

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 14, 2023**

**PERE MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
held at 1699 S. Pere Marquette Highway, Ludington MI 49431

Board members present: Supervisor Gerald Bleau; Clerk Rachelle Enbody; Treasurer Karie Bleau; Trustees: Andrew Kmetz, James Nordlund Sr., Henry Rasmussen and Ronald Soberalski.

Board member(s) absent: No members absent.

Also present: County Commissioner Lew Squires, Riley Kelley (Ludington Daily News), Larry Gaylord, and nineteen guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by the Supervisor. Invocation was given by Nordlund; Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Moved** by Kmetz, seconded by Rasmussen to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 24, 2023 as presented.

Motion carried.

SHERIFF / COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT(S): County Commissioner Lew Squires reported on the most recent meeting of the Mason County Board of Commissioners.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: The Fire Department monthly report was included in the board packet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was held.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Moved** by Kmetz, seconded by Nordlund to add Item e. "**Discussion / Decision of Deer Hunting in Township Parks**" to the agenda and to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications were included with the board packet: Fourteen emails were received in opposition of the deer cull. One email was received in opposition of the timber sale proposal for Memorial Tree Park (project was previously rescinded). A letter of communications was received from Charter Communications regarding a change to the channel line-up. A letter of communication from Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority regarding the distribution of excess net assets from MMRMA to participating municipalities. A letter of communication from a resident regarding the 2021 water and sewer billing error requesting better billing auditing and accountability. A letter of communication from Karie Bleau was included in response to the billing error communication. A letter of communication requesting a forensic examination be completed on all 2022 Pere Marquette Charter Township Treasurer records was received by individual board members from the requestor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: a. **Consider 2021 Water / Sewer Billing Determination** – Board members reviewed a letter that K. Bleau drafted in response to the customers affected by the 2021 water/sewer billing error. The error occurred because the charges for services for specific meter sizes were billed at 2020 rates instead of 2021 rates. The board determined that customers have until 12/31/2023 to remit payment for the portion of the billing amount affected by the billing error.

**Moved** by Nordlund, seconded by Rasmussen to approve the draft letter as amended, to allow customers until 12/31/2023 to remit payment for the portion of water and sewer services affected by the 2021 billing error.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: a. **Consider Agreement for the Collection of Summer Property Taxes** – MCL 211.43 subsections (12) and (13) allow for agreements between the township and a taxing unit that authorize the township to retain the earned interest on that taxing units' collections. The Ludington Area School District Agreement authorizes a reimbursement of \$4.00 per parcel for the collection of summer property taxes for the school district.

**Moved** by K. Bleau, seconded by Rasmussen to enter into an agreement with the Ludington Area School District for the collection of 2023 summer property taxes at a reimbursed amount of \$4.00 per parcel and to authorize the Clerk and Treasurer to sign the agreement on behalf of the Township.

Motion carried.

b. **Consider Funding Support for the Household Hazardous Waste Program** – Board members reviewed a request from the Manistee, Mason, and Oceana Conservation Districts for funding support for the Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. The allocation request from municipalities remains the same as in 2022 at .40¢ per capita. The township has participated since the program began in 2007.

**Moved** by Enbody, seconded by Kmetz to enter into a contract and agreement with the Manistee, Mason, and Oceana Conservation Districts to participate in the Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program scheduled for Saturday, August 19, 2023, to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement on behalf of the township and to allocate \$966.40 for the 2023 program.

Motion carried.

c. **Consider Funding Support for Chamber Alliance of Mason County** – Board members reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Chamber Alliance of Mason County and Pere Marquette Charter Township. The agreement outlines the partnership and financial support for economic development services for a three-year commitment of \$15,000.00 annually for 2023, 2024, and 2025.

**Moved** by Kmetz, seconded by Soberalski to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Chamber Alliance of Mason County and Pere Marquette Charter Township to support the contracted economic development services with The Right Place economic development agency for the amount of \$15,000.00 for the year 2023 only, to strike commitment years 2024 and 2025 from the agreement, and to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement on behalf of the Township.

Motion carried.

d. **Consider Forensic Audit** – Board members reviewed three proposals for forensic audit services.

**Moved** by Soberalski, seconded by Kmetz to postpone consideration of forensic audit services until the next board meeting.

Motion carried.

e. **Discussion / Decision of Deer Hunting in Township Parks** – Board members discussed the 2023 Deer Management Plan. It has been brought to the attention of the board that the plan conflicts with the Township's Code of Ordinances, specifically:

Sec. 22-34 - Firearms and weapons.

Except as otherwise provided in section 22-38, it shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (1) Discharge a firearm of any kind or description;
- (2) Shoot and/or discharge an air gun, gas gun, spring-loaded gun or slingshot; or
- (3) Shoot with a bow and arrow, except during established hunting seasons on lands open to hunting. This provision does not apply to a target range or archery range officially established by the township board or its representatives.

and

Sec. 22-36. - Wildlife.

Except as otherwise provided in section 22-38, it is unlawful for any person to trap, kill, wound, capture or intentionally disturb any bird, animal or other wildlife, except during established hunting and trapping seasons on lands open to hunting or trapping. The township board may except from the provision of this rule township parks and recreation areas, or parts thereof, when in the opinion of the township board such exception will best serve the public interest.

**Moved** by Kmetz, seconded by Soberalski to rescind the 2023 Deer Management Plan.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Architectural Control Committee (G. Bleau, Rasmussen): Reported the Architectural Control Committee will meet on February 15, 2023.

Roads Committee (Nordlund, Kmetz, Rasmussen): Reported the 2023 potential road projects have been submitted to the Mason County Road Commission to obtain cost estimates.

TRUSTEE / OTHER REPORTS: Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (G. Bleau, Rasmussen): Reported the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority will meet next month.

Western Mason County Fire District Authority (G. Bleau, Kmetz): Kmetz reported that the Fire Authority set the meeting dates for 2023 and had a presentation from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: **Moved** by Soberalski, seconded by Kmetz to move into Committee of the Whole at 4:58 p.m. Motion carried. Various topics discussed with no action taken:

Discussion on township board meeting minutes and content. The Open Meetings Act requires that the minutes show the date, time, place, members present, members absent, and decisions made at the meeting. People speaking during public comment are not required to register or otherwise provide their name or address.

Discussion on creating video recordings of township board meetings, making the recordings available to the public and best practices for video recordings. G. Bleau stated he will research the matter.

**Moved** by Soberalski, seconded by Nordlund to return to regular session at 5:03 p.m. Motion carried.

OFFICERS REPORTS: Clerk (Enbody) – Enbody provided a list of current invoices for approval.

**Moved** by Enbody, seconded by K. Bleau to approve payment of invoices in the amount of \$639,186.42.

Motion carried.

Treasurer (K. Bleau) – Provided a report of bank balances for January 2023. Reported she intends to move funds from the general checking account into investment products upon completion of tax collection.

Supervisor (G. Bleau) – Reported suspending the deer cull earlier in the month. Reported receiving the grant for tire clean up at the S. Pere Marquette Highway property and that the purchase agreement for the final portions of the S. Pere Marquette Hwy properties requires the closing to take place between February 15 and March 31.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was held.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was held.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by consent at 5:29 p.m.

Rachelle D. Enbody, MiPMC<sup>2</sup>, CMC Township Clerk

Gerald A. Bleau, Township Supervisor