CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
September 23rd, 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 Andrea Aho to approve the August 12th minutes supported by Dan Palosaari. M/C. Motion by Curt Judson to approve the August 26th minutes supported by Andrea Aho. M/C Motion by Curt Judson to approve the September 22 minutes supported by Dan Palosaari. M/C. previous month's minutes, supported by . M/C.
TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with Fire Department numbers corrected by Dan Palosaari supported by Bethany Baetsen, M/C.
AGENDA: Motion by Bethany Baetsen to approve the agenda, supported by Dan Palosaari, M/C.
PAYMENT OF BILLS: Motion by Dan Palosaari to approve payment of bills, supported by Curt Judson, M/C.
PRESENTATION: Rob Stowe, Baraga Co. Memorial Hospital shared a new program coming to the area where the hospital will be receiving a mobile care vehicle in January of 2027. This is part of the federal effort to provide hospital level care to rural communities. Mr. Stowe let the board know that the BCMH would like to park the unit in Chassell one day per week. He discussed all of the services available and what the vehicle would require (preferrably a parking area near power and somewhere covered where waiting patients can get out of the weather. The Board was amenable to this idea. Mr. Stowe will work with the township to set-up a formal public meeting to share the news with the Chassell Community.
PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
CORRESPONDENCE: The DNR sent out public notice of their intent to purchase 300 acres to be added to the Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Refuge.
Kevin Harju of the HCRC discussed the potential for getting the section 19 funds from the most recent large flooding event in Chassell. The township will be receiving $98,868.
A local church/mission start-up requested access to use the pavilion on Sunday mornings for worship services free of charge. Approval per motion by Bethany Baetsen, supported by Andrea Aho, MC.
SUPERVISOR: Lynn Gierke attended the HCRC monthly meeting and has completed the audit exit meeting. She submitted the DNR Trust Fund Grant for the canoe/kayak launch.
CLERK: Bethany Baetsen informed the Board that the Public Accuracy Test for the November Election will be held on Oct 6th at 11 AM at the fire hall. She also attended the audit exit meeting and is continuing to work on GL reconciliation.
TREASURER: Andrea Aho mentioned that taxes have still been trickling in and that more have been paid online this year. She requested that Bethany Baetsen swear in the new Deputy Treasurer, Julie Jusdon and also let the Board know that SNB will be sending Docusign forms shortly to add Julie to the bank accounts.
FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: Curt Judson reported that they had 3 calls since the last which brings the year-to-date total to 37. Curt also reported that the department will be attending Sig Rho's annual Golf outing benefit and that the Chassell Emergency Services Fund will be part of this year's Copper Shores Giving Tuesday campaign. He also let the Board know that the Chassell Lions Club has agreed to generously donate to the new firehall renovations and that the new training room will be dedicated to their organization. Curt reported that the First Responders received 11 calls since the last meeting and 83 year-to-date. The FR have a new recruit, Francis Erskine who currently has his EMT license and is a student at MTU. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to approve adding Francis Erskine to the FR roster, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.
TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin informed the Board that someone is interested in buying the Salt Truck. Craig will be purchasing a used bucket truck from AirCo. For $6500 approved at the July

meeting. The DPW is almost done flushing the sewers but unfortunately a hose blew and they are waiting on parts to repair. Craig noticed that paint is peeling on the log-side of the pavilion. He was able to discuss intersection snow-removal with MDOT. Craig found out that the Old 41 bridge path is the township's jurisdiction and that they will do snow removal on it this winter. Lastly he let the Board know that the brush dump is getting high and needs to be burned.

ZONING: The new zoning report will be presented at the Oct. meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): The Trust fund grant has been submitted. Craig emphasized that at the next PC meeting, that there needs to be a discussion on moving the exercise equipment that is too close to the water plant.

ASSESSOR-Andrea Aho reported that Rebecca Hernandez has the current database from Tim Luoma. Tim Luoma technician will work thru November to do field checks. No letters were sent to residents. Lynn Gierke sent a letter to Mark Maki about his contract.

WEBSITE: The Fire Department page is now available on the website.

OFFICE BUILDING: None.

ENGINEERING: Centennial Park Study: UPEA will get the Township 20 bound copies for the office. RD Water: UPEA needs a copy of the signed minutes from the August 26th Special meeting. The rep from UPEA mentioned that one of the better ways to assure RD funding would be to partner with a Congressional member. UPEA suggested contacting Jack Bergman's office. B&B Contracting work is done but they still have one pay application for roughly $250,000 to submit. MJO still needs to install the new flow meter and generator and then they will be done at Lakeshore Dr. Lagoon Monitoring: the 5th well has been installed and surveyed and UPEA is ready to work with EGLE for discharge permits. Pike River Bridge: UPEA is currently waiting on an update from their structural team.

REVIEW BUDGET: The following budget amendments were approved per motion by Andrea Aho, supported by Curt Judson, MC.

General Fund Revenue

Property Insurance

101-865-910 from 9,995 to 12,307 (property insurance)

Workman's Compensation

101-871-717 from 1,861 to 3,460 (workman's comp.)

Park & Recreation Fund

208-756-800 from 5,915 to 29,235

208-756-975 from 5,000 to 19,483

Liquor

212-330-801 from 350 to 600

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Pavilion curtains: still in review and searching for funding options.
B. The Scrap Tire Collection event went well but it was noted that better communication for coordinating volunteers is needed for the next event.
C. Zoning Ordinance approval will be at the October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Craig Austin discussed the need to update the cemetery ordinance for Green Burials to include a clause prohibiting disinterment. Motion per Curt Judson, supported by Bethany Baetsen, MC.
2. Craig will be purchasing a new plow mount for the burgundy truck for $2500.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 per motion by Curt Judson, supported by Dan Palosaari, M/C.

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor _____ Bethany Baetsen, Clerk _____