

**POLKTON CHARTER
REGULAR BOARD MEETING - MINUTES
MAY 6, 2021, - 7:00 P.M.
TOWNSHIP HALL, 6900 ARTHUR, COOPERSVILLE, MI.**

Board Members Present: at the Township Hall were D.Biller, T.Costigan, C.Langeland, R.Liszewski, J.Meerman, R.Scott and M.VandenBrink. A "GoTo" meeting was set up to allow a review of Township Audit to be presented by Eric VanDop.

Absent: None

Additional Attendees: Jim Key

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with Costigan offering the invocation.
Supervisor Costigan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None Received.

AGENDA: Liszewski moved to approve the agenda, Langeland supported. All Ayes; Approved.

AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA: Scott moved with support from Langeland to approve the Consent Agenda. Approved were: Minutes from the Regular Board meeting of April 1, Bills to be paid, the Treasurers Report. Minutes from PC minutes from April 20, Fire Authority April 13 with financials and the 2021/22 budget formula. The Sheridan Park April 14 minutes, SE Schoolhouse minutes of April 5 and the Cemetery minutes of April 8. All Ayes.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

Bills Paid: GF\$30,253.59 (Ck#3100-3112) Payroll, 3 EFT PR Tax, (GF Cks#10503-10546) and WF \$11,727.73(Ck#1527-1528).

**BOARD
REPORTS**

Treasurers Report: Presented by Liszewski: 2020 Tax settlements have been completed with Ottawa County and funds have been transferred into appropriate township accounts.

PC Report: by Scott: A ten unit development on 64th Ave received preliminary approval.

Recommendations were given to the supervisor for updating of the accessory buildings ordinance.

Fire Authority Report: by Biller: Truck #441 (ladder truck) will be replaced with a new "engine truck" with a 3 to 1 vote. It will likely take a year for the replacement truck to be available. A study may be ordered to verify the need, or not, of full time personnel. Qualified Fire Fighters are needed. The 2021-22 Fire/Rescue Contribution Analysis has been completed. There will be a 65% City / 35% Township operations split for 2021/22 (64%/36% in 2020-21)

Sheridan Park & SE Schoolhouse: by Meerman/Key: Thank goodness several young men turned up to help at the park for cleanup day on May 1st. Thank you so much! Bridge repairs were made with approach steps and board replacements needed next year. Key makes many necessary repairs and donates much of his time on the overall management of Sheridan Park and the SE School.

Cemetery Minutes- Were reviewed.

OTTAWA COUNTY PDR PROGRAM: Two applications from Polkton Township were entered into the Purchase of Development Rights Program along with 11 others from Ottawa County (OC). This is the second time for Josh Rolfe with 83 Acres and the first time for Norma Baldus with 80 acres. Julie Lamers from OC was in attendance to explain the PDR program to members of the board. Julie explained that approval does not need to be board approved, however, it is best to have township leaders review the applications and verify that the location of the proposed applicants fit into the criteria. Julie further explained currently there are 407 acres of actively tilled ag property preserved in OC with an additional 160 acres proposed for this year. Choosing the parcels is based upon a developed points system. If chosen, the program creates an easement that deeds development rights to OC. Compensation to the land owner is made by way of a one time payout for lost development potential. The land owners retain ownership and all other rights associated with the land. They are still required to pay taxes work their land and can still sell their property, yet protect the farmland from development in perpetuity. A certified appraiser calculates the difference between the value of the farmed land verses if it were developed, the difference is the easement value (currently estimated \$3500 per acre). Funding for purchases comes from the Landowner who donates 25% of the appraised value and OC who applies for a 50% state grant and the OC Ag preservation board who raise the remaining 25% from the private sector. Property with wind and solar leases would not be eligible for this program. Langeland moved to approve the two current applicants properties for consideration for the PDR program, support from Liszewski. A roll call vote was taken, All Members voting yes. APPROVED.

**OC PDR
2021
Applications**

2020 TOWNSHIP AUDIT: Eric VanDop from Brickley Delong was attending via a goto meeting. All board members had a copy of the audit to follow along with Eric as he explained findings. The Township remains in good financial standings, deficiencies found, are found in many similar small townships, being not enough employees to segregate jobs nor a CPA on staff. The Audit was accepted as presented.

2020 AUDIT

TOWNSHIP AUDIT PROPOSAL: A written four year proposal was presented to allow Brickley Delong to continue to provide the township with annual audits. After discussion, Scott moved with support from VandenBrink to accept the four year proposal from Brickley Delong. All Ayes APPROVED.

**FOUR YR
AUDIT
CONTRACT**

50/50 GRAVEL PROGRAM: Last month members were asked to check certain roads proposed for re-graveling. Two miles of new gravel with a 50/50 share cost with Ottawa County is budgeted at \$40,000. There are approximately 3 areas that have not seen new gravel since the late 90's. VandenBrink moved to have Mill Road and Brucker Road regaveled this year. Support from Scott. All Ayes. APPROVED.

**2021 ROAD
GRAVEL
50/50**

MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION: Supervisor Costigan requested that the board read the proposed plan well and prepare for future discussion.

**MASTER
PLAN**

BOARD DISCUSSION: An update on the Site Condo Development on 64th Ave was given by Costigan. Cleanup Day reminders for May 8, 2021 were given. The Delinquent Personal Property tax payer has contacted the Treasurer with their plan to have the winter 2020 taxes paid by year end which will leave them in a continued state of a 1 year delinquency. OCRC will be preparing the gravel roads for brine, hopefully the brining will be done sooner than later due to the very dry spring. It is anticipated that the week of May 18 we will see the dust control brining.

**BOARD
DISCUSSION**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

It was moved and supported to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Minutes written by: Connie Langeland, Clerk
UnApproved.