

May 8, 2023

The regular meeting of the Chocolay Township Board was held on Monday, May 8, 2023, in the Chocolay Township Fire Hall. Supervisor Bohjanen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

TOWNSHIP BOARD.

PRESENT: Richard Bohjanen, Max Engle, Ben Zybert, David Lynch, Don Rhein, Judy White, Kendra Symbal

STAFF PRESENT: William De Groot, Suzanne Sundell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

White moved, Lynch supported to approve the agenda as amended (***addition of Supervisor's Report after Consent Agenda***).

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Baldwin, 6565 US 41 South – spoke regarding the property at 6565 US 41 South and zoning associated with the parcel. This parcel is currently zoned Industrial – this was a family home for the past 50 years. Has interested buyers but would not be able to rebuild if something were to happen.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting – Regular Meeting, April 10, 2023.
- B. Approve Revenue and Expenditure Reports –April 2023.
- C. Approve Bills Payable, Check Register Reports – April 13, 2023 (Check # 26066 - 26085, in the amount of \$14,272.17), and April 26, 2023 (Check # 26086 – 26115, in the amount of \$44,844.24).
- D. Approve Bills Payable – Regular Payroll of April 13, 2023 (Check #'s DD3215 – DD3250 and Check #'s 11344 - 11349, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$43,608.45), and Regular Payroll of April 27, 2023 (Check #'s DD3251 – DD3280 and Check #'s 11350 – 11355, Federal State, and MERS in the amount of \$45,183.35).

Zybert moved, Lynch supported to approve the consent agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

FEMA Flood Plain Risk Map – FEMA has published 2 notifications in the Mining Journal. This gives property owners the opportunity to challenge the map. Property owners have 90 days to contest the map. Our FEMA coordinator at the Township is Dale Throenle.

Kendra Symbal (Trustee) has taken a new position and is unable to attend the Monday night meetings. Supervisor Bohjanen asked if the Board would be okay with moving the meeting time to 6:00 on Monday.

Engle moved, Zyburt supported that the meeting time be changed from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm. The motion was amended by Zyburt, supported by Engle to begin this time change with the July meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Symbal will also not be able to be our representative at the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (Landfill) meeting – the third Wednesday of the month at 4:00 pm at the landfill. There is also a Zoom option. White volunteered to be the representative.

TREASURER’S REPORT - NONE

CLERK’S REPORT

Clerk Engle stated that the election went well – no trouble with the pollbooks. The proposal passed by about 1,500 votes. White asked about in person voting – Engle indicated that 95 voted in Precinct 2, 77 in Precinct 1, and 1,046 voted absentee.

PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

PRESENTATION – NONE

INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – FIRST READING.

White asked about what type of feedback was given at the Public Hearing in the Planning Commission. S. Gencheff (Planning Commissioner) was at the meeting and replied that residents were concerned that residential was going to be popping up in the Industrial zone. This was then explained that it was a Conditional Use.

Rhein questioned if the Board would be able to approve after the first reading. Township Manager De Groot indicated that at this point we have met the legal requirements, so the Board would be able to proceed with approval. Supervisor Bohjanen also indicated that it is a pretty minimal change, but one step that has been taken before passing is sending the draft to the Marquette County Planning Commission for recommendation.

White moved, Rhein supported that the Chocolay Township Board accept the draft Industrial District Conditional Use Proposal as presented and foregoing the second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM THE SEWER FUND TO COMPLETE THE SEWER MAIN INSPECTION PROGRAM.

2023 SEWER FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT TO REFLECT INCREASE IN CAPITAL OUTLAY ACCOUNT

Lynch moved, Rhein supported that:

Whereas, a budget was adopted by the Chocolay Township Board to govern the anticipated Sewer Fund expenditures of the Township on December 12, 2022 for fiscal year 2023, and Whereas, as a result of unanticipated expenditures it is necessary to modify the aforesaid budget, Now Therefore, Be It Hereby Resolved, that the aforesaid budget be modified as follows:

ACCOUNT	PREVIOUS BUDGET	CHANGE	AMENDED BUDGET
REVENUE			
Wastewater Treatment – Miscellaneous 571.571.698	5,000.00	30,000.00	35,000.00
EXPENDITURE			
Wastewater Treatment – Capital Outlay 571.571.957.000	20,000.00	30,000.00	50,000.00

ROLL CALL

AYES: Rhein, Lynch, White, Zybert, Engle, Bohjanen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Symbal

MOTION CARRIED

AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND

Zybert moved, White supported that the Chocolay Township Board authorize the expenditure of funds from 571.571.957 not to exceed \$45,000.00 to Great Lakes T.V. Seal to televise and complete our sewer main inspection program.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Rhein, Lynch, White, Zybert, Engle, Bohjanen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Symbal

MOTION CARRIED

SILVER CREEK TENNIS COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PASSPORT GRANT APPLICATION.

RECREATION PASSPORT GRANT PROGRAM

RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION-LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT MATCH WITH DONATED FUNDS

White moved, Lynch supported that:

WHEREAS, The Chocolay Township Board supports the submission of an application titled “Silver Creek Tennis Court Improvement” to the Recreation Passport Grant Program for development of a renovated pickleball/tennis facility at Silver Creek Recreation Area; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed application is supported by the Township’s 5-Year Approved Parks and Recreation Plan; and,

WHEREAS, Charter Township of Chocolay is hereby making a financial commitment to the project in the amount of \$28,250 matching funds, in cash and/or force account; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chocolay Township Board hereby authorizes submission of a Recreation Passport Grant Program application for \$84,750, and further resolves to make available a local match through financial commitment of \$28,250 (25%) of a \$113,000 project cost during the 2024 fiscal year.

AYES: Rhein, Lynch, White, Zyburt, Engle, Bohjanen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Symbal

RESOLUTION APPROVED.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the Chocolay Township Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Chocolay at their regular meeting held on May 8th, 2023 at 5:30p.m. in the Chocolay Township Fire Hall, with a quorum present.

_____ Dated: _____
Clerk

DISCUSS REPLACEMENT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BRUSH TRUCK.

Manager De Groot stated that last December we had a DOT inspection on our brush truck. Historically we would take a DPW truck to outfit for its brush truck. At the DOT inspection, it was determined that this truck should be taken out of operation.

There is now discussion going on in the Fire Department as to what is needed, capabilities, and how often the truck would get used. There are duty ready wildland trucks which run about \$175,000 - \$200,000. They are outfitted with an enclosed tank and are a step-down version of our newest truck. There are also ¾ or 1 ton trucks that could be used and outfitted. The department has been challenged to compare these two types of trucks. No proposal has been put together yet. This is not in our budget for this year.

Mutual aid had brush trucks available and we have notified Central Dispatch that we are not able to respond. The DNR continues to be backup.

Engle felt that to purchase the totally outfitted truck would make more sense.

Manager De Groot indicated that the Fire Department would still need to be able to justify the purchase. There may also be a timing issue with a specialized truck. Discussion right now is to determine the actual use of the truck. Wildland truck versus multi use truck versus command vehicle.

Rhein asked if the old truck had ever been sold – De Groot indicated that it had been sold to Wells Township and they are extremely happy with it.

DISCUSS PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTY HOUSING TARGET ANALYSIS STUDY.

Lynch moved, Zyburt supported that the Chocolay Township Board amend the FY 2023 Budget, Township Board allocation, from 101-103.000-956.000 Miscellaneous from \$11,700.00 to \$15,200.00 (increase \$3,500.00) to include the participation in a County Target Market Analysis.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Rhein, Lynch, Zyburt, Engle, Bohjanen

NAYS: White

ABSENT: Symbal

MOTION CARRIED

MANAGER UPDATE FOR THE SEWER AND BUDGET

Sewer – almost over as we will soon be able to see if our grass is growing. Once this happens, he will start working with Oberstar to close out the project.

Budget – he will be bring the priority discussion to the next meeting in preparation for beginning to put together the draft budget for 2024.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Don Rhein – None

Kendra Symbal – Absent

Judy White – Attended the funeral on Saturday for Leo Goodwin (belonged to the senior group and was a past firefighter and fire chief). Wanted to commend the Fire Department (past and present members) for their attendance and the “Final Call” and sirens given in respect to Leo.

Dave Lynch – None

Ben Zyburt – None

Max Engle - None

Richard Bohjanen – Thanked the Board for carrying out the meeting in his absence last month and to Dave Lynch for “efficiently” running the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

Rhein moved, Lynch supported that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- A. Minutes – Chocolay Township Planning Commission; Regular Meeting of April 17, 2023, Draft.
- B. Minutes - Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, Regular Meeting of April 19, 2023, Draft.

- C. Minutes – Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, Stockholder’s Meeting of April 19, 2023, Draft
- D. Minutes – Marquette Area Wastewater Advisory Board, Regular Meeting of March 14, 2023.
- E. Information – Chocolay Township Newsletter – April 2023

Max Engle, Clerk

Richard Bohjanen, Supervisor