6:50 PM. – 7 present rest excused or gone for winter.

- Rescue truck picked up today – discussion on finishing up project and grant.
- Christmas Party – December 14, 2024 6:00 PM..
- Brush truck discussion – Reece White quote and discussion

MONTHLY TRAINING: November 7, 2024 – 5:45 PM – 7 present

- Go over new rescue truck
- Small equipment training
- Run trucks and pump – flow foam on 1
- Wash rescue truck

OTHER: N/A

FIRST RESPONDER CALLS: None

SUBMITTED: Richard Olson

Chief Lac La Belle VFD

DATE: 12/2/24



Keweenaw County Fire Training Committee

Organized 2020

KeweenawFireTraining@gmail.com



November 17, 2024

Meg Vivian North
Supervisor, Grant Township
P. O. Box 76
Copper Harbor, Michigan 49918

Greetings Supervisor North,

I apologize for the tardiness of this letter. I wish to recognize Lac La Belle Fire Chief Richard Olson and Firefighter Tom Talvensaari for their invaluable assistance provided to the Keweenaw County Firefighter 1 course this summer. On August 3rd, I conducted an all day training session in Little Betsy, which consisted of water supply operations. The students drafted water from Lake Superior and operated various hoselines throughout the day. Chief Olson was kind enough to allow use of his engine and Firefighter Talvensaari brought it to the training and operated it throughout the day. Chief Olson offered his expertise and was an asset to the training program.

Lac La Belle recruit firefighters Ryan Leavitt, Greg Shelonzek and Joseph Wolford participated in the training and performed admirably. All three have since passed the Michigan Firefighter 1 certification tests and are serving their community with honor. These individuals worked diligently throughout the course and were a pleasure to have in class. Seldom does a volunteer fire department anywhere have three new recruits. To have three new operational members in Lac La Belle is phenomenal!

I look forward to working with all of these individuals in the future and I suspect they will continue to enhance their knowledge, skills and abilities through further training opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Defina".

Michael Defina
Chairman

Keweenaw County Fire Training Committee



Grant Township Board
220 Gratiot Street
Copper Harbor, Mi 49918
(906) 289-4292

12/01/24

Dear Staci Gibson,

On behalf of the Grant Township Board, we are writing to express our wholehearted support for your intent to develop Workforce Housing on Lots 17 and 18 of Block 10 in Copper Harbor.

This initiative represents one of the most civic-minded endeavors our community has witnessed in recent times. As properties in our area increasingly transition to Short-Term Rentals, the critical need for affordable housing solutions becomes ever more urgent. The availability of reasonably priced accommodations is essential for those who fill indispensable roles in our community—teachers, township employees, service industry staff, and other vital contributors to our shared well-being.

Your vision for this project demonstrates a commitment to ensuring that Copper Harbor remains a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community. By prioritizing Workforce Housing, you are addressing a pressing challenge with foresight and compassion.

The Grant Township Board fully endorses this endeavor and applauds your leadership in tackling such an essential issue. Please know that you have our full support in moving this project forward, and we stand ready to assist in any way possible to help make this vision a reality.

Thank you for your dedication to our community's future.

Sincerely,

Meg Vivian North, Grant Township Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meg Vivian North", is written over the printed name.

Cheryl Ochodnicki, Grant Township Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Ochodnicki", is written over the printed name.

Greg Lis, Grant Township Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Lis", is written over the printed name.

Art Davis, Grant Township Trustee

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