

**Chesaning Township
Board of Trustees
Approved Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 5, 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, Clerk Julie Paulson; Treasurer Cathy Gross; Trustees: Peter Hemgesberg, Ken Hornak, and Bill Hedrich.

Members Absent: none

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Ruthig asked the Board to add to the Agenda item f. under 9. New Business – Consider Planning Commission’s recommendation to put a three month moratorium on DTE’s Special Use Permit for Solar Farm; Supervisor Ruthig also asked that item 12. “Approve the Bills” be moved up on the Agenda as item 2. a. Motion by Hornak support by Hedrich to approve the agenda with the changes as requested. Vote: All yeas. Motion Passed.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 7, 2022 were presented for approval. Motion by Hedrich, support by Hemgesburg to approve the April 7, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Vote: All yeas. Motion Passed.

Approval of Bills: Motion by Hemgesberg, support by Gross, to pay the bills as presented. Bills totaled \$29,291.58. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Gross, Hornak, Hedrich, Hemgesberg, Ruthig, Paulson, and Carlton Nays: None 7 yeas. Motion Carried.

Public Comments: Brief comments began at 7:05 p.m. with comments received from approximately 10 residents from the audience, all addressed issues related to the proposed Solar Farm. Ended at 7:15 p.m.

Correspondence: None

Presentations: Tom Tithof announced that he will serve as Director for “Travel Ball” which is coming to Chesaning for the youth. He is working toward the dates of September 30, 2022 - October 1, 2022 for Chesaning to host the Travel Ball leagues in Showboat Park. Permission by the Chesaning Union Schools Superintendent was given for use of the ball fields at the High School if needed also. The cost to the teams is \$25 per team and Tom expects income will be generated from vendors, camping, and other things. Local businesses will also benefit from the additional crowd of people this will bring to town. As many as 17 teams plus are expected. High Life Farms has offered to pay for the cost of sprucing up the ball fields prior to the event. A three year contract will be signed to belong to the Travel Ball League and Tom is looking into the need for liability insurance and what it will cost.

Clerk Julie Paulson addressed the board with a comment that she is pleased the Board approved hiring her new Deputy Clerk, Char Mozader, as they had worked together for many years on elections and Char will be an asset to the community. Clerk Paulson left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Committee/Board Reports:

County Commissioner – Kyle Harris was not present to report. Joe Wasmiller, Albee Township Trustee addressed the Board and audience announcing that he is running for County Commissioner in District 7.

County Road Commission – No one present to report

SCTOA – No meeting.

Cemetery – Hedrich reported that the water is turned on partially at the cemetery while a leak is being addressed and more black dirt is needed. Trustee Hemgesberg said the black dirt that is already spread has been seeded and there is an additional sink hole by another catch basin.

Building Official – No report

Ordinance Enforcement Officer – No report.

Rehmann Health Center – Mobile Dental Clinic was well attended on April 26th and the next clinic is scheduled for May 24th. WIC continues to operate remotely. WIC nutritionists will be coming to the Rehmann Health Center on July 19th to hand out coupons for the WIC participants to use at fresh farm markets this summer. A meeting of the representatives of Chesaning Area United Appeal (CAUA) will be held on Monday, May 9th to distribute \$16,000 received through donations during the CAUA 2021/2022 Campaign. The funds will be given to the five groups in town who applied for CAUA funding – Rehmann Health Center, Young at Heart, CAER Center, Manna From Heaven and the River Rapids Library. Also the winners of the two \$25 gift cards will be awarded to Joe Guziak (gift donated by Frank's Supermarket) and Judie and Louie Giesken (gift donated by Marathon Gas Station).

Fire Board – A fire board meeting was held on April 13, 2022. 54 fire calls year to date have been made, 13 of them were in the month of March. Brandon Fall has become a certified NFPA Inspector. Ladder testing has been completed and everyone passed. Hose testing is scheduled for June. Thank you to Glen Cooper and Clayton Barancik for installing new LED lights in the truck bay. Also thanks to Joe Loos and Sure Shot Hearing & Cooling for donating his scissor lift to do the work. The fire department hosted a State accredited electric vehicle class on April 23rd with 40 people attending.

MMWA – Ken Hornak read the report from MMWA which included reference to a revision to the proposal submitted by WM formerly Waste Management regarding the new upcoming contract for 2023.

Task Force – Trustee Carlton attended the Task Force Meeting on April 26th. Laura Greenfelder talked about her facilities, employees and locations.

Parks and Rec – No meeting.

Board Officials Reports:

Supervisor: Supervisor Ruthig attended the SAGA meeting on April 18, 2022. Removal of retired parcel identification numbers was discussed and requirement of surveys for land splits and enhancements was reviewed. Possibly a note on the tax bill with the SAGA website will be included in the next tax bill. The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2022. Supervisor Ruthig attended the MTA Conference and Expo April 25 through the 28th. Ruthig also attended the MTA district caucus where Joanne Bohler was reelected as our District Director. Bill Deater, Supervisor from Grant Township has been elected President of the MTA. Planning commission met May 4, 2022. Porta Johns have been delivered to Parshallburg Park and Chesaning Township Park.

Clerk: Char Mozader replaced Kris Hilzinger as Deputy Clerk.

Treasurer: A State Revenue Share check in the amount of \$39,394.00 was received which is up by \$5,316 from the May 2021 payment received. Escrow requests are now coming in for the summer 2022 tax season.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Consider Medical Marijuana Ordinance – Supervisor Ruthig included a copy of the ordinance in the Board Packet with changes highlighted that need to be made. Work will continue to complete the Ordinance.
- b. Dedication Parshallburg Park – The sign dedication for former Chesaning Township Supervisor, Robert Corrin will take place Sunday, May 22 at 2:00 p.m. A few people have offered to speak at the dedication. The Corrin Family invites all for refreshments being served at the Riverfront Grille after the dedication.
- c. Discuss Cleanup at Parshallburg Park – Supervisor Ruthig and Rick Delong of the Conservation Club are heading up a spring clean-up at Parshallburg Park starting at 9:00 a.m. on May 7, 2022. Sara Tomac has offered to transport large rocks from their farm to place as landscaping around the sign being

dedicated to Supervisor Corrin. All are welcome to come and help.

New Business:

- a. Appoint Board Member to Chesaning Brady Fire Dept. - Motion by Hemgesberg, support by Hedrich to reappoint Mary VanLoon to the Chesaning Brady Fire Board for the term ending 3/31/2024. Vote: All yeas. Motion Passed.
- b. Appoint New Member to the Planning Commission: Motion by Carlton support by Hornak to appoint Scott Mrdeza to the Chesaning Township Planning Commission for the term ending 3/31/2024. Vote: All yeas. Motion Passed.
- c. Appoint New Member to Zoning Board of Appeals: Motion by Hornak, support by Hemgesberg to appoint Kirt Krupp to the Chesaning Township Zoning Board of Appeals for the term ending 3/31/2024. Vote: All yeas. Motion Passed.
- d. Consider 5 Year Parks & Rec Plan - Supervisor Ruthig explained the Village of Chesaning, Chesaning Township, and the Chesaning Union Schools have shared in the cost of the Parks and Rec 5 Year Plan and is asking the Board to adopt same. Trustee Hemgesberg noted there was a mistake in the wording of the Plan where a sentence was duplicated in error. Supervisor Ruthig mentioned that the Price Nature Center will also be added into the 5 year plan. Motion by Hornak, support by Hemgesberg to adopt the Parks and Rec 5 Year Plan with the above changes. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Gross, Carlton, Hornak, Hedrich, Hemgesberg, Ruthig Nays: None 6 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.
- e. Consider Hiring Administrative Assistant -: Supervisor Ruthig advised the Board that interviews have concluded with the applicants for the Chesaning Township Administrative Assistant position. The current Administrative Assistant, Kris Hilzinger is retiring on May 31st. After careful review of the Applicants, Ruthig, Gross and Paulson have selected Jackie Schian as the best candidate for the job. Motion by Hornak, support by Carlton to hire Jackie Schian as the Administrative Assistant replacing Kris Hilzinger. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Carlton, Gross, Hornak, Hedrich, Hemgesberg, and Ruthig Nays: None 6 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.
- f. Consider Planning Commission's Recommendation on Moratorium for Proposed Solar Farm – Supervisor Ruthig advised the Board that the Planning Commission met on May 4th, the evening before this Board Meeting, and they voted to recommend the Township Board vote to put a 90 day moratorium on the proposed solar farm project so the Planning Commission would have more time to look into some environmental studies and other issues they have concerns about that have come up. Ruthig said he is not in favor of the moratorium because he contacted the township attorney and Rowe Engineering earlier in the day and they both told him that the Special Use Permit process has no deadline on it and the Planning Commission can take all the time they need in order to work through issues. Some discussion evolved and Trustee Hemgesberg said he still would like to put the moratorium to a vote. Motion by Hemgesberg, support by Hornak, to place a 90 day moratorium on the proposed solar farm project. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Hornak and Hemgesberg, Nays: Hedrich, Gross, Carlton, and Ruthig 2 yeas, 4 Nays. Motion Denied.

Extended Public Comments: Began at 8:35 p.m. Approximately 12 people from the audience commented regarding the proposed solar farm. Ted Beldyga has a farm near Bear Creek Drain and said he had worked with the former Supervisor, Bob Corrin regarding a drain tile that needs work on the north side of the creek and Supervisor Corrin had told Mr. Beldyga that the cost of the project would be an expense to the Township. Supervisor Ruthig said he will take a look at it. Discussion ended at 8:47 p.m.

Township Board Comments: None

Adjournment: Motion by Hemgesberg, support by Hedrich, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Motion Passed.

Approved: _____

**Cathy Gross, Treasurer – Acting Secretary
Chesaning Township**

Supervisor Approval – Yes___ No___

Change Requests _____

Supervisor Joe Ruthig _____ Date: _____