

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



Box 437 • 48545 Main Street
Dollar Bay, MI 49922
Phone (906) 482-8578
Fax (906) 482-8596
TDD (800) 649-3777

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

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on March 8, 2023, at 6:29 PM at the Osceola Township office Board Room. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Dominique DiVito, and Don Wareham. Absent was Aaron Janke.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Wareham, supported by Gardner to approve the agenda, with additions under Approve Minutes: adding January 11, 2023, correction. AVIF

Motion by DiVito, supported by Gardner to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2023, Board Meeting; February 22, 2023, Public Hearing and Special Meeting; and the correction of the January 11, 2023, Board Meeting. AVIF

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

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

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 6:35 PM. Kellie Luoma asked if something had changed with keeping the fire hydrants open, because she had been keeping the one close to her house cleared and noticed others around town doing the same.

Public Comment closed at 6:42 PM.

Mr. Halkola asked the Board to allow Garand Spikberg to be allowed to move from New Business: B and take 10 minutes to speak about his request. The Board agreed.

Mr. Spikberg, a Geospatial Research Scientist from MTU to ask for our partnership in a Keweenaw Heritage Grant that he is writing as it pertains to the dredge, creating a digital heritage to be able to preserve and interpret for the future. He is asking for permission to come on the Township property by the water near the dredge. He is also hopeful for township sponsorship, to write the grant on behalf of Osceola Township. Motion by Gardner, supported by DiVito to table this to our March 22 budget work session. AVIF

Reports:

- a. Assessor: Written report submitted.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted.
- c. OT Utility Board Action items: No action items.
- d. DBVFD: Written report submitted.
- e. First Responders: Written report submitted.
- f. TCVFD: Written report submitted.
- g. TC Utility Board: Written report submitted.
- h. TLSA: Written report submitted.
- i. Supervisor report: Met with Joe at the Veteran's Office with Ms. Odgers to discuss criteria to be named on the Honor Roll; discussions continue with the DNR and Mr. Burcar about the land purchase for the snowmobile trail; No current activity by the beavers in the Hungarian Creek. Mr. Tourtillott noted that there are two dams down there, and will begin putting out traps in the spring; ditches are being monitored regularly; an email was received by a company that

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owns property on Banfield Avenue interested in putting a Dollar General store there; Board of Review had their organizational meeting Tuesday. Will begin to hear petitions on Monday, March 13; Wuebben Contracting was contacted about spring ditching. They will send an estimate. Tony Julio, who has previously done this work for the township has availed himself to assist with information; Baseball field grant is still on hold due to an insurance issue. Mr. Hannula from our insurance agency is still working on it. Leon Sutherland from Lake Linden High School has submitted a Letter of Interest in a Portage Health Foundation Grant, and was given the green light to officially submit a grant application on behalf of the township; Semco has requested information on what summer road work will be taking place. Waiting to hear from the Houghton County Road Commission; We are still seeking a representative to the Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority; Our new County Commissioner, Joel Keranen, will be invited to attend an upcoming board meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Budget Amendments (update) – Previously discussed – will take place at the March 22 Budget meeting.
- b. FY 2023-24 Road Projects – Discussed in supervisor’s report.
- c. 5-Year Rec Plan – update – Evan Lanese from WUPPDR was here and will make a few additional corrections to the final plan draft. Motion by Gardner, supported by Wareham to adopt the new 5-Year Rec Plan 2023-2027, with the discussed corrections. Roll call vote: 3 yea, 0 nay, 2 absent. Motion passed.
- d. Water Project Plan – update – a written update was provided. Not much has taken place to date.
- e. MTA Spring Conference – no one will be attending this year, as there is too much going on.

Tabled Business:

- a. Elm Street restoration plan – leave on table.

New Business:

- a. Meeting Schedule FY 23-24 – Motion by Wareham, supported by Gardner to approve the Meeting Schedule for the Fiscal Year 23-24. AVIF
- b. Garand Spikberg Request (Dredge) – Done during the first public comment period.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 7:41 PM. Steve Klein questioned the township purchasing land for the DNR. He expressed concern about the dredge proposal enabling people to go out there to do destruction. Also is concerned about people parking on private property across the highway, as well as on the shoulder of the highway, both of which are not allowable. Jim Spence asked if the Rec Plan will be posted on the website. Also wondered how the township would choose what projects from the Rec Plan to undertake, and how we are notified about available grants. Evan Lanese talked about a grant he is working on for a community compost in Houghton County, and land that was identified in Osceola Township that would be ideal. He requested a letter of support from the township to include in the grant. Cindy Barth asked where Electric Park is located.

Public comment closed at 7:51 PM.

Adjourn: Motion by Wareham, supported by Gardner to adjourn at 7:53 PM. AVIF

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 6:15 PM in the Osceola Township Board Room.

Note: Ms. DiVito left the meeting during the Supervisor’s Report.