

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
April 8th, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Lynn Gierke

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

MINUTES: Motion by Curt Judson to approve the previous month's minutes as well as the special meeting Minutes from March 25th, supported by Bethany Baetsen. M/C.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to approve the March Treasurer's Report Bethany Baetsen, supported by Lynn Gierke. 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 Andrea Aho, M/C.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: A resident of Chassell, Lisa Tomlinson, discussed attending the recent Planning Commission meeting with Quincy Materials regarding the potential site of a stamp sand recycling plant near North Entry. She mentioned that the notice for the meeting was very sudden and requested that the Board and PC make sure to give the public more ample notice to prepare for such meetings in the future. Keith Meyers responded that the meeting came together rather quickly and also updated the Board and residents present that Quincy Materials will not be pursuing Chassell as a viable option for their operation.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

SUPERVISOR: Lynn Gierke has been working on finalizing the SPARK reimbursement, completing the final paperwork for the RD Sewer Loan, she attended the HCRC monthly meeting, and worked on closing out the Fall Par Plan Grant as well as a new grant opportunity through the Congressionally Directed Funding application.

CLERK: Bethany Baetsen has been working on quarterly reporting for the township, updating the township accounts with MTA, MERS (now Empower), MiUI (new Michigan unemployment website), and preparing for the May 5th Special Election. She informed residents that the upcoming election is about the CCISD millage to continue funding the CTE center.

TREASURER: Andrea Aho reported that all the Houghton County tax disbursements are complete. She informed the Board that the township took in \$2.1 million in taxes with over \$100K in delinquent taxes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: Curt Judson reported that the Fire Department had 0 calls since the last meeting and 9 year-to-date. He presented the completed RFP for engineering for the Fire Hall/Township offices improvements. The deadline for firms to bid on the RFP will be May 31st. He updated the Board that the Fire/FR department is now a certified 501 c3 non-profit organization. Curt informed the Board that the First Responders had 10 calls since the last meeting and 34 year-to-date.

TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin asked the board to advise on what to do with the ice rink boards. The board discussed and agreed to try to sell them on Facebook Marketplace/Craigslist. He updated the Board that the donation signs have been ordered as well as the two new pumps for Lake Shore Drive. Craig said he is having difficulty selling the salt truck as he can't seem to find any interested parties. Craig informed the Board that there is currently a sale going on for sewer pumps/capacitor kits. Due to rising prices the board thought it wise to purchase 4 new pump/capacitor kits as back-ups to have on-hand for the next two years. Dan Palosaari made a motion to purchase 4 new pump/capacitor kits at the sale price of , supported by Andrea Aho, M/C. Lastly, Craig presented the quotes for replacing the skidsteer and the mower. The Board discussed but will leave a motion to purchase until the next board meeting to allow Craig to obtain any other quotes.

ZONING: Tim Palosaari informed the board that he is receiving a number of land division requests where the easement for the divided property falls below the minimum width off the highway. Keith Meyers said the PC would look into best practices around the state and advise Tim and the Board how to proceed

with these easements.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): Keith Meyers elaborated on submitting a proposal for the Congressional Directed Funding through Senator Slotkin's office. He informed the board, the PC requested the full \$2 million as assistance for the upgrades to the township lagoons. The PC has also resubmitted a grant proposal for Visit Keweenaw for Chassell Trail Bicycle Skills park. The PC is also pursuing grant opportunities from The Keweenaw Community Foundation for the Pike River Bridge project engineering as well as updated signage for the Chassell Ski trails. The Chassell Recreation Club is still waiting on their 501 c3 status. Keith also recommended on behalf of the PC that the township use the retainage from the SPARK grant for the adjustable boat ramp as it was considered a priority based on the Recreation survey.

ASSESSOR: Lynn Gierke let the Board know that the Board of Review is looking for one new member as Paulette Archembeau is retiring.

WEBSITE: None

OFFICE BUILDING: The roof is leaking on the office building. Craig is in the process of obtaining quotes for repairs.

ENGINEERING: Chris Holmes informed the Board that Lowell received an 8 ft. wide adjustable boat ramp prototype that is 48 ft. long and they quoted it around \$20K. Chris mentioned this is not necessarily ADA compliant but those upgrades can be approached later. The board agreed to bid the project to the Builders Exchange with a bid opening on May 7th at 1 PM at UPEA. Chris will continue discussions of a concrete approach with DP. Chris let the Board know that they have completed all the documents related to finalizing the SPARK Grant. As for the RD loan, Chris requested the Board approve the Bond Ordinance. Lynn Gierke made a motion to approve the Bond Ordinance for the USDA Rural Development loan, supported by Curt Judson, MC. Chris mentioned he would put the ordinance in the Daily Mining Gazette as required. In addition, Lynn Gierke made a motion to approve the Resolution for the first draw of RD loan funds, supported by Andrea Aho, MC. Chris discussed the procedure for receiving and tracking payments. Lastly, Lynn Gierke made a motion to accept the Section 504 Grievance Procedure language as required for the RD loan application and to include it in the Township's employee handbook, supported by Bethany Baetsen, MC. Chris then discussed further forms requiring signatures for final stages of the RD loan application. The board discussed the sewer rate increases required for RD funding. The consensus between John Holland's MRWA rate study and UPEA analysis is that the sewer rates must increase \$12 on the base. Andrea Aho requested a table of other local rates to show residents as a tool for comparison. Dan Palosaari made a motion to accept and implement the new rates starting in May, supported by Curt Judson, MC. Chris suggested discussing the water rates at another time. The board agreed.

REVIEW BUDGET:None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. MRWA is hosting an asset review training session on May 18-22. There will also be a smoke test that week.
- B. Pavilion curtain replacement quotes- next meeting.
- C. Keith Meyers will coordinate a meeting with UPEA to discuss the Draft Centennial Preliminary Report.
- D. The Board is continuing to compare options for obtaining a radar machine for the township.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The township received an application for work to be done by Highline Fiberoptic within the township. Since we have not received this type of application before and have not signed off on this type of permitted work, Lynn Gierke asked the Townships legal council, Graybill & Mead to

look into the topic. The board agreed to allow the company to move forward with the project if Graybill & Mead is agreeable.

2. There was only one bid for replacing the pavilion roof, DP Construction. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to accept the bid from DP Construction for \$16,500, supported by Andrea Aho, Dan Palosaari abstaining, MC.
3. Curt Judson made a motion to accept this Board meeting schedule for 26-27 fiscal year, supported by Lynn Gierke, MC.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM by Lynn Gierke, supported by Curt Judson, M/C.

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor _____ Bethany Baetsen, Clerk _____

DRAFT