

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
June 16th, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Lynn Gierke

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to approve the May Treasurer's Report by Lynn Gierke, supported by Bethany Baetsen. M/C. Dan Palosaari requested the total at the bottom of the page.

AGENDA: Motion by Curt Judson to approve the agenda supported by Dan Palosaari. M/C

PAYMENT OF BILLS: The payment of bills was approved per motion by Dan Palosaari supported by Curt Judson. M/C

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Paulette Archambeau mentioned that the salon owner next to the Post Office was having issues with people blocking her driveway when they stop to use the Post Office. She is requesting some yellow paint along the sidewalk leading up to her driveway. Lynn Gierke said she would inquire about it at the Road Commission meeting.

Randy McClellan voiced his concern at property taxes going up significantly this year. The board discussed the role of our township Assessor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly sent a thank you letter to the township for covering the expenses for the cemetery tree removal. The Houghton County Veteran Affairs also sent a thank you letter sharing their appreciation that the township displayed the Veterans Banners for Memorial Day weekend.

SUPERVISOR: Attended HCRC Meeting, Rural Development (RD) Wastewater Application, Managing/communicating on going projects, Working with resident on privacy fence.

CLERK: Preparing for August 5th Election. Discussed ballots and scheduled Public Accuracy Test for July 15th at 9 AM at the Fire Hall.

TREASURER: BS&A Payments go-live date is delayed until online training is complete. The W/S clerk and Treasurer are considering postcards for W/S billing. The Treasurer is working on outsourcing a portion of tax bill prep to KCI considering postage cost and time savings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: Matt Moore shared that there have been 6 calls since the last meeting and 15 YTD for the Fire Department. First Responders have had 12 calls since the last meeting and 53 YTD. He also introduced a new Fire crew member, Nick Detterman.

TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin reported that the state is going to jet the problem culvert and that we will need a 24in grate to help prevent future issues. He recommended some signage to let park-goers know that the pavilion bathrooms are now open. He reported that EGLE accepted the townships CCR, Consumer Confidence Report. He noted that Township contractors are sometimes forgetting to report water withdrawal amounts and therefore not accounting for those project costs. The township needs to make sure this policy is included in our contracts with them. The board then discussed having a written policy on lawn meter usage and reporting for those customers who utilize them. The board will have a policy written up for the next board meeting. Lastly, Craig reported about the issues with some young teenagers causing problems at the park as well as at the local trails.

ZONING: No report.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): Keith Meyers shared that the PC had a pre-app meeting with EGLE about the Marina project. They learned that the chip pile can be removed and paved over for Marina parking. The PC is having some difficulty scheduling dredging of the silt build-up at the canoe/kayak launch. Keith reported that the DNR appears to be convinced to include the Pike River Bridge on their Master Project List. He also updated the board on new developments for a Park splash pad. Considering the amount of municipal water required, Keith reported the EGLE would be amenable to pumping water from Portage Lake (under 7 million gallons untreated) but the board raised concerns about signage and involving the

Health Department due to contamination issues from the beach. Keith also reported that Craig Austin was in the process of ordering rubberized mats for under the swing set (a suggestion from the Townships Risk Assessment meeting). He also reported the quarterly report on the Spark Grant should be made available soon.

ASSESSOR: There will be a Board of Review meeting on July 17th from 5-7 PM.

WEBSITE: Deputy Clerk, Julie Judson is in the middle of transferring content from the old website to the new one.

OFFICE BUILDING: The cement for the new drop box is poured and cured and the drop box will hopefully be installed before the next board meeting.

UPEA: Chris Holmes introduced David Trewartha to the board as David will be helping out on some projects in the future. He presented the board with the finalized Change Orders for the Pavillion bathrooms. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to accept the change orders, supported by Curt Judson, Dan Palosaari abstained, M/C. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to pay DP Construction for the final Pay App 2, supported by Andrea Aho, Dan Palosaari Abstained. M/C.

Lynn Gierke made a motion to accept the Special Meeting minutes for the Main Lift Station project bid opening, supported by Dan Palosaari, M/C. Lynn will meet with MJO next week to sign the contract for the Main Lift Station project. Chris expects our RD loan application to be obligated next week.

Dave has started the EGLE permits for the Force Main line replacement project (lift station to lagoon) and discussed long-term costs for the township and water/sewer customers.

REVIEW BUDGET: None

OLD BUSINESS:

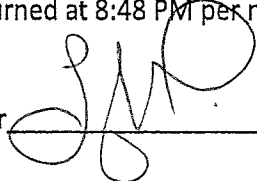
- A. The board and residents continued discussion on how to solve garbage and recycling cost issues. A discussion on purchasing and selling garbage bags was had along with Craig Austin agreeing that the DPW workers will make an effort starting July 1st to separate money from garbage versus recycling. Continued discussion.
- B. The township's personnel policy/employee handbook will be tabled until the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Dan Palosaari made a motion to raise Lead DPW worker hourly rate to \$30/ hr (with certifications and not requesting benefits), supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C.
- B. Lynn Gierke made a motion to accept the new Pickleball Court rules pending some review, supported by Curt Jusdon, M/C. Signage will be displayed as soon as possible.
- C. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to refund 2 pavilion renters \$100/each due to the bathrooms being under construction during their rentals, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM per motion by Dan Palosaari, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor



Bethany Baetsen, Clerk

