

Regular Meeting of the Burt Township Board
Tuesday, July 14, 2020 – 7:00 PM – Community Center

DRAFT

Attendance: Sheri Shafer, Lori McShane, Lou Lundquist, and Tara Dongvillo (Deb Lundquist – via phone conference)

Agenda: Motion by McShane, second by Dongvillo, to approve the agenda with the addition of Library and Wilson Street repair under new business item d & c. 5 ayes.

Public Comments: Marla Overlin made a presentation on the need to mark the veteran's graves in all cemeteries on Memorial Day. Aleta Hubbard spoke on behalf of the chamber regarding the festival planning and the negative attitude and hateful messages she has been receiving. Kelcie Lundquist said she did not feel that the festival could be put on "safely" and the board should not allow it this year. Pam Lundquist also was concerned for public safety and asked the board to intervene and not allow the festival to take place this year. Mark Steinke asked about the liability of having the campground open fully as compared to the festival. Dore Stevens spoke about the campground and the social distancing rules that are being followed and how it should not be compared to a music festival.

Correspondence: none.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Dongvillo, second by Lou Lundquist, to approve the minutes of the June 9th regular and the June 24th special meeting as written. 5 ayes.

Department and Committee Reports: Reports were available from the DPW/Water, Park and assessor.

Appointments/Resignations: Motion by McShane, second by Shafer, to approve the application of Jordan Bugg to the Fire Department. 5 ayes.

Supervisor Report: Summer tax bills were mailed out – taxes are due September 14th, 2020. The planning commission has also included a recreation plan survey, please review and let the board know what you want to see us pursue for our community recreation. Alger County Covid testing is taking place on Saturday, July 18, at the Alger county Road Commission. Stay Safe and be kind.

Treasurer's reports and Approval of Bills: Treasurer's report – (\$899,218.91) Motion by Dongvillo, second by McShane, to accept treasurer's report and approve the bills for payment. (\$54,317.69) 5 ayes.

Unfinished Business:

Marina Bathhouse and Fish cleaning station: The bathroom facilities are open with the exception of the one leaky urinal. Possible replacement with a porcelain urinal. Ranger security video surveillance cameras are on order.

Miller Canfield Bonding/Township counsel response to Treasury Letter: The matter will be tabled again until Mr. Tinti has a chance to discuss and complete negotiation with the Treasury.

Resolution for Fire billing: Copy of Resolution distributed to the board for review. Need to revise at next meeting.

New Business:

Batteries for AED/Defibrillators: Township has eight AED units that were purchased with grant funds some years ago and have not been checked on a regular basis and batteries and pads have not been replaced as needed. We are gathering information on costs and will have estimates for the next meeting to be approved. We are scheduling classes with Bob Hughes and will coordinate representatives from all locations where the AED's will be housed.

Robert Steinhof – County Prosecutor: Mr. Steinhof was present and talked to the board and the community present about the upcoming election. He is on the ballot for County Prosecutor. He would like to see how he can improve the law enforcement issues we have in our community.

Grand Marais Chamber of Commerce Music Festival: The board was presented a petition from community members asking for board intervention to prevent the music festival from happening this

year due to the pandemic and the governor's rules and restrictions. This petition was signed by over 180 people, of which 126 were registered voters of Burt Township, and an additional 57 of those signatures were from taxpayers of the township. We also received 15 letters from taxpayers in the community that felt the chamber had done everything necessary to allow the festival to happen and felt the board should permit it. Treasurer Dongvillo made a statement in rebuttal to the correspondence received from the Chamber asking her to recuse herself from this agenda subject. Motion by McShane, second by Shafer, to not allow the use of the township property at the community center or the stage and ballfield/camping area for the music festival this year. 5 ayes.

Library: Clerk McShane has researched and talked with Pam Hicks and the representatives from the Kellogg Grant association, and there are no restrictions on the grant funds that were awarded and used to construct the youth center. The youth center has not been used in years and would be better utilized as an addendum to the library. Board agreed to allow the librarian to use the space in the youth center to expand the library. We will include a "Kids reading corner" to continue the tradition of offering a place for the local youth.

Four-year Road plan/Wilson Street: Supervisor Shafer and Robert Lindbeck from the Alger County Road Commission have discussed revising our four-year road plan to schedule repairs to Wilson Street for the 2021 summer instead of the improvements to Lowder Rd. as previously agreed upon. The ACRC will provide a contract with estimated costs for approval this fall. The Lowder Rd. project will be rescheduled for early in the next four-year plan.

Other: Will schedule a special meeting before the end of July for 1st quarter budget review.

Public Comment: Jenny Irvine spoke of the divisiveness in the town and hopes that we can do better. Alfie Lundquist said thanks to the board and that he felt we did the right thing. Kelcie Lundquist spoke again regarding the need for people to be more understanding and respectful when it comes to the rules for mask wearing. Mark Steinke commented on the masks and whether or not they are effective. Maria Johnstone asked why the kayakers were allowed to hold their event at the community center and the chamber is being prohibited. Christine Lundquist felt the board made a good decision.

Adjournment: 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted July 22, 2020

Lori McShane, Clerk