

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



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Osceola Township Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2023, 6:15 PM

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on August 9, 2023, at 6:40 PM at the Osceola Township Board Room. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Christina Gardner, Aaron Janke, and Don Wareham.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Wareham, supported by Christa Gardner, to approve the agenda as presented. AVIF

Motion by Wareham, supported by Christa Gardner to accept the minutes of the July 12, 2023, Board Meeting. AVIF  
Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Janke to accept the minutes of the August 2, 2023, Special Meeting, with a correction to indicate that Trustee Janke arrived late, rather than absent. AVIF

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

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

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 6:46 PM.

Steve Klein mentioned that the buyout of the contract in Tamarack City from Upper Peninsula Water would not be covered by a grant, which would require additional loan funding, making it cost prohibitive to the residents. Andrea Yarbrough mentioned concerns with the snowmobile trail being diverted on the road, and the potential safety issues, especially considering there is no signage (stop, yield, speed limit) in that area currently. Public Comment closed at 6:50 PM.

Reports:

- a. Assessor: No report submitted.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted.
- c. OT Utility Board Action items: No action items to discuss.
- d. DBVFD: Written report submitted.
- e. First Responders: No report submitted.
- f. TCVFD: Written report submitted. Chief Klein also mentioned hydrants that need painting and some that need brushing.
- g. TC Utility Board: Written report submitted.
- h. TLSA: Written report submitted.
- i. Supervisor report: We are currently waiting for an appraisal of the Burcar property from the DNR. There has been significant work happening on both sides of the snowmobile trail. The July BOR met, minutes are included in the packet. The dredge 3-D modeling has begun, and the money from the grant has arrived. The signs and fencing have been acting as a deterrent for people attempting to climb the dredge. Master Agreement with UPPCO, all pole usage must be identified (Christmas lights, flags, etc.) to be included. We will begin the process of securing bids on a new Township truck(s). Torch Lake Sewage Authority, we are hoping to appoint a member of the Township Board to the Authority to represent the board. Blight ordinances continue to be under review. JCS painting estimate for lines in TC,

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less than \$700. Estimate from Wuebben Construction for a sidewalk replacement in Dollar Bay.

Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to accept Wuebben's proposal of \$2,676.00 to fill the sidewalk. Roll call vote: 5 yea, 0 nay. Motion carried.

The fifth sign indicating the Osceola Township boundaries is up on the west-bound side of M203. One sign remains to be put up.

#### Unfinished Business:

- a. Water Project Plan – update – Discussed during the OT Utility Board meeting. EGLE continues to seek additional information about our project.
- b. Dollar General Project – Public Hearing/Special Meeting schedule: Public Hearing is scheduled for August 16, 2023, at 5 PM, with a Special Meeting of the Township Board to directly follow.
- c. Snowmobile update – Discussed in Supervisor's Report.
- d. Budget Amendments – In process of being developed – to be done at the September 2023 meeting.
- e. NHCWSA – Resolution to amend Articles of Incorporation – Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Janke to table until our Special Meeting on August 16, 2023. AVIF
- f. Houghton County Road Commission – update (input from residents) – Currently work is being done in all three precincts: Precinct 2 has three streets being worked on; Precinct 1 has two streets slated to be worked on; Precinct 4 has one street to be worked on, with the anticipated completion by end of construction season this year. Funding comes from the Township Road Fund, in part, and from matching money from the County as well as County ARPA funds. Additional comments were sought from community members. Steve Klein talked about how Maple Street was originally scheduled to be done back in 2018, but the Father's Day Flood put off all unnecessary road repairs. He has concerns about driveways being cut back, and people's lawns. Currently there are seven concrete driveways on Maple that would be directly impacted by the way the project is proposed. Jay Reed also mentioned that with the additional 1 1/2" it would make it difficult for the water to go anywhere, causing pooling in yards. Andrea Yarbrough asked for clarification on which part of Oneco Road was being fixed. Steve Klein feels that Maple Street should be done later to preserve the driveways that are currently present. Christina Gardner suggested that we look at a different way to do the project since the residents are not in favor of the road work being done the way it is currently proposed.

Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to approach Houghton County Road Commission to upgrade the current Maple Street project, to include milling and cutting around concrete driveways as necessary from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Streets, and do an overlay only from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Tamarack Hill. Roll call vote: 5 yea, 0 nay. Motion carried.

#### Tabled Business:

- a. Elm Street restoration plan – leave on table.
- b. Town Hall Meetings – leave on table.

#### New Business:

- a. UPPCO Master Agreement – Vote on at Special Meeting on August 16, 2023.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 8:08 PM. Jay Reed said that knowing the property owner, he knows that the sale of the land will not go through. Steve Klein commented, "ditto". Public comment closed at 8:09 PM.

Adjourn: Motion by Christa Gardner, supported by Janke to adjourn at 8:09 PM. AVIF

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6:15 PM at the Osceola Township Board Room.