CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
August 12th, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Lynn Gierke
PRESENT: Lynn Gierke, Bethany Baetsen, Dan Palosaari, Andrea Aho, 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 Treasurer's Report by Curt Judson supported by Dan Palosaari, M/C.
AGENDA: Motion by Bethany Baetsen to approve the meeting's agenda, supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C.
PAYMENT OF BILLS: The payment of bills was approved per motion by Dan Palosaari, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.
PUBLIC COMMENTS:Keith Meyers wanted to remind the meeting attendees about the Heritage Centers Thursday night programs.
CORRESPONDENCE: A resident of the township inquired about ADA beach access. Fresh Coast & Future had a successful run around the Strawberry Festival. The Board will need to look into "mini-contracts" for food trucks around town in the future. Lastly, Baraga Co. Memorial Hospital will be hosting a mobile clinic in September at the Fire Hall.
PRESENTATION: Dave Trewartha, Jeff West and Cole Ruhonen from UPEA gave a short presentation on the RD Water Loan options in regards to rate increases and the level of work to be completed. They addressed immediate needs within the township as well as 2-3 year in advance needs/recommendations by EGLE. The Board was inclined to attempt to complete the comprehensive water system improvements option. At a $28 rate increase over the next few years, the township would be grant eligible allowing the township to apply to a maximum of roughly $2,000,000 of the total estimated $5,000,000 project costs. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to hold a special meeting including an official public hearing about the rate increase as well as a few other items on August 26th, at 6 PM at the Fire Hall, supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C.
SUPERVISOR: Lynn Gierke attended the HCRC monthly meeting and has been working on audit preparation. She coordinated printing and mailing the water rate increase post cards with CDSMI. She finalized the SPARK Grant Progress Report and submitted it for the release of the final reimbursement.
CLERK: Bethany Baetsen informed the Board that the August 4th election went smoothly. She has also been working on completing reports for the Audit as well as working on issues with GL reconciliation. She created and posted a Go-Fund-Me for the fish cleaning station and reported that we have raised $1,300 in addition to the donations from the Walleye Association and the VFW.
TREASURER: Andrea Aho has been working on taxes. She informed the Board that the MSP Cyber Security report is available for viewing in the office if any is interested.
FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: Curt Judson reported that they had 5 calls since the last meeting mostly due trees on powerlines, which brings the year-to-date total to 34. Curt also reported that currently the RFP for the Firehall renovations is on hold as they are waiting for some feedback from the Township lawyer. Mat Moore reported that the First Responders received 11 calls since the last meeting and 72 year-to-date. Mat also reported that they will be bringing in a new volunteer, Noah Edwards, requiring board approval. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to approve adding Noah Edwards to the FR roster pending his EMS licence, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.
TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin informed the Board that Julie Judson has been doing great with the CDSMI data input and that the township will not receive a violation but that we have until the end of the year. Garbage has actually currently made a $5000 profit for 2026. The Skidsteer had several small issues that were fixed and the mower arm was installed. The mower arm was put to use immediately mowing the lagoon banks. Craig found that with the new mower arm, what used to take 8 days now just

takes 1 day. Anna Wu is doing well with Silversmith data entry but we won't have her for much longer as school starts soon. Craig needs to purchase an electronic pH meter as well as DO kit for future lagoon testing. Add to next year's budget. The Fish Cleaning Station is down again in need of a 3 phase converter currently on order. Lastly Craig is in negotiations for a used bucket truck.

ZONING: None

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): Keith Meyers presented about the Zoning meeting earlier this month. They are using AI software to clean up the ordinance and will seek Board final approval at the next meeting. The PC met with Jared from UPEA about the Pike River Bridge project. They are in discussion about the bridge width as well as what to do with the old ties. The new bike trails are open but the PC will be doing some press and will be hosting a formal ribbon cutting after the signage is complete from Industrial Graphics. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to approve the Final draft of the Centennial Park Study, supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C. The study will be made available on the township website.

ASSESSOR: George Stockero submitted a letter of interest for the open BOR position accepted per motion by Dan Palosaari, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C. Andrea Aho discussed the contract terms for our current Assessor, Mark Maki. The Board decided to send a letter by Friday the 14th to Mark Maki expressing our desire to discontinue our contract with him per motion by Andrea Aho, supported by Bethany Baetsen, M/C. Andrea also presented on the tiered poverty exemption for property taxes within the township. Chassell has never officially adopted a poverty exemption system so per motion by Bethany Baetsen, Chassell Township will adopt the current federal tiered poverty exemption brackets pending annual changes, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

WEBSITE: The Fire Department page will be up shortly.

OFFICE BUILDING: None.

ENGINEERING: After their presentation on the RD Water Loan application, members of UPEA stayed to discuss current engineering items with the board. B&B Contracting is almost done. They are currently finishing up Sig Rho's grinder pump. Per motion by Lynn Gierke, the township will submit their pay application for the RD Sewer loan disbursement, supported by Dan Palosaari, M/C. UPEA discussed change orders from MJO regarding the Lakeshore Drive Lift station. Craig Austin discussed a potential option. The Board decided to wait until the August 26th meeting to approve the change orders. In regards to the SPARK grant, Chris and Clay are meeting tomorrow about the sidewalk. They are waiting on DNR for approval. In regards to the Pike River Bridge, they are waiting on the DNR. In regards to the Lagoon Monitoring Project, per motion by Curt Judson, the contract will be renewed, supported by Bethany Baetsen, M/C.

REVIEW BUDGET: Still working on Audit

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Pavilion curtains: still in review. Dan and Craig will meet with Rob Barkle from Superior Steel.
B. Centennial Park Study approved in PC.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Portage Township is hosting a Scrap Tire Collection Event on September 12th from 1-3 PM open for Chassell residents as well.
2. PC Membership Renewal-motion by Lynn Gierke supported by Bethany Baetsen to renew Keith Meyers and Mike Messner 3 year term till 8/10/2029, M/C.
3. The Board and PC members discussed the data center issues around the region. The Township's current Zoning protects us from data centers so as of right now a blanket moratorium is not required.

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

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor _____ Bethany Baetsen, Clerk Bethany Baetsen