

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
May 13th, 2026

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

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

ABSENT: Andrea Aho

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

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

AGENDA: Motion by Curt Judson to approve the agenda supported by Bethany Baetsen, M/C.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Keith Meyers shared that there will be a Keweenaw Remote Workers networking event on May 21st from 4:30-6 PM at 101 Quincy St. in Hancock. The Chassell Historical Committee is hosting a special event concert this summer on July 24th from 7-8:30 at the Chassell Park Pavillion. They requested that the Board waive the fee for the pavilion usage. This will be a free concert open to all. Curt Judson made a motion to waive the Pavillion rental fee, supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C.

CORRESPONDENCE: Little Brother Friends of the Elderly will be hosting their annual picnic at the Chassell Park on August 6th at 1 PM. They also requested the Board waive their pavilion rental fee. Dan Palosaari made a motion to waive the rental fee, supported by Bethany Baetsen, M/C. UP Fiber reached out to the Board to inform Chassell residents that they have obtained all of AT&T Right-of-way permits for high-speed internet fiber optic cable installation/maintenance within the township. Melissa Piirainen from the DNR reached out to the Board to request use of the fire hall to host a public meeting about the rail-trail in regards to public boundaries and encroachments. The meeting will be on Monday June 8th at 6:30 PM.

SUPERVISOR: Lynn Gierke reminded the Board that the closing for the RD loan will be this Monday the 18th!! She has been working on the annual RD Water loan report as well as finalizing the township's Chart of Accounts. She attended the HCRC monthly meeting as well as a WUPPDR Feasibility Study, Department of Treasury webinar, and a Coastal Management Academy informational course.

CLERK: Bethany Baetsen informed the Board that the May 5th Election went smoothly with no issues. She reminded the board and residents in attendance that Election Inspector training will be held June 15th at the Fire Hall at 6 PM if anyone is interested in working at the August Primary or November General election. She also completed the AF Group Audit, 1 FOIA request, reconciliation, and the first month of new remittance procedures for Empower.

TREASURER: None

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: Curt Judson reported that the Fire Department had 2 calls since the last meeting and 11 year-to-date. He requested the Board consider purchasing "Road Closure" signs so as not to need to obtain them from the road commission. Mat Moore informed the Board that the First Responders had 5 calls since the last meeting and 40 year-to-date.

TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin informed the Board that Silversmith software is up and running and working well. Craig let the Board know that the township needs to seriously address the infiltration issue stating that during recent rain events the issue has become increasingly exacerbated. The Board discussed the upcoming smoke test and other options to attempt to minimize issues with sump pumps and old pipes. Craig presented bids to re-do the water plant road. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to award DP Construction the project for \$9,400, supported by Curt Judson, Dan Palosaari abstaining, M/C. Craig presented the Board with three quotes to replace the skid steer. The board discussed and agreed to table the quotes until the next meeting asking Craig to inquire about the cost of an extended warranty as

well as researching typical asset retention schedules for this type of machine in-use in a municipality setting. Craig informed the board that if McCoy Construction were to sell the Township the mower arm then they would also be able to service the arm for repairs and maintenance. Curt Juson made a motion to purchase the mower arm from McCoy for \$21,000, supported by Bethany Baetsen, M/C. Craig also updated the Board that street sweeping should be completed by next week pending timing with MDOT. Next, Craig discussed the sanitary study. The rep from EGLE made comments on the issues of well-heads being less than 200 yds (100 yds on either side) away from a trail feature. We will know what course of action the township will have to take after receiving the results of the study before the next board meeting. Craig told the Board his lagoon analysis numbers are not yet indicative of being able to dump yet. He is going to wait until next week and check again.

ZONING: None

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): Keith Meyers thanked Dan Palosaari for all his work at the Misslitz ballfield. He discussed the ballfield improvements and how great the project looks. Dan Palosaari mentioned he would post the old playground equipment to Facebook Marketplace. Keith Meyers went on to recommend Mike Messner as the newest Planning Commission member. Lynn Gierke made a motion to appoint Mike Messner to the Planning Commission, supported by Curt Judson. Keith discussed the kayak launch clean-out and Bethany Baetsen made a motion to approve the project completion by JS Excavating for \$800-\$1700 depending on rock work to build up the embankment, supported by Lynn Gierke. M/C. The updated Zoning Ordinance draft will be available soon for the Board to review. Keith is continuing to work with Chris Holmes on the Centennial Park study. The PC is waiting to hear about 2 grants through Visit Keweenaw. Lastly, the PC has gotten in touch with Chris Adams, from MTU and Trout Unlimited to continue work on the trout habitat restoration on Hamar Creek.

ASSESSOR: Lynn Gierke let the Board know that the Board of Review is still looking for one new member.

WEBSITE: None

OFFICE BUILDING: Lynn Gierke presented quotes to replace the office roof to the Board. Dan Palosaari made a motion to award the project to E. Allen Construction for \$19,500, supported by Curt Judson, M/C.

ENGINEERING: Chris Holmes informed the Board that B&B subcontractors for boring will be busy until June as well as the grinder pumps won't be available until roughly the same time to mid-June. Chris discussed the procedure for paying out monies out of the RD loan account including dating checks, and sending copies to Chris to update the master spreadsheet. Chirs presented the bids for the new adjustable boat launch installation. Lynn Gierke made a motion to accept the bid from Jam Services for \$19,482.50, supported by Curt Judson, M/C.

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. The Roll Seal quote came in at \$115,000 to replace the pavilion curtain with Roll Seal door. The Board discussed options to request donations at the Strawberry festival to enclose at least one or two sides of the pavilion instead. Keith Meyers discussed opportunities with MEDC as well.
- 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 Board is not ready to make a decision on the removal of the quonset hut building yet.

2. Dust control application will be completed the week of June 15th. Curt Judson requested a small amount be applied to the trail approaches off the park road entrance. Dan Palosaari made a motion to purchase and apply 10,000 gallons this year, supported by Curt Judson, M/C.
3. The Board agreed to have LeClaire Surveying complete a survey of the Fire Hall property.
4. The Board agreed to meet at the Pavillion before the next meeting.

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

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor _____ Bethany Baetsen, Clerk _____

DRAFT