

**Chesaning Township
Board of Trustees
Approved Minutes
Regular Meeting
April 7, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Regular Meeting: Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge was led by the Board of Trustees.

Members Present: Supervisor Joe Ruthig, Treasurer Cathy Gross; Trustees: Peter Hemgesberg, Ken Hornak, and Bill Hedrich.

Members Absent: Clerk Julie Paulson; Trustee Kevin Carlton

Approval of Agenda: Agenda was presented for approval. Motion by Hedrich, support by Hemgesberg, to approve the agenda, as presented. Vote: All yeas. Motion Passed.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 3, 2022 were presented for approval. Motion by Hedrich, support by Hemgesburg to approve the March 3, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Vote: All yeas. Motion Passed.

Public Comments: Brief comments began at 7:02 p.m. with comments received from Kirt Krupp who would like a copy of the proposed solar site plan published in the local newspaper. Ended at 7:05 p.m.

Correspondence: None

Presentations: None

Committee/Board Reports:

County Commissioner – No one present to report.

County Road Commission – No one present to report

SCTOA – No meeting.

Cemetery – Hedrich reported that the 20 yard roll off dumpster is still at the cemetery and 42 North has not picked up grave blankets yet. Ruthig said 42 North is running behind due to the rain but they will be out there soon. Gross said the township is not getting charged extra to hold the dumpster longer and the price quoted to rent it is the same as last year. Ruthig reported there is a sink hole near a catch basin in the Northeast corner of Section 3.

Building Official – No report

Ordinance Enforcement Officer – Pat Olk handed out a report to all Board Members. A letter is being sent out to a property on 9611 Peet Road where scrap is starting to accumulate again. A complaint about junk, unplated vehicles and trash blowing was received for 17737 Corunna Road and is being addressed. Problem at 8452 Ditch Road is being addressed with still no response from occupants there with more trash appearing on the premises. Letters were sent to 9542 Chesaning Road, 9520 Chesaning Road and 9502 Chesaning Road for blight. A resident at Harris and Sharon Road complains of chickens and ducks trespassing on his property. Pat is trying to determine who the birds belong to. The complaint about 14011 Amman Road has been closed as the property owner has taken care of the problem.

Rehmann Health Center – Mobile Dental Clinic was full in March and the next clinic is scheduled for April 26th. WIC continues to operate remotely. A meeting of the Board of Chesaning Area United Appeal was held on April 4th. Mary VanLoon presented applications received from the CAER Center, River Rapids Library, Young at Heart

Seniors, Manna From Heaven Food Distribution Group and Rehmann Health Center. \$16,000 will be distributed among the five groups.

Fire Board – The last meeting was held on March 9, 2022. There were 38 fire calls year to date as of March 9, 2022. There were 15 calls for the month of February. The department purchased 18 air bottles from Buena Vista with a 12 year service date for \$100 each vs. \$1,000 each for a new one. Brandon Fall has started his inspector training. The fiscal year 2022 – 2023 budget was approved in the amount of \$304,000. Hedrich commented that the dollar amount of the Maintenance Item in the Fire Board Budget appeared to be way over. Supervisor Ruthig explained there was a discrepancy in the amount under “Equipment Testing” and that actually balances the “Maintenance” items out.

MMWA – Ken Hornak will attend the meeting in Saginaw on Monday as Clerk Paulson is out on medical leave.

Task Force – Trustee Carlton attended the Task Force Meeting on March 22nd. Shannon Toma, the new principal at Big Rock Elementary School, spoke to the group and introduced herself.

Parks and Rec – The 5 year plan still needs to be finalized and printed.

Board Officials Reports:

Supervisor: Notice for Noxious Weeds has been put the paper as well as the spring cleanup at Wildwood Cemetery. The 20 yard dumpster is at the cemetery and 42 North is working on the spring cleanup of anything left on the graves. Ruthig reported he attended the Saginaw Future Luncheon on March 25th. Awards were given to several businesses that made capital investments or hired new employees. Ed Rehmann & Sons was recognized for their long-time support of Saginaw Future and the expansion of their business. A Young’s County Drain meeting was held on March 11th. A decision was made to hire an independent assessor to value the easements that will be considered for condemnation. Next meeting to be scheduled in about 90 days. Engineers are working on a final plan for review by EGLE. Construction should be done by next year if all goes well.

Clerk: No report. Clerk Julie Paulson is out on medical leave. Ruthig reported Julie has been in and out to keep up all her statutory duties. A new Deputy Clerk was sworn in on April 5th. Char Mozader replaced Kris Hilzinger as Deputy Clerk.

Treasurer: The 2021 Property Tax Collection season is complete. Gross settled with the County on March 30th and all taxing units have been paid. The money from the County for delinquent real property tax buyback should be here this summer in June or July. Delinquent tax money in the amount of \$9,983.45 will be coming to the township and \$16,228.86 will be sent to the Fire Department. A State Revenue Share check in the amount of \$39,985 was received for the March 2022 payment.

Unfinished Business:

- a. **Consider Medical Marijuana Ordinance** – Supervisor Ruthig stated he would like to put this on hold until after he attends the MTA Conference at the end of the month. Many classes are being offered on Medical and Recreational Marijuana at the conference. Ruthig reiterated the purpose of the township putting an ordinance in place is to be able to monitor the residents who have been licensed by the State to grow marijuana at their place of residence, and that it is being done legally. Trustee Hornak commented the ordinance will put in place guidelines and protect neighbors who live near residences that are licensed to grow. Hedrich asked for Board consensus to put work on hold for creating the Medical Marijuana Primary Caregiver Operations Ordinance until after the Supervisor attends the MTA Conference. All Board members agreed.

New Business:

- a. **Consider Purchase of Computer Equipment for Township Office:** Supervisor Ruthig revisited the need for two new work stations in the township office. Matt from Computer Management Technologies (CMT) said the Clerk and Treasurer’s computer need to be upgraded to be able to handle the QuickBooks program. Two new computers are needed. The Treasurer’s current computer will be given

- to the new administrative assistant at her work station. A quote from CMT for two new computers, monitors, wireless keyboard with mouse, and additional software was quoted at \$3,082.75. Trustee Hemgesberg commented that the Board knew this would be needed and the Board did budget for it. Motion by Hornak, support by Hemgesberg to purchase two new computers, monitors, wireless keyboards with mouse and software program in the amount of \$3,082.75. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Hemgesberg, Gross, Hedrich, Hornak, Ruthig Nays: None 5 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Passed.
- b. Appoint Two New Members to the Planning Commission: Supervisor Ruthig asked the Board to appoint Phil Schmiede and Tom Tithof to the Planning Commission. Both currently serve but their terms have now expired and both have agreed to serve another term from 4/1/22 – 3/31/25. Motion by Hornak support by Hedrich to appoint Phil Schmiede and Tom Tithof to serve on the Planning Commission for the term 4/1/22 – 3/31/2025. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Gross, Hedrich, Hornak, Hemgesberg, Ruthig. Nays: None. 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion Passed.
- c. Appoint Two New Members to Zoning Board of Appeals: Supervisor Ruthig asked the Board to appoint Tom Gross and Tom Tithof to the Zoning Board of Appeals to serve another term - 4/1/22 to 3/31/2025. Motion by Hemgesberg, support by Gross to appoint Tom Gross and Tom Tithof to serve on Zoning Board of Appeals for the term 4/1/22 – 3/31/2025. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Hedrich, Hornak, Hemgesberg, Gross, Ruthig. Nays: None. 5 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Passed.
- d. Spring Cleanup at Parshallburg Park: Supervisor Ruthig said the Parshallburg Park spring cleanup is scheduled for Mary 7th with an alternate date of May 14th. Anyone is invited to come help clean up at Parshallburg Park.
- e. Discuss Dedication Ceremony at Parshallburg Park: Supervisor Ruthig talked about the sign which was placed at Parshallburg Park in memory of Robert Corrin the previous Supervisor. \$656 remain in the account to put toward landscaping around the sign. Tomac Farms, as well as others, have offered to donate rocks to be used in the landscaping. May 22nd was suggested as the date to have the dedication ceremony. Possibly invite Dave Richardson to speak about the river and invite others who would like to speak about Bob and his commitment to the park. Bob's family will be present. All public are welcome.
- f. Consider Chesaning Brady Fire Department 2022 – 2023 Budget: Supervisor Ruthig presented the Proposed 2022 – 2023 Budget General Fund Chesaning Brady Fire Department spreadsheet. Hedrich commented on the "Maintenance" line in which proposed expenses exceeded the budgeted expenses. Ruthig said there was some confusion regarding the "equipment testing" expenses but overall the maintenance categories balanced out in spending. Motion by Hedrich, support by Hornak to accept the 2022 – 2023 Chesaning Brady Fire Department Proposed Budget as presented. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Hedrich, Hornak, Hemgesberg, Gross, Ruthig. Nays: None. 5 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Passed.
- g. Consider Contract with Rowe Engineering to Review SUP for DTE Solar Farm. Chesaning Township received an application from DTE dated March 8, 2022 for a proposed solar farm which includes 29 parcels of land. Supervisor Ruthig would like to hire Rowe Engineering to review the application, special use permit and site plan submitted by DTE and their consultant, Atwell LLC. The proposed cost for review from Rowe Engineering is \$1600. Ruthig explained that all costs to the township associated with the application review are to be paid by the applicant, DTE, per Chesaning Township Solar Panel Farm Ordinance No. 2019-0601. Hemgesberg addressed the public, stating each of the 29 parcels will be looked at individually, and not as a whole, concerning setbacks, site plan, etc. Ruthig said he would provide a copy of the ordinance to anybody who wanted one. Trustee Hornak asked the DTE representative sitting in the audience why solar is becoming so popular now. The DTE representative indicated he is not the person from their company to answer that question but he would reach out to the proper DTE representative to come and answer any and all questions we may have about solar. Peter Sinclair, who is a videographer and is knowledgeable about renewable energy was in

the audience and commented, "In the State of Michigan, you've got a number of coal plants approaching 60 years old. Coal is out of the picture. The costs of solar have decreased significantly." Motion by Hemgesberg, support by Hedrich to hire Rowe Engineering to review the Application for a Solar Farm in Chesaning Township, and to work with the Chesaning Township Planning Commission in review of same. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Hedrich, Hornak, Hemgesberg, Gross, Ruthig. Nays: None. 5 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Passed.

- h. Consider Having a Survey Done on Parshallburg Park: Ruthig provided quotes from Landmark Surveying and Fenton Land Surveying to survey the land at Parshallburg Park. Landmark quoted \$1,000 to \$1,200 with a lead time of August 2022. Fenton quoted \$1,000 - \$1,300 with a lead time of 6 weeks. Hemgesberg commented that he would prefer to work with Fenton since the quotes were almost the same and Fenton would be able to get it done sooner. Motion by Hemgesberg, support by Hornak to hire Fenton Land Surveying and Engineering, Inc. to survey Parshallburg Park. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Hedrich, Gross, Hornak, Hemgesberg, Ruthig Nays: None 5 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.
- i. Consider Porta Potties at Parshallburg and Chesaning Township Parks: Sloan Septic Tank Service, our current port-o-john supplier, has advised there will be a \$15.00 increase in costs this year. Hedrich noted we checked costs last year with other port-o-john companies and Sloan was still the cheapest. (Trustee Hornak left the meeting at 7:59 p.m. and returned at 8:04 p.m.) Motion by Hedrich, support by Hemgesberg to continue services with Sloan Septic Tank Service for porta potties at both Parshallburg and Chesaning Township Parks. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Gross, Hornak, Hedrich, Hemgesberg, Ruthig Nays: None 5 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.
- j. Consider Road Maintenance at Wildwood Cemetery: Supervisor Ruthig presented two quotes for road work at Wildwood Cemetery. Everett Excavating and Landscaping quoted road work on the road in the old section of the cemetery last Fall in the amount of \$2,400. Hedrich Excavating currently quoted \$3,525 for the same road work plus additional work which they felt was needed to complete the job properly. An additional 400 feet of road work was included in Hedrich's quote. Motion by Hemgesberg, support by Hornak to hire Hedrich Excavating Inc. to complete the road maintenance project at Wildwood Cemetery (600 feet of Road) at the cost of \$3,525. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Gross, Hornak, Hemgesberg, Ruthig; Abstain: Hedrich Nays: None 4 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Extended Public Comments: Began at 8:21 p.m. Comments were heard from several members of the public in attendance regarding the Solar Farm project. Carolyn Knieper of 7262 Ditch Road expressed concern about the solar farms surrounding the residences and that there would also be a loss of jobs associated with farming such as seed vendors, fertilizer vendors, etc. because the farmland going into solar will not be utilized for farming any longer. Bill Neuhaus of 18520 Stuart Road asked if there has been a radiation study done on solar farms. Kirt Krupp of 18500 Stuart Road spoke with concerns about solar farms surrounding his property. Brian White of 9372 Ditch Road said there is more than just an ordinance involved in this, it involves the entire master plan. Fran Kukulis and Terry Kukulis of 8471 Volkmer Road spoke. Terry Kukulis noted Maple Grove Township can be used as an example for solar farms. Mike Hafner of 14218 Amman Road addressed setbacks from the houses to the solar farms. Ended at 8:29 pm.

Township Board Comments: Hedrich asked Ruthig about the escrow account that is supposed to be set up to pay costs billed to the Township associated with the solar farm. Ruthig stated we may have to initially front some cost, then get the escrow account set up and be reimbursed and the escrow account would pay any further costs thereafter.

Approval of Bills: Motion by Hornak, support by Hemgesberg, to pay the bills as presented. Bills totaled \$38,663.21. Roll Call Vote – Yeas: Hornak, Hemgesberg, Gross, Hedrich, and Ruthig. Nays: None. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Adjournment: Motion by Hemgesberg, support by Hedrich, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Motion Passed

Approved: _____

Cathy Gross, Treasurer – Acting Secretary
Chesaning Township

Supervisor Approval – Yes___ No___

Change Requests _____

Supervisor Joe Ruthig _____ Date: _____