

**CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
of the
MARCH 16, 2022
REGULAR MEETING**

The Chippewa Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Present were Chairman Jim Bouril, Supervisor Dan Woodske, Supervisor Bryan Wright, Manager Mark Taylor, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Rich Bebout, Solicitor Shannon Steele, Code Enforcement Officer Dawna Pella, and Administrative Assistant Cindy Clark.

Chairman Jim Bouril called the meeting to order.

VISITORS

Police Chief Eric Hermick, Dave Przybysz of the Chippewa Volunteer Fire Department, John Syka of the Chippewa Volunteer Fire Department, and Curtis Walsh of WBVP attended. Chairman Bouril asked if any of the visitors would like to speak. None of the visitors indicated that they wished to make any comments.

MINUTES

Mr. Bouril had the following minutes for review:

1. December 8, 2021
2. December 15, 2021

3. February 9, 2022
4. February 16, 2022

There were no additions or corrections to the four sets of minutes and they were all accepted as presented.

The Supervisors acknowledged the minutes of the following meetings:

1. October 18, 2021 Sanitary Authority Board Meeting
2. February 8, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting
3. March 7, 2022 Recreation Board Meeting

ITEMS TO BE ACTED ON

None.

REPORTS

Mr. Bouril had the following February reports for review:

1. Financial Report
2. Police Department Report
3. Road Report
4. Wage Tax/OPT Report
5. Real Estate Tax Report
6. Zoning Report
7. Code Enforcement Officer's Report
8. Fire Report

There were no comments on any of the department reports.

MANAGER'S REPORT

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

1. Public Safety Radio System upgrade:

Manager Taylor said a meeting was held this afternoon. He provided information to the Supervisors. These will be purchased through Motorola. He said that by next month he should have a number of radios needed and he should know what the cost will be. He said this should be up and running by 2023.

2. Resolution #2022-8 to open & maintain bank accounts at Huntington Bank:

Manager Taylor explained that the passage of this resolution will allow the Township to transfer 19 accounts from WesBanco to Huntington Bank.

MR. WRIGHT MOVED TO PASS Resolution #2022-8. Mr. Woodske seconded the motion and with no further discussion the motion carried.

3. Approval to order a 2022 Chevy Silverado 3500 pickup for the Street Department through COSTARS fleet contract:

The Manager said a vehicle was located. Six are coming in and three are already spoken for, so they are holding one for the Township until approval is given. He provided information regarding the condition of our current vehicles, and asked for approval for this purchase of a new one. He said if approval is granted, the cost will be \$42,136, and we probably won't receive the new vehicle until June.

MR. WOODSKE MOVED TO PURCHASE the 2022 Chevy Silverado pickup for the Street Department. Mr. Wright seconded the motion and with no further discussion the motion carried.

4. Storm drains – Woodland Road and Constitution Blvd. – repair project:

Manager Taylor provided photos of the problem at Constitution and Woodland Road to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. He gave an explanation of what the photos are showing and added that he will attend a meeting with our engineering company KLH tomorrow regarding this situation. He said the Township will likely have to go through the bid opening process for this, as it is not something that can be handled by our Street Department.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Chairman Bouril had the February, 2022 bills for review

MR. WOODSKE MOVED TO APPROVE payment of the February 2022 bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright and with no further discussion the motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S BUSINESS

Solicitor Shannon Steele explained that a liquor license transfer has been requested. This is T & M Retail Corporation, 2567 Darlington Road, from Diane D'Amico. Approval from the Township will have to be given before they can make their application with the State. She explained the process. She will schedule the hearing for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, advertise this in the paper, send notification to the attorney, and she added that she will conduct this hearing.

SUPERVISORS' BUSINESS

Mr. Woodske asked if anything can be done where the traffic exits the Municipal Building area due to several accidents that have taken place there. He wondered if something could be done there to slow the traffic down, such as painting something on the road. There was some discussion on this matter and Manager Taylor said he will look into this.

MISCELLANEOUS

Before the meeting was adjourned, Chief Hermick asked about hiring a full-time officer for the Department at this time. Discussion followed. Mr. Wright said that if a full-time officer is hired now, it will give the Township 3 months to see if a part-time or a full-time officer needs to be hired later when a full-time officer may retire.

MR. WRIGHT MADE A MOTION TO HIRE Tom Paraniuk as a full-time police officer. It was noted that he is now a part-time officer here. Mr. Woodske seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion carried.

At this time, John Syka spoke up, saying that he has been the Fire Department's president for over a year. He said that the firetrucks are 19 years old and need to be replaced and added that EMS calls are through the roof. He listed some of the equipment expenditures the Department has made during the last three years. He said the call reimbursement is nearly zero as far as the Fire Department members go, and said they have lost 3 people to other departments that offer their members a stipend to answer calls. He added that people get up in the middle of the night to answer calls, respond in bad weather, get nothing for their time, and do not get gas reimbursement for their vehicles. He wanted to know if they are getting a new building and feels nothing has been done to move this plan for a new building along. He emphasized that the Supervisors should not expect that two million dollars would pay for a new building. He also asked about the tax millage and suggested it be increased to purchase a new firetruck. Manager Taylor said that it now brings in around \$176,000. The Manager also said that the Fire Department was given \$50,000. Mr. Syka responded that \$50,000 went to the repairs on one truck. Mr. Syka made several comments regarding the fire survey, available land for a new building, new trucks, and he listed various community events that the department takes part in that they get no compensation for.

Mr. Syka turned to Police Chief Eric Hermick, who was also attending the meeting, and started asking him questions about his Police Department's funding. At this time, Chairman Bouril reminded Mr. Syka that this is a public meeting and told him that he is to address the Supervisors at the table when speaking or asking questions, not the Police Chief.

Mr. Syka said that the Fire Department is not paid by the Township and that they are a self-entity that needs help because they can't keep up with the expenses now. He noted how covid affected the Department's ability to earn money at fish fries and by renting out their hall.

Supervisor Wright told Mr. Syka that although the Fire Department has provided the Supervisors with a list of bills that have been paid, they still have not provided profit/loss statements, balance sheets, bank statements, etc. Supervisor Wright said that they need to see the books in order for the Supervisors to provide assistance to the Fire Department. He added that when they are provided the proper financial information, they will sit down with the Fire Department and discuss this. Manager Taylor said that the Township received P & Ls for years, but that has stopped. Mr. Syka said that 82 checks went out for raffles in the last two months to pay the winners. The Manager said that the Department is only showing the Township what people have won, but they want to know how much the Department actually made on the raffle. Mr. Syka's response was, "Well, we made it. That's our business." Supervisor Wright reiterated that just knowing what checks are written by the Fire Department is not enough information to allow the Supervisors to make funding decisions.

Dave Przybysz spoke at this time and suggested that the Township officials and the Fire Department leaders start over and have a meeting to discuss what is needed, and come up with a plan of action. Mr. Woodske said he is appreciative of those who volunteer, but he said he needs answers to questions about the finances, because he doesn't know the costs that the Fire Department deals with. Mr. Syka said that Chippewa does the training and then the people leave to work in other departments. Chairman Bouril agreed that a meeting should be held, so Manager Taylor will set one up in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT/MEETING DATES

With nothing further to come before the Board, Chairman Bouril adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

The scheduled meeting dates for April 2022 are: Agenda meeting: Wednesday, April 13th at 10 a.m.; Regular Meeting: Wednesday, April 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

