

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
April 9th, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Lynn Gierke

PRESENT: Lynn Gierke, Bethany Baetsen, and Curt Judson, Andrea Aho, and Dan Palosaari.

MINUTES: Motion by Bethany Baetsen to approve the March minutes, supported by Dan Palosaari. M/C.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to approve the February and March Treasurer's Report by Dan Palosaari, supported by Curt Judson. M/C.

AGENDA: Motion by Curt Judson to approve the agenda supported by Lynn Gierke. M/C

PAYMENT OF BILLS: The payment of bills was approved per motion by Bethany Baetsen supported by Andrea Aho. M/C

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mariah from the Chassell Farmers Market shared some updates with the board about the upcoming market season. The Chassell market will now fall under the Keweenaw Market Association to help cover marketing costs. The Chassell Farmers Market is working to achieve their 501(c)3 certification soon. They kindly ask the board to waive next year's Pavilion rental fee to lower costs for vendors. Lynn Gierke requested a letter of support from Mariah before next year's Market season.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

SUPERVISOR: McClellan/Twp property sale completed. Archambeau Rd. light up. DPW interviews, worked with Keith Meyers and submitted 2025 Passport Grant and 2025 Trust Fund Grant applications, Letter of Support for Scrap Tire collection.

CLERK: No report

TREASURER: Andrea Aho discussed the need to be careful with scam emails as they have been frequent in the township gmail accounts and throughout the county.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: Jason shared that there have been 0 calls this month for FD and the air boat is operational. Matt shared that there have been 31 calls year to date for the First Responders. Curt informed the board that they will be hosting a wildland fire tabletop exercise at the Fire Hall on April 23rd for other local Fire departments along with DNR personnel.

TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin reports Sig Rho took down the ice rink boards. He reminded the board that the current board likely only have one season left before they are unusable. Craig is speaking with the school to see if we can partner on getting some new boards built. We are leaving a Port-a-Potty while the Pavillion bathrooms are being built. There were 3 green burials this year. Craig invited John Holland from MRWA to the township on April 29th at 9 am to discuss Chassell's water compliance/certifications/issues etc. The pickleball court fence will be complete tomorrow April 10th. A resident complained to the DNR about a willow tree leaning onto their property from the Rail Trail. There was a discussion concerning how to handle continuing garbage issues and expenses. It was decided Curt and Jason will inquire about acceptable garbage trucks for sale in the region up to \$50,000. A motion was made by Bethany Baetsen to pay Jason time and mileage for evaluating trucks, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C. Further discussion on how to handle township garbage continued.

ZONING: No report.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): Brian Water presented that a letter of intent was submitted to CSCF for 2026 projects which include the potential for a splash pad at Centennial Park. A motion was made by Dan Palosaari to use Rec Millage funds to support these grants, supported by Curt Judson, M/C. Both Rec grants are in progress including the bike park. The PC passed a motion to redefine "short term rental" from less than 365 days to less than 30 days. They also would like to continue working with the county and local interested parties to prepare a Township Disaster Relief Plan.

The first section of the rail has been removed from the Arnheim area, the bid for the removal of the second section out tomorrow March 13th.

ASSESSOR: No Report

WEBSITE: No Report

OFFICE BUILDING: Lynn will be seeking out comparable bids to fix asphalt at the office building as well as in from the Fire Hall and Quanset hut.

UPEA: Chris Holmes let the board know that DP will be cutting the doors at the pavilion and that the floors need grinding. The board requested a mop sink in the utility room. He is still waiting on government movement on the Lift Station project and discussed how the administration change has slowed down approval of these types of loans. There was a motion to purchase two Sulzer pumps for the Lakeshore Drive lift station made by Dan Palosaari, supported by Bethany Baetsen, M/C. Chris agreed to order the 2 pumps from Crane Pumps & Systems in South Carolina.

REVIEW BUDGET: None

OLD BUSINESS:

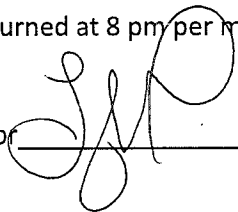
- A. Andrea Aho discussed online bill pay options for the township. She made a motion to implement BS&A Payments ASAP, supported by Bethany Baetsen, M/C.
- B. The township's personnel policy/employee handbook will be tabled until the next board meeting.
- C. The Board recommends Brandon Schwart for the new DPW position to be paid \$24/hr with insurance benefits. Motion made by Bethany Baetsen, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Craig Austin wanted to recognize and thank all of the people who helped out when the Lift station went down. Discussion will need to continue on lift station maintenance, replacements, and infiltration issues/lagoon expansion.
- B. Lynn Gierke made a motion to approve the dates of monthly board meetings, to continue with Rukkila Negro and Associates as the township auditor, to continue using Superior National Bank for township banking, and to continue with Graybill and Mead for the townships legal representation, supported by Dan Palosaari, M/C.
- C. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to pay Andrea Aho \$18/hour for her pre-salary training hours, supported by Curt Judson, M/C. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to approve 12 hours of paid training time to Kelly Holmes at \$30/hr, supported by Curt Judson, M/C.
- D. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to add Andrea Aho and Bethany Baetsen as administrators for online banking with SNB, supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C.
- E. Mass messaging will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- F. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to request DPW worker Jake Elenich be hired full-time for summer hours at \$17/hr, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.
- G. The township will be installing a new dropbox within the side of the office building to avoid continuing issues with plow damage and to comply with new election security standards.
- H. Jeremy Shannon has agreed to be the townships representative during the summer dust control application. Dan Palosaari will facilitate his contact with the Road Commission and Lynn Gierke said she would supply Jeremy with application rate information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm per motion by Dan Palosaari, supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C.

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor



Bethany Baetsen, Clerk

