

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OTSEGO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Otsego Township Board was held on Monday, July 13, 2020 at the Otsego Township Hall, 400 North 16th Street, Otsego, Michigan.

Members Present: Supervisor Winn, Clerk Squibbs, Treasurer Lunarde-Alexander, Trustees McPherson, Moll, Bumgart and Burns.

Members Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Winn.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Consent Agenda:

A motion by Squibbs with support by McPherson was made to approve the consent agenda consisting of the February 10, 2020 Board Minutes, Agenda Items with the addition of a discussion regarding the investment policy, and Payment of Bills in the amount of \$153,949.43.

Roll Call: Yes – McPherson, Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.

No – None.

Motion carried.

Open Forum:

Myrene Koch was present from the Prosecuting Attorney's office and gave a brief update regarding their operations. Gale Dugan was present from the Allegan County Board of Commissioners to update the Board on actions at the County level. He solicited input regarding ordinances pertaining to Off Road Vehicle use on public streets which he will relay to the Board of Commissioners. He also indicated the County was beginning the process to have dilapidated buildings at the Rock Tenn site demolished. Fire Chief Weber was present and gave a report.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Sewer Rate Increase: The Board received notice of the annual increase in the sewer rates from the City of Plainwell. Their rates are increasing from \$8.69 per 1,000 gallons to \$8.94 per 1,000 gallons for commodity and \$.27 per 1,000 gallons to \$.28 per 1,000 gallons for the IPP charge paid by commercial users. The Township typically passes these costs to our customers with an additional \$.10 per 1,000 gallons to offset costs to our system.

Motion by Burns with support by Lunarde-Alexander to approve increasing the sewer commodity rate to \$9.04 and the IPP charge to \$.28 per 1,000 gallons for Otsego Township utility customers.

Roll Call: Yes – McPherson, Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.

No – None.

Motion carried.

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Water Rate Increase: As part of implementation of the Township Asset Management and Capital Improvement Plan it is proposed to increase the water commodity rate for Otsego Township utility customers from \$2.45 to \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons.

Motion by Burns with support by Moll to increase the water commodity rate to \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons for Otsego Township utility customers.

Roll Call: Yes – McPherson, Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.

No – None.

Motion carried.

Interlocal Agreement for Recycling Surcharge: The Township must renew the interlocal agreement to participate in the Allegan County Resource Recovery program which provides our recycling services. The new agreement will be in effect from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2031. We have a ballot measure to increase the surcharge amount to \$50 per household. There is language in the agreement to allow the Township to continue to participate in the recycling program with a voluntary \$25 per household charge if the ballot measure does not pass.

Motion by Winn with support from Squibbs to approve the Surcharge Interlocal Agreement to participate in the Resource Recovery recycling program through Allegan County.

Roll Call: Yes – McPherson, Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.

No – None.

Motion carried.

Recycling Contract: Rosemary Graham, the coordinator for the Resource Recovery program asked the Township's intention regarding the renewal of our contract with Republic Services to provide our curbside recycling. She was requesting input as to whether the Township would like to renew our contract with Republic or put out a Request For Proposal (RFP) to solicit bids from other providers. She indicated other townships had put out RFPs and had no other vendors bid. The Township's current contract expires October 31, 2020.

Motion by Squibbs with support from Burns to renew the contract with Republic Services to provide curbside recycling service.

Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion carried.

Ambulance Contract Extension: We received a letter from Ascension indicating our contract for ambulance services expired on June 30, 2020. Due to COVID19 the contract administrators have not presented us with a renewal contract and are asking for an extension of until August 31, 2020 to prepare new contracts.

Motion by Winn with support by Moll to approve the contract extension until August 31, 2020 with Ascension.

Roll Call: Yes – McPherson, Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.

No – None.

Motion carried.

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Special Use - McPherson: The Planning Commission presented a recommendation to approve a Special Use Permit for Matt McPherson for a home occupation providing gunsmithing services from his home.

Motion by Burns with support by Lunarde-Alexander to approve the Special Use Permit for a home occupation for Matt McPherson.

Roll Call: Yes – Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.

No – None.

Abstain – McPherson.

Motion carried.

Special Use - Purser: The Planning Commission presented a recommendation to deny a Special Use Permit for Justin Purser for a home occupation to run a kennel.

Motion by Winn with support by Lunarde-Alexander to affirm the Planning Commission denial of a Special Use permit for a home occupation for Justin Purser.

Yes – 6, No – 1. Motion carried.

Ordinance 325: Ordinance 298 is the Group Insurance Plan Ordinance detailing the various insurance coverages offered to employees and board members of the Township. The Board amended the Township Personnel Policy previously to eliminate offering health insurance coverage and instead offer a stipend in lieu of insurance as a benefit to full time employees. Ordinance 325 amends Ordinance 298, which had included a provision offering health insurance coverage to full time employees, to remove the provision to reflect the change in the personnel policy.

Motion by Squibbs with support by Moll to adopt Ordinance 325.

Roll Call: Yes – McPherson, Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.

No – None.

Motion carried.

Investment Policy: The Township Investment policy details the financial institutions approved by the Board to act as depositories for Township funds. Treasurer Lunarde-Alexander would like to add Huntington Bank and Citizens Bank as approved financial institutions for Township funds. No other changes are proposed regarding the Township investment policies.

Motion by Moll with support by McPherson to approve the addition of Huntington Bank and Citizens Bank as depositories for Township funds.

Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion carried.

Communications and Reports:

An email was received from a resident, Scott Cowherd, requesting the streets in his neighborhood including Ruby, Ridge, Howard and Lee be considered for repaving.

Supervisor Winn indicated there would be a presentation from the team preparing information regarding the proposed water and sewer system upgrades at the August meeting.

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There was discussion regarding having ballot language prepared to place a millage request for public safety funding on the ballot in November. Ballot language will be presented at the August meeting for Board approval.

Supervisor Winn indicated he and Public Works Manager Cushman will be holding interviews of potential candidates to fill the position advertised by the Public Works Department. This is tentatively planned for July 30th and Supervisor Winn invited any board members interested in participating to attend.

Trustee Bumgart asked that consideration be given to using an electronic meeting platform for future meetings due to concerns with possible impacts from a resurgence of COVID19.

With no further business before the Board, a motion by Winn with support by Moll was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion carried.

Joan Squibbs, Clerk

Bryan Winn, Supervisor

I, the undersigned Joan Squibbs, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Township of Otsego, Allegan County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 13rd day of July, 2020.

Joan Squibbs, Clerk
Otsego Township