

July 8, 2024

The regular meeting of the Chocolay Township Board was held on Monday, July 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.

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

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting – Regular Meeting, June 10, 2024.
- B. Approve Revenue and Expenditure Reports – Second Quarter 2024.
- C. Approve Revenue and Expenditure Reports – June 2024.
- D. Approve Bills Payable, Check Register Reports – June 13, 2024 (Check #'s 26889 – 26919, in the amount of \$79,392.41), June 24, 2024 (Check #'s 26920 – 26944, in the amount of \$64,048.88), and June 28, 2024 (Check #'s 26945 – 26960, along with EFT 9(E) in the amount of \$18,167.32).
- E. Approve Bills Payable – Regular Payroll of June 6, 2024 (Check #'s DD4237 – DD4292 and Check #'s 11530 – 11537, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$53,517.72), Special Payroll (S. Jennings Retirement) of June 6, 2024 (Check #'s 11538 – 11539, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$54,650.21) and Regular Payroll of June 20, 2024 (Check #'s DD4293 – DD4321 and Check #'s 11540 – 11547, Federal, State, and MERS in the amount of \$48,063.12).

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

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Bohjanen stated that a request had been received from the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (landfill) for input on a Letter of Understanding change that is being looked at regarding the term of office. If implemented, the MCSWMA would be looking at

changing the chair position to a one-year term. Supervisor Bohjanen had responded to this and feels that the running of the landfill is complex and takes more than a year to be able to fully understand. Asked for comments from the Board – it was felt that nothing would ever get done if the term was one year.

Supervisor Bohjanen also stated that the August meeting will be on Monday, August 19th. This will be a joint meeting with the Planning Commission. It is anticipated that the Planning Commission will bring forward ordinance language for the Ag districts.

CLERK'S REPORT

As of July 8, 2024, 1,474 ballots have been sent with 127 ballots being returned. Early Voting will start on Saturday, July 27 through Sunday, August 4 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Chocolay Township Meeting Room. This Early Voting site will include Chocolay Township, Sands Township, Skandia Township, and West Branch Township. Gave a reminder that voters with an absentee ballot can bring their ballots to either the Early Voting site or to their precinct on election day if they wish to put the ballot through the tabulator themselves.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Zyburt stated that during the second quarter a \$250,000 CD matured at 5%. It has now been reinvested for a 9-month period at 5.35%. This increased the overall interest \$656. The surplus investment fund has generated \$86,427 in interest.

PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

CONSIDER BEAVER GROVE BATHROOM CONCRETE BID.

Lynch moved, White supported that the Chocolay Township Board approves the expenditure out of the Recreation Capital Improvement fund of not more than \$5,000 and award a future contract to Premeau Construction Inc. to pour a concrete slab and sidewalk to make the new restroom at Beaver Grove Recreation Area ADA compliant.

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER SILVER CREEK DRIVEWAY ENGINEERING BIDS.

Zyburt moved, Rhein supported that the Chocolay Township Board approves the expenditure out of the Recreation Capital Improvement fund of not more than \$4,500 and award a contract to UPEA Engineers & Architects for construction drawings and engineering estimates for a new driveway into Silver Creek Recreation Area.

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER POLICE PURCHASE OF TASERS FROM AXON.

White moved, Zybert supported that the Chocolay Township Board approves the allocation of no more than \$3,500 out of the Police Department Capital Improvement Fund to purchase a new Taser 7 and cartridges.

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER POLICE PURCHASE OF RIFLE OPTICS.

Rhein moved, Lynch supported that the Chocolay Township Board approves the allocation of no more than \$1,600 out of the Police Department Capital Improvement Fund to purchase new rifle optics and mounts.

MOTION CARRIED

CONSIDER ROAD COMMISSION CONTRACT FOR FLEX SEAL OF SILVER CREEK ROAD.

Lynch moved, White supported that the Chocolay Township Board approves the expenditure of \$3,557.58 out of the Road Millage fund to be paid to the Marquette County Road Commission for the flex patch work on Silver Creek Road.

MOTION CARRIED

PURCHASE OF VEHICLE TABLETS FROM A GRANT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Zybert moved, Lynch supported to authorize the Township Manager to work with the Fire Chief in ordering tablets for fire apparatus in accordance with the grant award and draw the funds from the Fire Department's Capital budget line item – 401.341.957.

MOTION CARRIED

CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF MARQUETTE FOR EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT FOR THE NEW BRUSH TRUCK.

Lynch moved, Zybert supported to authorize the Township Manager to work with the Fire Department to enter into a contract with the City of Marquette to purchase equipment and install items onto the Wildland Rescue truck.

MOTION CARRIED

MANAGER UPDATE OF WORK PLAN AND CORPORATE STATUS.

Township Manager De Groot stated there have been meetings with our insurance carriers. Budget that will be presented in August will have a few moving pieces. We have confirmed with Acrisure (VAST) that we will not have the new obligation until the end of September. BCBSM has asked the State for another 11.5% increase. The State has not ruled on this yet.

Manager De Groot will be working with Treasurer Zybert to call for a meeting of the Pension Committee to discuss the MERS program and additional investment into the program.

The State budget as approved includes revenue sharing for all governmental units in the State. This means we could see an increase of approximately \$35,000. Until this is confirmed, De Groot will be using a conservative figure for the budget.

Budget process is going well. There are some big-ticket items that will be coming across in the capital, but these will be offset with grants.

Manager De Groot and Police Chief Carrick are working on a plan for recruitment for a full-time Sergeant position. We may be using the model used last year with the intern program.

Rhein asked about the sewer issues, and if any of those are being resolved. De Groot responded that the removal of the large root balls and cleaning of the debris happened about 3 weeks ago. Staff will be working on a plan on how to budget for other repairs that are needed.

Manager De Groot commended the Planning Commission on the work they have done in the Ag districts. This will be reported to the Board at the August joint meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Don Rhein – None

Kendra Symbal – absent

Judy White – stated that she is currently on the advisory board for the Library. Eve Lindsey has expressed interest in sitting on this board and will be joining Trustee White at the meeting on Wednesday. If Lindsey decides that this is something she is interested in, Trustee White will step down.

Dave Lynch – has received calls from residents on tax bill increases. He has been explaining this is due to the MARESA millage. Wondered if the Township was also receiving a lot of calls on this.

Ben Zyburt – None

Max Engle – indicated that the voter turnout for the MARESA millage election was dismal.

Richard Bohjanen – asked if it is appropriate for a government body that is asking for a millage increase to campaign for the millage – Clerk Engle indicated you can hand out information but cannot influence one way or the other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Gencheff, 587 Lakewood Lane – Asked why elections such as MARESA are done in off years and what control does Chocolay Township have on this. Clerk Engle responded that these types of elections are not something we have any say over – it is the choice of the organization that is putting something on the ballot.

Michelle Wietek-Stephens, 550 Little Lake Road – felt that the millage for MARESA may not have been defeated even with better voter turnout. Looks forward to the township utilizing other means of informing people – using social media.

Rhein moved, Lynch supported that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- A. Minutes – Chocolay Township Planning Commission; Regular Meeting of June 17, 2024, Draft.
- B. Minutes – Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board; Regular Meeting of April 18, 2024.
- C. Minutes – Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board; Regular Meeting of May 16, 2024.
- D. Information – Chocolay Township Newsletter – June 2024

Max Engle, Clerk

Richard Bohjanen, Supervisor