

**CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
of the
February 14, 2024
AGENDA MEETING**

The Chippewa Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly Agenda Meeting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Present were Chairman Dan Woodske, Supervisor Bryan Wright, Manager Mark Taylor, Assistant Manager/Rec Director Lauren Doyle, Code Enforcement Officer Dawna Pella, and Administrative Assistant Cindy Clark. Supervisor Jim Bouril did not attend.

Chairman Dan Woodske brought the meeting to order.

VISITORS

Chief Eric Hermick from the Police Department, Matt Steklachik from the Park, and Eric Chaffee from the Road Department attended.

MANAGER

Manager Mark Taylor had listed the following items on the agenda for discussion or action:

1. Technology and Equipment Grant for the Police Department:

Manager Taylor said that we received \$94,656.50 so far and Dawna Pella added that the amount will be closer to \$128,000 when all of the funds are received. This is for body cams and technology items for the Police Department upgrades.

2. Police Station Renovation Project:

The Police Department will be renovated and part of it will be moved into the existing downstairs community room. They will be close to the clerk and there will be a pass-through. The library will then hold its events in the old Emergency Management Room and the room will only hold library events. They won't have to move their things in and out before and after events. Manager Taylor said that the library has agreed to this plan. An additional cost will be flooring.

3. Allegheny Safe and Lock Quote Discussion:

Manager Taylor said that Lauren Doyle did the legwork in order to get these quotes. The Township plans to get items from two different companies and they explained this. Manager Taylor said we will eventually have access cards to the building instead of keys.

4. Sahli Nature Park Pond Second Quote from KU Resources:

Manager Taylor explained that the Township was not pleased with the first quote so they got a second quote. He feels this quote is more reasonable and more thorough. He said voting on this matter can take place at next week's meeting. He asked that they look over the paperwork before then.

5. Mark Sommer Retirement March 29, 2024:

Manager Taylor asked the Chief to speak about Mark Sommer's retirement plans. He is eligible by years of service, but not by age. He will wait until June of 2025. He elected to do this. His effective retirement date will be on March 29th, but he requested to be taken off of the work schedule on February 22nd and will take vacation and personal leave.

6. Authorization to have Chief Hermick Start Hiring Process:

Chief Hermick would like permission to start the hiring process to replace Officer Sommer.

MR. WRIGHT MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW CHIEF HERMICK TO ADVERTISE AND TO START THE HIRING PROCESS to replace Officer Sommer. Mr. Woodske seconded the motion and with no further discussion the motion carried.

Chief Hermick then said that he sponsored a cadet, Jonah Krom, at the North Park Police Academy who will graduate in June. The sponsorship means that the Township will consider hiring him part-time. The Chief said that he is a very viable candidate. He would not be paid at this time, but would be on our roster. He would then be able to participate in the upcoming process. Mr. Wright had a few questions and Chief Hermick said that the sponsorships are allowed now due to shortages in law enforcement. He said that he is an Army Special Forces person, is a leader in his academy class at this time, lives locally, and is currently in our Fire Department. The Chief said if this person is put on our roster at this time, he can begin riding with the Chippewa officers on the weekends. He will not graduate until June. The Chief said he would be an observer at this time. This would be conditional offer of part-time employment, upon his graduation from the academy & passing of his certification test. This would be of no cost to the Township. Manager Taylor added that there is nothing in violation of our union contract with this plan.

MR. WRIGHT MOVED TO GO FORWARD WITH THIS PLAN as outlined by the Chief. Mr. Woodske seconded the motion and with no further discussion the motion carried.

7. Annette Ice - Request to Attend PA GFOA Conference:

Manager Taylor said that Annette Ice was off sick, so she would not be present to answer questions like he had hoped regarding an e-mail request he received from her. He said he does not have a lot of details, but she made a request to attend a GFOA conference and Manager Taylor said that he was passing her request on to the Supervisors as she had asked him to do. He noted that prior to the meeting the Supervisors were provided the information that Annette had supplied to the Manager regarding the conference. This included information about a scholarship she applied for and received, and an e-mail requesting that the Township cover the cost of her lodging and the airfare to Florida. Manager Taylor said that she had listed the approximate costs involved.

MR. WRIGHT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE the request of Annette Ice to attend the GFOA conference. Mr. Woodske seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion carried.

8. Crossing at Chippewa Development (Sheetz, Starbucks, Chipotle, Dairy Queen):

This development was presented at last night's Planning Commission Meeting. He said the meeting went very well. Manager Taylor said they are going to meet the points criteria. He said multiple meetings have been held with them and they have worked through the concerns. He added that landscaping and lighting have been discussed, along with development exits onto Route 51 and Darlington Road. He said that their sign plans also meet our ordinances. He explained various aspects of the area and the plans.

9. Splash Pad Project Update:

Manager Taylor said they are working on completing the turf and the one-inch tap was changed to two-inch. He said that the splash pad should be ready to go in the spring.

10. Industrial Appraisal:

Manager Taylor said that a copy of the Industrial Appraisal is located in the Supervisors' office.

11. Department Reports:

A. Police:

Chief Hermick said that he would like to move forward with a canine program and asked the Supervisors for permission to research this. He feels he could obtain funding outside the Township for equipment. This would involve the vehicle, outfitting the dog, training the dog, officer's training wages, etc. Chairman Woodske asked if someone has offered to handle the dog and the Chief said someone has. He said the dog would be able to help with missing persons (children and elderly), narcotics, it could be used at the schools, etc. He said that in the past it was easy to use dogs belonging to the State Police, or the Sheriff's Department, but that is no longer the case. It is now harder to get those services. The Chief said that he has done some research regarding costs. Targeted fundraisers could be held in the future to keep the program going. Manager Taylor said 3 years ago he would have just advised the Police Department to use the services of other departments, but this isn't always possible now. He added that having a dog creates different financial obligations as the vehicle equipped for the dog is taken home, that officer is always on call, etc. Since it is getting harder to get the dog services elsewhere, the Chief was advised by the Supervisors to continue researching this program and see what the cost would be. The monthly Police Department Report had been forwarded to the Supervisors on 2/13.

B. Street:

Eric Chaffee said that the boom mower should be here tomorrow. His monthly report had been forwarded to the Supervisors on 2/13.

C. Recreation:

Lauren Doyle said that summer camp registrations will begin soon and she answered some Lacrosse questions from Supervisor Wright. She had updated the Supervisors regarding Park & Recreation activities with a written report that was forwarded to the Supervisors on 2/13.

D. Code Enforcement:

No report. The written report had been forwarded to the Supervisors 2/13.

E. Sanitary Authority:

The Bradys Run Sanitary Authority February 5, 2024 Project Update had been forwarded to the Supervisors on 2/13.

F. Finance:

Not present. Financial Reports had been forwarded to Supervisors 2/13.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to come before the Board, Chairman Woodske adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Secretary

Chairman

