

May 13, 2024

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

ABSENT: Ben Zyburt (excused), Kendra Symbal

STAFF PRESENT: William De Groot, Suzanne Sundell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

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

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karl Bohnak – announced his candidacy for State Representative of the 109th District. Concerned about issues that he feels are important to constituents – wind / solar, land use, education, staffing shortage at correctional facilities.

Dan Everson, Marquette Township Fire Dept – Commended Chocolay Township Fire Department on the handling of the fire on Silver Creek Road today (May 13).

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting – Regular Meeting, April 8, 2024.
- B. Approve Revenue and Expenditure Reports – First Quarter 2024.
- C. Approve Revenue and Expenditure Reports – April 2024.
- D. Approve Bills Payable, Check Register Reports – April 1, 2024 (Check #'s 26782 – 26788, in the amount of \$14,191.34), April 12, 2024 (Check #'s 26789 – 26809, in the amount of \$13,636.95), and April 24, 2024 (Check #'s 26810 – 26835, in the amount of \$70,512.55).
- E. Approve Bills Payable – Regular Payroll of April 11, 2024 (Check #'s DD4108 – DD4147 and Check #'s 11502 – 11507, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$52,104.22), and Regular Payroll of April 25, 2024 (Check #'s DD4148 – DD4174 and Check #'s 11508 – 11513. Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$52,456.77).

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

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Assessor has completed the tax rolls and turned them over to the County. We will be posting for an Assessing Assistant to do field work this summer.

Elections – those running for office with a party affiliation have turned in their petitions. Those that are running for office non-party affiliated have a deadline of July 18 to turn in their petitions. Have received three applications for the position of Chief of Police. This will be covered later in the meeting.

CLERK’S REPORT

Starting to prepare for the August election. Absentee voter applications will be going out at the end of May.

TREASURER’S REPORT – NONE.

PUBLIC HEARING – NONE.

PRESENTATIONS – NONE.

CONSIDER RESURFACING OF THE TENNIS COURT

Lynch moved, Engle supported that the Chocolay Township Board approves the expenditure of not more than \$25,000 to resurface the tennis / pickleball courts at Silver Creek Recreation Area.

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER SCAFFOLDING PURCHASE FOR THE FIRE HALL.

White moved, Rhein supported that the Chocolay Township Board approves to reallocate no more than \$2,000 out of the Township Hall and Grounds Capital Improvement Fund to purchase new scaffolding.

MOTION CARRIED

And

White moved, Rhein supported that the Chocolay Township Board approves to declare the old scaffolding as surplus.

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER MARQUETTE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION MANAGEMENT FEES FOR SHOT POINT.

Lynch moved, Rhein supported that the Chocolay Township Board approves the expenditure of \$14,643.53 out of the Road Millage fund to be paid to the Marquette County Road Commission for their services.

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER SALES OF SURPLUS ITEMS.

Lynch moved, White supported that the Chocolay Township Board declares the following items as surplus:

- 2005 John Deere X540 lawn tractor
- Two Stihl FS 55R weed whips
- Two basketball backboards with hoops
- Two double swing, swing sets
- 7-foot slide
- Two half-moon climbers

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER FEMA REQUIRED LANGUAGE FOR ORDINANCE #60.

Lynch moved, Engle supported that after a first reading, public hearing, second reading held April 8, 2024, and Final Review by FEMA Staff, the Chocolay Township Board approve proposed revised Ordinance #60 FEMA Flood Ordinance. The proposed revised Ordinance #60 shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the publication of the final draft within the Mining Journal and the posting on the Township Website.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Rhein, White, Lynch, Engle, Bohjanen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Zyburt, Symbal

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER CONTRACT WITH MONROE, INC. FOR THE FABRICATION OF EQUIPMENT BOXES FOR FIRE BRUSH TRUCK.

Engle moved, Lynch supported that the Chocolay Township Board authorize the Township Manager to work with the Fire Department to purchase a new Brand FX box for the Wildland Rescue Truck from Monroe Truck Repair.

AYES: 4

NAYS: 1 (White)

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSS POLICE CHIEF INTERVIEW PROCESS, AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MAY 21, 2024.

Supervisor Bohjanen stated that the Police Chief interview process will be discussed at a Special Meeting on May 21, 2024. The deadline for the applications to be received was Friday, May 10, 2024 at 4:00 pm. The Township has received 3 applications – two applicants are in house and the third had previously worked for Chocolay police department and currently is at NMU. The applications will be forwarded to Board members prior to the Special Meeting on May 21.

Manager De Groot stated this meeting will give the Board the opportunity to bring forth any special items or questions that they feel should be addressed. Also discussed will be the time allotted for interviews and if they anticipate a hiring decision at that meeting.

DISCUSS 2025 BUDGET PRIORITIES AND TIMING.

Manager De Groot stated that the Board is going into the last budget cycle before a new board is seated. The plan is to have the budget developed and approved by the November meeting. He will start arranging with staff for numbers and bring this back to the Board either in June or July, and present at the August meeting. Will not have all the final numbers concerning benefits until October.

MANAGER UPDATE OF WORK PLAN AND CORPORATE STATUS.

Fire Department Brush Truck – a reminder that we would be utilizing this smaller truck a lot more for field fires, etc. rather than taking the big trucks out. This truck is designed to carry five firefighters. We are currently waiting on a manufacturing date – hope to get on the manufacturing line by end of June.

Tennis Court – we will be resurfacing the existing tennis court that was rebuilt. Not rebuilding the other side yet – looking for grant opportunities. We are also looking at how this area can be utilized.

First Quarter numbers – numbers are pretty much on target. We have worked with auditors on understanding our capital fund – going to a pooled concept rather than line items.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Don Rhein – none

Kendra Symbal – absent

Judy White – none

Dave Lynch – none

Ben Zyburt – absent

Max Engle – none

Richard Bohjanen – commented regarding the Planning Commission public hearing in April which had to do with the rezoning of the AF district. There were many that spoke against this. The Planning Commission tabled the decision until the next meeting in May.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Gencheff, 597 Lakewood Lane – Thanked the Township Board for sending her to the Annual MTA conference. The classes were very informative. She was happy that a lot of the classes were conducted by attorneys. After attending a conference concerning elections, she commended Clerk Engle on how he handled the whole process. She would highly recommend this to anyone that is able to go next year.

Rhein moved, Lynch supported that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- A. Minutes – Chocolay Township Planning Commission; Regular Meeting of April 15, 2024, Draft.
- B. Minutes – Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, Regular Meeting of April 17, 2024, Draft.
- C. Minutes – Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority; Stockholder Meeting of April 17, 2024.
- D. Minutes – Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board, Regular Meeting of January 18, 2024, Draft.
- E. Information – Chocolay Township Newsletter – April 2024

Max Engle, Clerk

Richard Bohjanen, Supervisor