

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

October 8th, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Lynn Gierke

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

MINUTES: Motion by Bethany Baetsen to approve the previous month's minutes, supported by Andrea Aho. M/C.

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

AGENDA: Motion by Lynn Gierke to approve the agenda supported by Andrea Aho. M/C

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Moriah Goodall of the Keweenaw Market Association requested the board waive the \$500 pavilion rental fee. Instead Chassell Township will be listed as a "Farm Steward" level sponsor. She as well as two other market vendors discussed the growing popularity of the Chassell Farmer's Markets and discussed it's benefits to our regional residents including how kids are allowed to become vendors for free and also how the Market Association is working to provide the same access for all its vendors as well as the ability to take SNAP and WIC benefits for market-goers. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to waive the \$500 Pavilion rental fee for the Keweenaw Market Association for the 2026 market season and accept the Farm Steward level sponsorship, supported by Dan Palosaari, M/C.

Rick and Tiffany Berkie from Creamery Rd. discussed an ongoing culvert bottleneck issue. They updated the board on their meetings with the Houghton County Road Commission HCRC. The board directed them to Lynn Artmann and the Chassell Flood Victims Coalition.

Mike Wiitanen from Chassell Painesdale Rd. discussed another drainage issue at Hamar Creek. A large 4x6 box culvert appears to only have roughly 18 in. of clearance space left. He also wanted to thank the board for the speed radar sign and requested that the board consider obtaining one for the township.

Ed Glowacki discussed more drainage issues with the board. He contends that the main issue with the township's drainage is plugged culverts and conveyed his frustration with the HCRC for not taking initiative on cleaning plugged culverts. He suggested the township begin a culvert survey in order to house information about culvert issues and therefore triage their maintenance and improvements. Bethany Baetsen suggested our new GIS system would be able to handle this type of survey.

Lynn Artmann discussed updates within the Flood Victims Coalition and the opportunity for making claims as a larger group of concerned and affected residents.

Danielle Meirow from Michigan Technological University discussed the upcoming Make a Difference Day, where student volunteers work on projects within the community. The township board will submit a request to complete clean-up work on Lakeshore Drive.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

SUPERVISOR: Lynn Gierke is continuing to work on township drainage issues and will be attending the upcoming HCRC meeting. She completed the progress report for the SPARK grant as well as the Audit review.

CLERK: NONE

TREASURER: NONE

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: Curt Judson reported that there were 5 Fire Department calls since the last board meeting and 26 year-to-date. The golf outing was successful with 11 teams participating. The FD needs an outbuilding to store the airboat and trailer and is requesting to use roughly \$20,000 of the Fire Fund to purchase a storage garage. Lynn Gierke made a motion to approve Fire Funds for this purchase, Andrea Aho supported, MC. The FD also needs to replace their air packs as

they are becoming outdated. They are requested \$15,000 to purchase a set that should last for an additional ten years and 2 certifications. Andrea Aho made a motion to approve this purchase from the Fire Fund supported by Dan Palosaari, MC.

The First Responders received 13 calls since the last board meeting and 91 year-to-date.

TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin reported that EGLE gave the township positive feedback in September when doing lagoon inspections. They will require a fencing fix as well as the sloughing issue due to steep banks needs to be addressed. UPEA will be checking the elevation and report those numbers to Craig. He reported that the sewer cleaning is half complete and will be on hold for a few days due to a part breaking. DPW employee Brandon Schwandt is currently taking a water management class in Marquette. Craig will be attending the MRWA conference this weekend. Current outcomes on the garbage changes have shown a \$225 profit on garbage for Sept. Recycling still may be roughly a \$600 loss. Craig requested bids for pouring a concrete pad for the garbage containers and the only bidder was DP at \$6000 for 30'x 20' x 6". Curt Judson made a motion to accept the DP bid, supported by Bethany Baetsen, Dan Palosaari abstained, MC.

ZONING: The language for the blight ordinance is still being worked on and will be tabled until the next board meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): A lot of work has been done at Misslitz Field. The batting cage is down and trees and shrubs have been cleared. Bids came in to do the fencing at both the ballpark and at the Bark Park. JCS was the low bidder on both at \$11,185 and \$2500 respectively. Dan Palosaari made a motion to approve the JCS bid, supported by Bethany Baetsen, MC. The gazebo at the park apparently needs a building permit. KISMA will be doing a buckthorn clean-up at the Chassell Trails. The PC may coordinate with MTU Make A Difference Day Volunteers to help out. The Chassell Trails Club has a board of members now. The Hamar Creek repairs will need an additional 2 18" culverts permits and the foot bridge will need to be raised up slightly to accommodate a higher water line. The proposals for the Pike River Bridge project will be opened on Oct 10th. There is a vacancy on the PC board if anyone is interested please contact Keith Meyers or Brian Waters. Keith Meyers went on WMPL to discuss the Scrap Tire Collection

ASSESSOR: Chassell Centennial Park is now under one parcel number.

WEBSITE: None

OFFICE BUILDING: None

ENGINEERING: Chris Holmes discussed the proposal amount for paving 4th portion as part of completing the FEMA project. He considered the amount of \$44,000 to be too high and inquired if the board would like to proceed. Discussion. The Board agreed to inquire with MSP to see if that paving portion can be postponed and if that would be amenable to the HCRC. MJO is getting started on Lakeshore Dr. Lift Station project. They are planning to be done in 2 weeks. Force Main Project bids are due next week. The board will need to hold a Special Meeting to approve the accepted bid so contractors can begin work. Chris advised the board that the special meeting language needed to include the 45 day public referendum notice. Lowell sent UPEA the last iteration of the boat launch plans which Chris will provide the board. The SHPO review of the water project plans was held up in Rural Development due to government shutdown.

REVIEW BUDGET: Bethany Baetsen made a motion to approve the following budget amendments, supported by Curt Judson, MC.

General Fund Revenue 101-000-574 from 200,000 to 150,000 (State Revenue Sharing-6% decrease by State of MI)

Elections 101-171-730 from 1,800 to 5,000 (Supplies-New Dropbox)

Garbage 101-521-800 from 68,000 to 40,000 (Contracted Services-no KBIC to township hauling)

101-521-935 from 0 to 10,000 (Transfer Station Pay-Township hauling)

Parks & Recreation 101-750-801 from 399,245 to 151,000 (Contracted Services)

Fire Fund 206-340-991 from 0 to 22,900 (Loan Payment)

Park & Recreation Fund 208-756-801 from 2,551 to 38,000 (Contracted Services)

Eurasian Milfoil Special Assessment:

216-000-407 from 2,600 to 0 Delinquent Personal Property Tax-no longer have assessment

216-529-730 from 6,175 to 0 Office Supplies

216-529-801 from 5,000 to 0 (Contracted Services-\$1,358 is in the General fund)

Sewer Fund:

590-527-800 from 25,000 to 47,000 Contracted Services

590-527-801 from 4,500 to 10,000 Professional Service

590-527-910 from 7,000 to 10,000 Insurance

590-527-930 from 6,000 to 52,000 Repair & Maintenance

OLD BUSINESS:

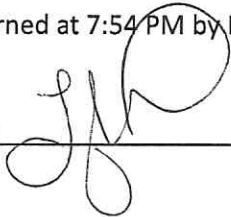
- A. The board agreed the DPW should sell the compactor. Craig Austinw will wait until mid October to set prices for the garbage bags.
- B. Bethany Baetsen will send the completed Employee Handbook to the board members to review for final approval at the next board meeting
- C. Andrea Aho is reviewing the WS ordinance for the next board meeting.
- D. Lynn Gierke made a motion to approve bid amounts for Lakeshore Dr. drainage work including tree removal and the construction of a concrete spillway not to exceed \$28,000 and contingent upon access to MSP Disaster Relief funds. Lynn Gierke will discuss with Kevin Harju tomorrow at HCRC meeting.
- E. The township will continue to look for an affordable radar sign to purchase.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Curt Judson made a motion to approve the new township Procurement Policy, supported by Andrea Aho, MC.
- B. Because of the recent complication with two renters at Centennial Park, the board decided as a future rule not to allow one entity to rent the park while another is renting the pavilion at the same time.
- C. With regrets, our Deputy Clerk, Julie Judson has decided to resign.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM by Lynn Gierke, supported by Curt Judson, M/C.

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor



Bethany Baetsen, Clerk



