

January 8, 2024

The regular meeting of the Chocolay Township Board was held on Monday, January 8, 2024, 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 Zyburt, David Lynch, Judy White, Don Rhein

ABSENT: Kendra Symbal

STAFF PRESENT: William De Groot, Suzanne Sundell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Supervisor Bohjanen stated that the agenda item for Presentations was to present the findings from the 2023 Sewer Main and Lateral inspection. The presenter is unable to be at the meeting, so he would suggest that this be moved to the March meeting.

White moved, Lynch supported to approve the agenda as amended, to postpone the Sewer presentation to the March meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sam Elder, 125 East Main – spoke on House Bill 5120 and Senate Bill 271 regarding solar farms. He feels these decisions should be made by the township and not by people downstate. Elder stated that Senate Bill 271 directly affects the Board of Light and Power. Elder questioned if the Michigan Townships were involved in this.

Supervisor Bohjanen indicated that the legislature has gone ahead with this and the Michigan Townships Association is fighting against it. At this point, it would take a change of legislators to change this.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting – Regular Meeting December 11, 2023.
- B. Approve Revenue and Expenditure Reports – December 2023 (Unaudited).
- C. Approve Bills Payable, Check Register Reports – December 12, 2023 (Check #26520 – 26543, in the amount of \$88,306.13) and December 28, 2023 (Check # 26544 – 26574, in the amount of \$397,626.91).
- D. Approve Bills Payable – Longevity Payroll of December 4, 2023 (Check #'s DD3778 – DD3786, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$4,941.30), Regular Payroll of December 7, 2023 (Check #'s DD3787 – DD3820 and Check #'s 11447 – 11452, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$45,419.06), and Regular Payroll of December 21, 2023 (Check #'s DD3821 –

DD3867 and Check #'s 11453 – 11458, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$49,001.92).

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

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Bohjanen continues to meet with the Assessor monthly. Everything is on schedule. There will be a need to look for an Assessing Assistant in the spring.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Engle indicated that the Absentee Ballot applications have gone out for the Presidential Primary on February 27, 2024. Voters are now starting to change to the Permanent Ballot list.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Zyburt indicated that there were no maturities over the last quarter.

PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

PRESENTATIONS – 2023 SEWER MAIN AND LATERAL INSPECTION FINDINGS (Postponed until March Township Board Meeting)

CONSIDER FY 2023 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS TO START YEAR END CLOSURE

General Fund Budget Amendment # 9

ARPA Year End Adjustment – 2023

Lynch moved, White supported that:

Whereas, a budget was adopted by the Chocolay Township Board to govern the anticipated General Fund expenditures of the Township on December 12, 2022 for fiscal year 2023; and

Whereas, as a result of unanticipated changes in revenues and / or expenditures, it is necessary to modify the aforesaid budget between revenues and expenditures,

Now Therefore, Be It Hereby Resolved, that the FY 2023 budget be modified as follows:

	PREVIOUS	CHANGE (+ / -)	AMENDED
REVENUE			
GF - ARPA			
101.528.001	\$0.00	\$53,886.56	\$53,886.56
EXPENDITURES			
GF - TRAINING & EDUCATION			
101.285.840	\$27,380.00	53,886.00	\$81,266.00
GF - TRAINING & EDUCATION			
101.285.840	\$81,266.00	(53,886.00)	\$27,380.00
HEALTH INSURANCE			
101.285.925	\$225,195.00	53,886.00	\$279,081.00
REVENUE			
SEWER FUND - ARPA			
571.571.528.001	\$0.00	80,345.00	\$80,345.00
EXPENDITURES			
LIFT STATION PROJECT			
571.571.973.001	\$0.00	80,345.00	\$80,345.00

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Symbal

MOTION CARRIED

**Capital Fund Budget Amendment #9
KBIC 2% Funds Allocation**

White moved, Zybert supported that:

Whereas, a budget was adopted by the Chocolay Township Board to govern the anticipated General Fund expenditures of the Township on December 12, 2022 for fiscal year 2023; and

Whereas, as a result of unanticipated changes in revenues and / or expenditures, it is necessary to modify the aforesaid budget between revenues and expenditures,

Now Therefore, Be It Hereby Resolved, that the FY 2023 budget be modified as follows:

	PREVIOUS	CHANGE (+ / -)	AMENDED
REVENUE			
KBIC 2% Gaming Money			
401.000.582	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 88,444.46	\$ 258,444.46
EXPENDITURE			
Police Dept. Equipment			
401.305.977	\$ 78,705.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 88,705.00
Fire Department Equipment			
401.340.977	\$ 81,386.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 151,386.00
Capital Outlay			
401.958.957	\$ 147,120.00	\$ 8,444.46	\$ 155,564.46

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Symbal

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER CHANGES TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING DATES

Lynch moved, Rhein supported to approve the revised Planning Commission Meeting Schedule for calendar year 2024.

MOTION CARRIED

PREPARATION REVIEW FOR JOINT MEETING IN FEBRUARY

Supervisor Bohjanen stated there will be a short agenda for the Township Board Meeting at 5:30 followed by the Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission. The Board is hoping for a presentation from the Planning Commission on the progress of the rezoning of the AF district. Trustee Rhein indicated that the language is wrapped up and they are now working on the maps, which should be ready for the February meeting.

Township Manager De Groot asked about having a presentation prepared – would go through the public hearing process, the Township Board rights, possibly a diagram of the process and next steps. The Board agreed this would be a good idea.

Supervisor Bohjanen indicated that this was the major item for the meeting. There are other ordinances that should be looked at going forward, such as a brief look at renewable energy as our language is inadequate at this point (solar panels and wind). Clerk Engle indicated that as far as renewable energy goes, if we do not have an ordinance then it will definitely go to the State. Supervisor Bohjanen indicated that unlike some areas, the township does not have the acreage needed for this – a utility grade would need approximately 600 acres. Trustee Lynch indicated that transmission lines would also be needed at \$5 million per mile.

Manager De Groot indicated that the MTA will be putting out a draft “opposition ordinance” within the next few weeks so that we are able to control what we can.

Supervisor Bohjanen stated that in going over the bills, he has not seen anything on “eminent domain”. Basically, you would need a utility company that is willing to put these up, a landowner that is willing to provide the land, and depending on size, the State may or may not be a part of this. Clerk Engle indicated that in order to implement something like this, they would need to approach the townships first.

MANAGER UPDATE OF WORK PLAN AND CORPORATE STATUS

Manager De Groot stated that we are currently working on the budget numbers and providing the information to the departments. We are also working on getting RFP’s out the door for projects for the coming year. We are waiting to sign for the \$150,000 from the State. The radios are nine months out and we would be looking at advance pay.

Corporate - Staff is preparing the soft close and looking at adjustments that are needed. One more adjustment will be coming to the Board once all entries have been processed. We expect the auditors to be in sometime in February.

Work Plan – the siding is done and the building is quieter. There are no numbers yet on heating savings, but we anticipate the costs to go down. Looking at putting a small solar collector for the Fire Hall and DPW building. There is an initial quote of \$80,000 with the ability to possibly get a 50% match by the Federal government. This is still being researched.

The sewer presentation that was rescheduled is the results of the video inspection conducted last year. Everything was videoed – no crushed parts. The pipes were laid from 1974 – 1979 and it is now a matter of protection. Will be putting together an Asset Management Plan.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Don Rhein – none

Kendra Symbal – absent

Judy White – has been going to the meetings at the Landfill – does not feel like the meetings are always conducted properly and the meetings are all over the place. Nothing major at the moment.

Dave Lynch – none

Ben Zyburt – none

Max Engle – none

Richard Bohjanen – none

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Gencheff, 597 Lakewood Lane – likes the new siding. Would also like to discuss accessory dwelling units at the joint meeting to get board input on pros and cons.

Zyburt moved, Engle supported that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- A. Minutes - Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, Work Session of December 11, 2023, Draft.
- B. Minutes – Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, Work Session of December 15, 2023, Draft.
- C. Minutes – Marquette Area Wastewater Advisory Board; Regular Meeting of November 9, 2023.
- D. Information – Chocology Township Newsletter – December 2023.
- E. Information – Marquette Area Wastewater Advisory Board 2024 Meeting Schedule.
- F. Information – Iron Ore Heritage Trail 2023 Municipal Report.

Max Engle, Clerk

Richard Bohjanen, Supervisor