

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD
Monday, June 21st, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Clerk Marjie Marshall called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Board and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance

MEMBERS PRESENT: Treasurer Mary Long, Clerk Marjie Marshall, Trustees Kathy Harri-McEvers and Carol Treganowan.

ABSENT: Supervisor Jim Vivian.

GUEST PRESENT: David Schumacher, Tom and Elaine Hall, Mark Bonenfant, Rodger Kershner, Dan Steck, Carol and Mel Jones, Sharon Deal, Gary Bays.

APPOINT MEETING MODERATOR: Motion by Mary, seconded by Kathy for Marjie to moderate the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

- Motion by Kathy, seconded by Carol to approve minutes of May 17, 2021 Regular Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Carol, seconded by Kathy to accept Treasures Report. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Kathy, seconded by Carol to approve Payment of Bills. Motion passed unanimously.
 - General Fund: #5382 to Up and Running for \$25.00, #5383 to Verizon for \$26.32, #5384 to UPPCO for \$118.32, #5385 VOID, #5386 to UPPCO for \$481.99, #5387 to Waste Management for \$96.19, #5388 to Mary Long for \$550.37, #5389 to Kathy Harri-McEvers for \$78.50, #5390 to Carol Treganowan for \$78.50, #5391 to Mark Bonenfant for \$184.70, #5392 to Postmaster for \$110.00, #5393 to MTA for \$202.31, #5394 VOID #5395 to Jim Vivian III for \$129.29, #5396 to Marjie Marshall for \$766.50, #5397 to Dave Schumacher for \$242.42, #2398 to Sara Huuki for \$184.70 (Total \$3275.11)
 - Water Fund: #1592 to UPPCO for \$62.52, #1593 to Pasty.Net for \$59.00, #1594 to Whitewater for \$34.00, #1595 to Mel Jones for \$719.35, #1596 to Mary Long for \$45.94 (Total \$920.81)
 - Cemetery Fund: Check # to Dave Schumacher for \$401.72 (Total \$401.72)
 - Bridge Fund: No activity
 - Park Fund: #1021 to Dan Steck for \$1,287.88, #1022 to 41 Lumber for \$826.56, #1023 to Ace Hardware for \$243.20, \$1024 to Cardmember Services for \$349.58 (Total \$2,707.22)
 - For a Final Total of \$7304.86

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Trailer needed for maintenance: Tabled until Dave can get some pricing.
- Dan Steck would like to be added as an agent for the park ordinance. Motion by Marjie, seconded by Carol to approve Dan as an agent for the park ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.
- Garbage pickup as an alternative to the existing dumpster system was discussed among board members and guests in attendance. Consideration was given to the discussion and the board decided to remain with Waste Management.
- Turning our water system management over to Michigan American Water was discussed. Currently Mel, with help from Dave, manages the system. Our future needs may require finding a replacement for Mel, due to attrition, or turning the management over to Michigan American. This was tabled until further research could be done as to cost.
- Mary attended a webinar on the CARES Act Funding and gave an update.
- Becoming a Dark Skies Community was discussed. This would entail removing the street lights from Eagle River to better appreciate the starry skies at night. The board decided against removing any further street lights from Eagle River.
- Motion by Mary, seconded by Carol to adopt the Poverty Exemption Resolution 2021-2. Upon roll call vote Marjie, Mary, Carol, and Kathy voted "Aye". Jim Vivian was absent. Motion passed unanimously. The resolution is attached to these minutes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Assessing – Mark Bonenfant: Nothing to report.
- Water Department – Mel Jones: Bill Siler Contracting was hired to repair a leak in the pipes at Gary Bays' residence. The water samples for White Water this month totaled 12 bottles. Because there were so many, Mel transported them to Amasa instead of mailing them. White Water has to send some samples to another lab for testing, and they use FedEx to so. Due to a mix up with FedEx, Mel had to retake the samples and transport them to Amasa for a second time. That being said, all samples passed testing.
- Cemetery – Marjie Marshall: I had a couple of people looking for buried loved ones but our records don't go back far enough to determine where they were buried.
- Elections – Marjie Marshall: Nothing to report.

- General Maintenance – Dave Schumacher: Dave mentioned the need for the Township Hall to be painted, and that we should get quotes for that project. Mel suggested that we can get by with patch painting as the building is in fairly good condition since the last paint job.
- Parks – Dan Steck: The Pavilion is complete. There are four picnic tables available for use. The plumbing has been installed but not inspected yet. Accessories for Wi-Fi, cameras, smart locks, etc, as well as landscaping are in progress. There are plans for a deck in the future but that has been put on hold due to the price of lumber.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Conflict of Interest Policy- Tabled, still in progress.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carol Jones suggested that we put softening material at the base of the playground equipment for the safety of kids playing there. Dave will work on it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

Next regular meeting – July 19th, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Marjie Marshall, Clerk
Houghton Township

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, Marjie Marshall, the appointed Clerk for the Township of Houghton, Keweenaw County, Michigan, DO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 15th day of February, 2021.

Marjie Marshall, Clerk, Houghton Township

Houghton Township/Keweenaw County

RESOLUTION FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township Board and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Supervisor/Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the *Township of Houghton, Keweenaw County* adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year; To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the supervisor/assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a signed State Tax Commission Form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit.
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the supervisor/assessor and Board of Review shall follow the federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

The foregoing resolution offered by Township Board Member Mary Long

And supported by Township Board Member Carol Treganowan

Upon roll call vote, the following voted: Marjie Marshall, Mary Long, Carol Treganowan
Kathy Harri-McEvers

"Aye" 4

"Nay" 0

Absent 1 Jim Vivian

The Township Clerk declared the resolution: Passed

Marjie Marshall, Clerk: Marjie Marshall
Date: 6/21/21