

**REGULAR MEETING
July 11, 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: Mason County Commissioner Lewis Squires, Sheriff Kim Cole, Riley Kelley (Ludington Daily News), Larry Gaylord and numerous 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 Rasmussen, seconded by Kmetz to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 27, 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.

Sheriff Cole reported on fifty-five calls for service in June 2023.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Kmetz reported on the most recent meeting of the Fire Department and stated that members had questions that they would like answered before signing the Conflict of Interest Policy and also asked about the status of the new door lock system for the Fire Department. G. Bleau stated that not all the quotes were in for the lock system.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Department reports were received.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was held.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Moved** by Soberalski, seconded by Kmetz to add **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Item A. Discussion of Outcalt Property to the agenda and to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Enbody reported communications received include a letter from Charter Communications regarding changes to the channel lineup and the 6/22/2023 draft minutes of the Lincoln Lake Improvement Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Western Mason County Fire District Authority (G. Bleau, Kmetz): G. Bleau reported that the Fire Authority heard the 2022 audit presentation and approved spending for equipment for the City of Ludington.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: A. **Discussion of Outcalt Property (added)** – Board members discussed the purchase of the property at 932 and 946 S. Pere Marquette Highway. The purchase agreement was signed in 2022 with a closing date in 2023. The seller requested an extension in early 2023. The Township Attorney, at the direction of the board, created an addendum to the purchase agreement which was delivered to the seller. There has been no response received by the Township from the seller in response to the addendum.

Mr. Outcalt addressed the board to explain that it is taking longer than expected to remove his personal belongings from the property. Mr. Outcalt requested a copy of documentation of environmental testing performed on the property and the notification of the property closing. G. Bleau asked that Mr. Outcalt to provide a written request to the Township for the documentation.

The board discussed that the original closing date had been set for March 2023 and options were discussed for rescinding, extending, or enforcing the purchase agreement.

Moved by Soberalski, seconded by Kmetz to enforce the purchase agreement for the sale of the property at 932 and 946 S. Pere Marquette Highway.

Roll call vote: Yes: Soberalski, Rasmussen, K. Bleau, G. Bleau, Enbody, Kmetz, and Nordlund.
 No: None.
 Absent: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: A. **Consider Certification of the 2023 Millage Rates for Township Operation and Public Transportation** – A public hearing was held on December 13, 2022 to propose and adopt the 2023 budgets and levy(s). The millage rates of 2.85 mills for the General Fund and .20 mills for the Transportation Fund were used to determine the 2023 budgets and were a subject of the hearing. The Township Operation millage has remained at 2.85 mills since 2004.

Moved by Nordlund, seconded by Enbody to certify the taxes to be levied in 2023 at 2.85 mills for township operation and 0.20 mills for public transportation.

Motion carried.

OFFICERS REPORTS: Trustees – No reports.

Clerk (Enbody) – Reported that the 2022 Audited Financial Statements are complete and have been filed with the State of Michigan. The other required financial reports including the F-65 (Annual Local Unit Fiscal Report), Qualifying Statement, and Continuing Disclosure have all been filed with the appropriate entity(s). Reported working on the completion of documentation for the required fiscal reporting to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust Fund for the Pere Marquette Conservation Park River Access Project and compiling financial data for grant reporting for the numerous grants for the Project. Reported working on department budgets for Clerk and Elections, day-to-day operations of accounts payable, payroll, and journal entries for financial recording. Enbody distributed 2023 second quarter financial reports to board members and provided a list of current invoices for approval.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES: **Moved** by Enbody, seconded by Rasmussen to approve payment of invoices in the amount of \$665,017.99.

Motion carried.

Treasurer (K. Bleau) – Provided a report with bank balances for June 2023. Reported that tax collection has begun, the tax bills went out on time, the bank accounts are healthy, purchased a new three-year CD at a rate of 5.5% interest, and stated that the bank statements are available to be reviewed.

Supervisor (G. Bleau) – G. Bleau stated that he intended to report on the Outcalt property for his report but the matter was added to the agenda and discussed. Reported that he has not been notified of the current status of the Pallets Recycle property. The month of June was very healthy for building permits with permits issued for two new homes having an estimated construction value of over six million.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was held.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by consent at 4:49 p.m.

Rachelle D. Enbody, MiPMC², CMC Township Clerk

Gerald A. Bleau, Township Supervisor