

November 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Chocolay Township Board was held on Monday, November 13, 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, David Lynch, Judy White, Don Rhein

ABSENT: Ben Zyburt (excused), Kendra Symbal

STAFF PRESENT: William De Groot, Suzanne Sundell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Rhein moved, Lynch supported to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann LaChance, 1891 M-28 East – concerned about a zoning issue on residential property near her. Lots of truck traffic and hauling of large boulders – property appears to be being used as a storage / contractor yard. She had already spoke with the Zoning Administrator and just wanted the Board to be aware of what’s going on out there.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting – Regular Meeting October 9, 2023.
- B. Approve Revenue and Expenditure Reports – October 2023.
- C. Approve Bills Payable, Check Register Reports – October 12, 2023 (Check #26416 – 24639, in the amount of \$16,581.60) and October 25, 2023 (Check # 26440 – 26474, in the amount of \$145,384.14).
- D. Approve Bills Payable – Regular Payroll of October 12, 2023 (Check #'s DD3645 – DD3681 and Check #'s 11423 – 11428, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$47,652.82) and Regular Payroll of October 26, 2023 (Check #'s DD3682 – DD3712 and Check #'s 11429 – 11434, Federal State, and MERS in the amount of \$49,411.74).

Rhein moved, White supported to approve the consent agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Supervisor Bohjanen reported that the temporary assessing help and project has been brought to completion. The Township is on schedule with assessments. He also read a card from San Diego, CA that had been received regarding the signs on M-28 East.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Engle reported that the Presidential Primary will be held on February 27, 2024, as the legislature adjourned on November 14, 2023. This also puts into place other provisions of Proposal 2022-2 regarding things such as Early Voting.

TREASURER'S REPORT - NONE

PUBLIC HEARING – PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2024 TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Public Hearing opened at 5:40 p.m.

Township Manager De Groot went over the process of assembling a budget including the department input on their expenditures for the coming year, the manager's input on where the revenue is expected to come from, grant opportunities, etc. This is approximately a 2-month process. He normally tries to build a budget with expenses, figure out which capital opportunities are requested for the coming year, and then look at revenue sources. The budget adherence process – once approved it then is loaded into our BS&A accounting software and distributed to our department heads.

White felt this was a good overview – the Board agreed.

Public Hearing Closed at 5:50 pm.

PRESENTATIONS – NONE

2024 DRAFT BUDGET BOARD REVIEW

Supervisor Bohjanen asked if there were any comment from the Board.

Manager De Groot also reported to the Board that a few numbers may be changing – will need to increase the budget for our health insurance benefit program – primarily the third-party health reimbursement. There has also been an added expense in the Police Department due to State audit findings, so another \$10,000 will need to be added for cybersecurity software and monitoring.

The General Appropriations Act for approval of the budget will be brought to the Board at the December meeting.

CONSIDER APPLICATION FOR THE MICHIGAN COASTAL GRANT FOR MARINA PARK FUNDING

**EGLE'S MICHIGAN COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT PROGRAM  
RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMISSION OF WATER RESOURCES DIVISION GRANT APPLICATION  
FOR RIVER ACCESS PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

White moved, Rhein supported that:

**WHEREAS**, the developed portion of the park needs improvements, and  
**WHEREAS**, the undeveloped portion of the park is both underutilized and subject to coastal impacts, and  
**WHEREAS**, funding is available from the U.S. Department of Commerce through the Water Resources Division, and  
**WHEREAS**, Total project cost is estimated to be \$298,000, 50 percent of which would be funded through the Water Resources Division and 50 percent would be local match;  
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chocolay Township Board hereby authorizes submission of the grant application to the Water Resources Division in the amount of \$149,000 for phased improvements to River Access Park and commits that the local match shall be provided if the project is funded.

AYES: Rhein, White, Lynch, Engle, Bohjanen  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Zyburt, Symbal  
RESOLUTION APPROVED.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the Chocolay Township Board of Trustees at their regular meeting held on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:30p.m. in the Chocolay Township Fire Hall, with a quorum present.

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Max L Engle, Township Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CONSIDER FOIA POLICY AND SUMMARY UPDATES**

Lynch moved, White supported to adopt the proposed revisions to the Chocolay Township FOIA Procedures and Guidelines and the Public Summary thereof for compliance with the amendments to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, include correcting the website address from chocolay.org to chocolay.gov.

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Bohjanen questioned if there could be a one-page how to for the public so they would know what to do to request information. Clerk Engle indicated he would work on this.

**CONSIDER OPEN LETTER TO MTA FOR ANNUAL REVIEW OF MTA POLICY PRIORITIES PLATFORM**

Supervisor Bohjanen prepared a letter for Board review and consent to be submitted to MTA encouraging the State to fund environmental policy, rather than creating statewide unfunded mandates for environmental issues and the funding of PFOS research.

Rhein moved, Lynch supported to approve the submittal of the letter to MTA for their annual meeting discussion.

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER THREE YEAR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR THE LIFT STATIONS EMERGENCY GENERATORS THROUGH ORIGINAL VENDOR WOLVERINE POWER SYSTEMS

Lynch moved, Engle supported that the Board authorize the Township Manager to enter into a three-year maintenance contract with Wolverine Power Systems for the maintenance of the Township standby generators at all of the sewer lift stations.

MOTION CARRIED

REVIEW AND CONSIDER ANNUAL SEWER DELINQUENT BILLING LIST

White moved, Rhein supported to accept the list of delinquent sewer charges and penalties as allowed in Ordinance 39, Division 6, 2.6.6 (B) (3) to be added to the Chocolay Township December tax roll.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Rhein, White, Lynch, Engle, Bohjanen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Zyburt, Symbal

MANAGER UPDATE FOR THE SEWER AND BUDGET

Sewer – the sewer project is finally done and paid for. The Township had a final meeting with Oberstar and presented the final payment. We are currently 2 – 3 years in on warranties.

Budget – will be finalizing the numbers over the next couple of weeks for final approval at the December meeting. Staff will also be bringing some budget amendments for 2023 to the Board at the next meeting.

Information on property that was brought up in Public Comment earlier –

Staff has been in communication with the property owner and the Army Corps of Engineers is allowing the use of boulders on M-28 properties. This property is also somehow being used as a temporary storage. The Township is still investigating.

Discussion on things going on at the casino – all the land is in tribal trust so the Township is not able to regulate. The Iron Ore Heritage Trail has been approved to extend to Lakenenland, a portion of that will go over tribal land so the IOHT will need approval.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Don Rhein – reported that the Town Hall meetings were successful with a good turnout. There was lots of feedback, and he feels it was good for the community.

Kendra Symbal – Absent

Judy White – Was happy that the Town Hall meetings were successful and that there is community input.

Dave Lynch – None

Ben Zyburt – Absent

Max Engle – None

Richard Bohjanen – None

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

Lynch moved, Rhein supported that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- A. Minutes – Chocolay Township Planning Commission; Public Work Session October 10, 2023, Draft.
- B. Minutes – Chocolay Township Planning Commission; Public Work Session of October 17, 2023, Draft.
- C. Minutes - Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, Regular Meeting of September 20, 2023, Draft.
- D. Minutes – Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, Special Meeting of October 5, 2023, Draft.
- E. Minutes – Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, Special Meeting of October 10, 2023, Draft.
- F. Information – Chocolay Township Newsletter – October 2023.

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Max Engle, Clerk

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Richard Bohjanen, Supervisor