

REGULAR MEETING
February 28, 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, Henry Rasmussen, and Ronald Soberalski.
Board member(s) absent: Trustee James Nordlund Sr.
Also present: Riley Kelley (Ludington Daily News) and twenty-five guests.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Supervisor. Invocation was given by G. Bleau; Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Moved** by Soberalski, seconded by Kmetz to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting as presented.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was held.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Moved** by G. Bleau, seconded by Kmetz to remove Item e. **Consider Letter of Resignation** from the agenda and to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: a. **Consider Proposals for Forensic Audit** – Board members heard presentations from Yeo & Yeo, P.C. CPA's & Advisors, Plante Moran, PLLC, and Maner Costerisan for forensic accounting services. Each presentation included an overview of the qualifications of the members from each team and the scope of services to be provided.

VENDOR	ESTIMATED FEES for SERVICES	
Maner Costerisan \$190-\$380/hour	Phase 1	\$40,000
	Phase 2	TBD
Plante Moran \$325/hour (blended rate)	2018-2022	\$40,300
Yeo & Yeo \$170-\$430/hour	2022 only (\$10,000 retainer)	\$25-\$30,000

Moved by Soberalski, seconded by Enbody to approve the forensic accounting services proposal from Plante Moran at an estimated cost of \$40,300.00.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: a. **Consider Michigan Statewide Authoritative Imagery and Lidar Program (MiSAIL) State of Michigan Partner Agreement** – The agreement would provide for aerial digital imagery maps of the township that will integrate with the township's assessing and other software programs.

Moved by K. Bleau, seconded by Rasmussen to approve the MiSAIL Agreement to establish the cost, ownership, licensing, and restrictions on the purchase and use of digital orthoimagery data and lidar data collected by the State of Michigan per the specifications defined in the State's Contract No. 2100000218 for a total cost of \$9,182.16 and to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Township.

Motion carried.

b. **Consider METRO Act Right of Way Telecommunications Permit** – Public Act 48 of 2002 created the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunication Rights-of-Way Oversight (METRO) Authority whose purpose was to assist telecommunication providers in obtaining permits without having to pay excessive fees or endure unnecessary delays. Telecommunication providers are required to pay an annual maintenance fee to the Local Community Stabilization Authority, which assumed the role of the METRO Authority under Public Act 88 of 2014. The Authority disburses the fee(s) to each eligible municipality.

Moved by Enbody, seconded by Soberalski to approve the application or a METRO Act Right of Way Telecommunications Bilateral Permit from Frontier North, Inc. and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the permit.

Motion carried.

c. **Consider Request for Letter of Support / Broadband Services** – Enbody explained she had received a phone call from Charter Communications requesting a letter of support of a MI ROBIN Broadband Grant application by Charter Communications that, if funded, would fill in many of the unserved/underserved gaps in broadband services in Pere Marquette Charter Township.

Moved by Enbody, seconded by Soberalski to approve the submission of a letter of support for Charter Communications to apply for a MI ROBIN Broadband Grant in Mason County contingent upon verification that Charter Communications grant application does not interfere with the Mason County's broadband initiative.

Motion carried.

d. **Consider Letter of Resignation** – removed

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: **Moved** by Kmetz, seconded by Soberalski to move into Committee of the Whole at 7:18 p.m. Motion carried. Various topics discussed with no action taken:

- Discussion regarding the status of the report regarding the Financial Consulting Services from Maner Costerisan. G. Bleau reported that he is optimistic that the report will be presented at the next board meeting.
- Discussion regarding the security cameras and if the system is still recording audio. G. Bleau stated that the cameras came from the factory with the audio already activated and the person that installed the system has informed G. Bleau that the audio is now off.
- Discussion regarding the report will be available for the security assessment that was performed. G. Bleau stated he has not received it yet but anticipates a detailed report with recommendations.
- Discussion requesting the personnel director have written reports for the board and attend meetings if needed.
- Discussion regarding the status of the purchase of the properties at 932 and 946 S. Pere Marquette Highway. G. Bleau stated he had received a request for an extension of the closing date.
- G. Bleau reported that the township received a scrap tire grant in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the removal of the scrap tires on the previously purchased property on S. Pere Marquette Highway and that there is another court hearing on Friday, March 3rd on the Pallet Recycle matter.
- Discussion regarding the consultant scheduled to work with the administration and employees on conflict resolution. G. Bleau stated that G. Bleau, K. Bleau, and Enbody had a very productive meeting with the consultant and were given directives to achieve before meeting with the staff. The second meeting with the administration and staff have been postponed as the administrative officials have been unable to meet on the directives given by the consultant.
- Discussion asking if the board would address the recent resignations. G. Bleau stated he will address it during the announcements.

Moved by Kmetz, seconded by Soberalski to return to regular session at 7:29 p.m. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: G. Bleau stated the letter of resignation was removed from the agenda. A letter of resignation was received from Administrative Assistant Lisa Nagel on February 21, 2023, effective March 6, 2023 and another was received from Administrative Assistant Ashley Hall on February 27, 2023, effective March 13, 2023. Both resignation letters were received by Kristin Lange while G. Bleau was on vacation. K. Lange contacted the township attorney who indicated that the letters of resignation and the requests therein did not require board approval. G. Bleau accepted the resignations and approved the payout of benefits per the personnel policy. G. Bleau stated that he would not be answering any questions pertaining to personnel matters.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was held.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.