

**Regular Meeting of the Burt Township Board**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2014**

**7:00 PM -- Community Center**

**Attendance:** Joe Venturato, Lori McShane, Lois Leavenworth, L. Scott Wieting, Tara Beckwith.

**Agenda:** Motion offered by Leavenworth, second by Wieting to approve the agenda with the addition of lease with Marquette Physicians added to (12) other. –5 ayes

**Public Comments:** None

**Correspondence:** Letter dated 04-07-2014 from Fire Chief Venturato explaining the departments concerns with the budget and the “excessive” fire hydrant fees paid to the water department.

Grand Marais Sportsmans Club correspondence dated 04-02-14: Letter requesting purchase of property, east of town next to the old landfill, for the purpose of a rifle range. The Sportsmans Club would like the township to start the process of investigating any possible property restrictions, legal issues, zoning issues, and possible DEQ concerns.

**Approve minutes:** March 7, 11 (2), 28, 2014: Motion by Wieting, second by Leavenworth, to approve the minutes– 5 ayes.

**Department & Committee Reports:** Reports were available from Ambulance, DPW, Fire and Library. The board asked Mike Beek to get up to date estimates on the roof replacement on the bayshore bath house. Ed Bowen stated that the airport committee will have a report for the next meeting.

**Appointments/Resignations:** none

**Supervisor Report:** The boat launch extension is out for bids. We have received two bids so far – DNR requires three. The engineering firm is currently soliciting for one more bid.

**Treasurers reports and Approval of Bills:** Treasurer’s report – the accounts are reconciled. (\$1,115,703.61) Motion by Wieting, second by Leavenworth, to approve the bills. 5 ayes

**Unfinished business:**

**Airport Land Swap:** Bob Burnham from the DNR was present at the meeting to answer questions about the latest proposal from the state, which asks the township to give 80 acres in exchange for the airport land. The board would like to pursue the original agreement which was for the state to just turn over the airport land. Bob will take this information back and the board will proceed with correspondence stating this position.

**New business:**

**North Country Trail (Dennis Weaver):** Dennis made a presentation to the board asking to sign a memorandum of understanding between the North Country Trail association and Burt Township to establish Grand Marais as an official “trail town”. Grand Marais would benefit from the additional marketing Motion by McShane, second by Leavenworth, to approve entering into the agreement after amended to reflect Burt Township. – 5 ayes

**Board Meeting schedule for fiscal year 2014-15:** Motion offered by Wieting, second by Beckwith, to set the dates of the monthly township meetings, second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. 5 ayes

**Water ordinance review (committee):** To be prepared for the changeover to billing based on meter readings, the board has decided to appoint a committee to review the water ordinance and work with RDA and the engineers to prepare a new rate schedule. This would include reviewing the current practice of billing the fire department for hydrant rental fees. The committee would consist of Lori McShane, board member representative and water billing clerk, Mike Beek, Water system manager, Gene LePeak, residential water system customer, Mike Lawless, commercial water system customer, and Mark Johnstone, community member with experience in water system maintenance. Scott Weiting would be on the committee as an advisory member.

**Delinquent Water Bills:** Currently have three accounts seriously delinquent. Water has been shut off. Board unanimously agreed to stand firm on the policy and insist on payment in full before service is restored.

**Other:** Medical Center manager, Sandee Sibbald, presented a copy of the “part time occupancy agreement” with DLP Marquette Physician Practices, Inc., . Motion by McShane, second by Leavenworth, to enter into the lease agreement for one year, expiring April 15, 2015. 4 ayes, 1 abstain.

**Public Comment:** Dave Pool, Sportsman’s Club President, urged the board to act swiftly regarding the land sale for the rifle range. Assistant Fire Chief Dale Ross, reiterated the importance of reducing the fire hydrant rental fees.

**Adjournment:** 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted April 9, 2014

Lori McShane, Clerk