

Mark Halkola, Supervisor  
Christa Gardner, Clerk  
Dominique DiVito, Treasurer  
Don Wareham, Trustee  
Aaron Janke, Trustee



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Osceola Township Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2023, 6:15 PM

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on February 8, 2023, at 6:57 PM at the Osceola Township office Board Room. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Dominique DiVito, and Aaron Janke. Absent was Don Wareham.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Janke, supported by Gardner to approve the agenda, with additions under Approve Minutes: adding January 31, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes; under New Business: d. Hockey Nets. AVIF

Motion by Janke, supported by DiVito to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2023, Board Meeting, and the minutes of the January 31, 2023, Special Meeting. AVIF

Motion by Janke, supported by Gardner to accept the financial reports for the General, Road, Mason Wastewater, TC water, and OT water funds. AVIF

Motion by Gardner, supported by Janke for payment of the bills: General, Road, Mason Wastewater, TC water, and OT water funds. AVIF

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 7:05 PM. No public comment was offered.  
Public Comment closed at 7: 05 PM.

Reports:

- a. Assessor: Written report submitted.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted.
- c. OT Utility Board Action items: A recommendation from the Utility Board to approve the hiring of UPEA to produce a project plan for the drinking water funding opportunity. Will discuss under New Business.
- d. DBVFD: Written report submitted.
- e. First Responders: Written report submitted.
- f. TCVFD: Written report submitted.
- g. TC Utility Board: Written report submitted.
- h. TLASA: Written report submitted.
- i. Supervisor report: Board of Review training was held on Tuesday, there is currently an opening for a second alternate, March BOR is coming up; Baseball field grant was approved, but there are issues with insurance coverage, Leon Sutherland has also submitted a Letter of Interest to the Portage Health Foundation on behalf of the township; Snowmobile trail bids have gone out for other parts of the trail, talking to Burcar about purchase of his land; Budget amendments will be completed for the March 8 meeting; Lori Burton from Tokio Marine sent a site visit report; No new information on the SPARK grant application; Houghton County Rec Authority will meet in a couple of weeks; Torch Lake PAC will meet in a couple of weeks; Lots of interest in the Dredge – meeting upcoming on February 24; The water ordinance, especially as it pertains to hydrants, will be discussed with Pat Greeley; We still have an opening on the TLASA; Judy Odgers brought in proposed criteria for inclusion on the Vet Honor Roll, will ask Pat Greeley for his opinion; Need to solicit bids for spring ditching in

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Dollar Bay; Upcoming meeting with Mike Keranen about signage signifying Osceola Township boundaries; Community Compost project has reached out; Habitat for Humanity seeking a grant and looking for a letter of support.

Motion by Janke, supported by DiVito to write a letter of support for Habitat for Humanity's grant-seeking.  
AVIF

#### Unfinished Business:

- a. Budget Amendments (update) – Previously discussed – will be complete for the March 8 meeting.
- b. FY 23-24 Road Projects: Motion by Janke, supported by DiVito to submit the following roads for inclusion of the Houghton County Road Commission plans in 2023 and 2024: Precinct 1 – Oneco Road (with the last 300 feet to Pit road resurfaced only) and Maple Street; Precinct 2 – Lake, Elm, Fir (estimate still needed) and the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and Chippewa Trail; Precinct 4 – Store Street and Church Street (estimate still needed). Roll call vote: 4 yea, 0 nay, 1 absent. Motion passed.
- c. 5-Year Rec Plan – February 22 at 5:30 PM for the Public Hearing and Special Meeting.

#### Tabled Business:

- a. Elm Street restoration plan – nothing new to discuss.

#### New Business:

- a. Water Project Plan Development: Motion by Gardner, supported by DiVito to accept the recommendation from the Utility Board to approve the hiring of UPEA to produce a project plan for the drinking water funding opportunity. Roll call vote: 3 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain, 1 absent. Motion passed.
- b. FY 2023-24 Budget Meeting Schedule: Budgets from departments are due March 15. Schedule will be: March 22 @ 5:15 for a work session; March 27 @ 5:15 for a work session (if needed); March 29 @ 5:15 for a Public Hearing, followed by Special Board Meeting to approve the FY 23-24 budget.
- c. Delegation of Duties: Motion by Janke, supported by DiVito to permit the delegation of past due treasurer duties to Ms. Gardner, to end when the duties are caught up, or on or before the end of the fiscal year. Roll call vote: 3 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain, 1 absent. Motion passed.  
Motion by Janke, supported by DiVito to pay Ms. Gardner a rate of pay of \$16.50 per hour for the past due treasurer duties. Roll call vote: 3 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain, 1 absent. Motion passed.  
Motion by Janke, supported by Gardner to suspend the enterprise portion of the treasurer salary from now until the March board meeting, and until the full reassumption of statutory duties and assigned duties takes place. AVIF
- d. Hockey Nets: A request was made to obtain the extra set of nets at the ice rink for personal use. As discussed under maintenance, both sets of nets are currently being utilized.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 8:23 PM. Andrew Keranen thanked the board, and gave a synopsis of what to expect next. Cindy Barth had a question for the treasurer about regular office hours. Jim Siira had a question about our Miss Dig account.

Public comment closed at 8:32 PM.

Adjourn: Motion by Gardner, supported by DiVito to adjourn at 8:33 PM. AVIF

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 6:15 PM in the Osceola Township Board Room.