

REGULAR MEETING
February 23, 2021

PERE MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
held at 1699 S. Pere Marquette Highway, Ludington MI 49431

Meeting held via teleconference.

Board members present: Supervisor Gerald Bleau; Clerk Rachelle Enbody; Treasurer Karie Bleau; Trustees: Henry Rasmussen, and Ronald Soberalski.

Absent: Trustees: Andrew Kmetz (joined at 5:05 p.m.) and James Nordlund Sr. (joined at 5:12 p.m.)

Also present: Hannah Hubbard (Ludington Daily News) and Kelly Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the Supervisor. Invocation was given by Smith; Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: **Moved** by Soberalski, seconded by K. Bleau to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes as presented.

Roll call vote: Yes: G. Bleau, Enbody, K. Bleau, Rasmussen, and Soberalski.
No: None.
Absent: Kmetz and Nordlund.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Moved** by Rasmussen, seconded by Soberalski to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote: Yes: G. Bleau, Enbody, K. Bleau, Rasmussen, and Soberalski.
No: None.
Absent: Kmetz and Nordlund.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Enbody reported a channel update notification from Charter Communications (Spectrum).

NEW BUSINESS: A. **First Reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 148 – Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment** – Board members conducted the first reading of proposed Ordinance No. 148, a zoning ordinance text amendment. The text amendment would amend the listed Zoning District in Article 19: High-Risk Erosion Overlay Zone; would amend, add and repeal various sections relation to and regulating Article 28: Signs. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 2, 2021 and is recommending the ordinance for approval and adoption.

Moved by K. Bleau, seconded by Kmetz to accept the first reading of proposed Ordinance No. 148, a zoning ordinance text amendment and to schedule the second reading and consideration of adoption for March 9, 2021.

Roll call vote: Yes: G. Bleau, Enbody, K. Bleau, Kmetz, Rasmussen, and Soberalski.
No: None.
Absent: Nordlund.

Motion carried.

B. **Consider Request to Purchase UTV for the Parks Department** – Board members reviewed quotes for a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) for the Parks Department. The purchase was originally planned for 2024 in the Capital Improvement Plan but was moved up to 2021 with the acquisition of the new park property.

The quotes received were:

Bader Brothers	\$21,100.00
Babbit's	\$22,000.00
Peacock Ltd.	\$22,000.00
Classic Motor Sports	\$23,121.09

Moved by Rasmussen, seconded by Soberalski to approve the purchase of a Polaris Ranger XP 1000 Utility Terrain Vehicle from Bader Brothers at a purchase price of \$21,100.00.

Roll call vote: Yes: G. Bleau, Enbody, K. Bleau, Kmetz, Nordlund, Rasmussen, and Soberalski.
 No: None.
 Absent: None.

Motion carried.

C. **Consider quotes for Sewer and Water Rate Study** – Board members reviewed the following quotes for a Sewer and Water Rate Study:

Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc.	\$ 7,920.00
Stantec	\$28,970.00
Utility Financial Solutions, LLC	\$29,800.00

K. Bleau explained that per the boards' direction in January she had requested quotes from five different firms. The industry standard suggests that a comprehensive analysis be completed every five to seven years. The most recent comprehensive analysis was completed by Stantec (previously Burton & Associates) in 2015. Gosling Czubak completed a rate study for the township in 2007/2008 and Stantec completed an analysis in 2015. Utility Financial Solutions was suggested by the engineering firm of Fleis and Vandenbrink and most recently completed a study for the City of Ludington. The two other firms that were contacted did not provide quotes. K. Bleau recommended Stantec for the analysis as they are the best in the business, they have the most recent comprehensive knowledge of the system and were instrumental in negotiating the current agreement with the City of Ludington and Michigan Power. G. Bleau explained that the Michigan Rural Water Association recently completed a limited study for the township. The MRWA study meets the requirements of the State of Michigan for municipalities to review their rates every three years and the MRWA study is provided at no cost. G. Bleau will distribute the MRWA study to board members.

Moved by Nordlund seconded by Rasmussen to postpone action on conducting a rate study in order to review the MRWA information.

Roll call vote: Yes: G. Bleau, Enbody, Kmetz, Nordlund, Rasmussen, and Soberalski.
 No: K. Bleau.
 Absent: None.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: **Moved** by G. Bleau, seconded by Enbody to move into Committee of the Whole at 5:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Roll call vote: Yes: G. Bleau, Enbody, K. Bleau, Kmetz, Nordlund, Rasmussen, and Soberalski.
 No: None.
 Absent: None.

Motion carried.

Various topics discussed with no action taken:

G. Bleau explained that he was contacted by Matt Biolette of Republic Services to consider amending the recycling schedule. Biolette explained that there has been a significant increase in cardboard shipping boxes that has significantly increased the amount of recycling collected. The suggested schedule by Republic would split the monthly pick up between the North and South portions of the township. The South portion of the township would be picked up the second Monday of each month and the North portion of the township would be picked up on the third Monday of each month. The board felt that this change would be difficult for residents to adjust to. Another suggestion would be to increase the recycling pickup to two times per month, per residence, but at an increased cost of over \$40,000.00 per year, a twice monthly recycling pick up is cost prohibitive. Bleau will respond to Republic Services that the options presented were declined.

K. Bleau discussed the waiving of penalty charges for the 2020 utility billing. The original resolution states "penalty charges will not be enforced for the remainder of 2020." The fourth quarter billing cycle is billed and collected in 2021. The board will also need to determine if it wishes to continue the waiving of penalties for any of the 2021 billing cycles.

Soberalski complained that he had to wait for twenty-eight minutes at the railroad crossing on Sixth Street and asked if there was an avenue for the township to pursue that would regulate the length of time a train is allowed to delay traffic.

Kmetz asked when the board would be able to meet in person. G. Bleau explained that the current order (MCL 333.2253 – Gathering and Face Mask Order) does not currently allow for in person meetings of more than ten participants from more than two households.

Moved by Enbody, seconded by Kmetz to return to regular session at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Roll call vote: Yes: G. Bleau, Enbody, K. Bleau, Kmetz, Nordlund, Rasmussen, and Soberalski.
No: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carried.

Moved by K. Bleau seconded by Rasmussen to clarify that the suspension of utility billing penalty charges remains effective through the fourth quarter billing cycle of 2020.

Roll call vote: Yes: G. Bleau, Enbody, K. Bleau, Kmetz, Nordlund, Rasmussen, and Soberalski.
No: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: **Moved** by Enbody, seconded by Nordlund to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote: Yes: G. Bleau, Enbody, K. Bleau, Kmetz, Nordlund, Rasmussen, and Soberalski.
No: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carried at 6:09 p.m.

Rachelle D. Enbody, CMC, Township Clerk

Gerald A. Bleau, Township Supervisor

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