

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



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Osceola Township Meeting Minutes  
October 11, 2023, 6:15 PM

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on October 11, 2023, at 6:28 PM at the Tamarack City Fire Hall. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Christina Gardner, Aaron Janke, and Don Wareham.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motion by Janke, supported by Christina Gardner to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2023, Board Meeting; and the minutes of the October 2, 2023, Special Meeting. AVIF

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

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

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 6:34 PM.

Steve Klein said that with the appraisal for the Burcar property coming back, he thinks the township should cut their losses and let the DNR figure it out. Public Comment closed at 6:36 PM.

Reports:

- a. Assessor: Written report submitted, including a request to hire legal representation at the MI Tax Tribunal. After a brief discussion, motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to seek additional information about the cost of an attorney, what the cost benefit would be to the township, and a likely outcome. AVIF It was also requested to find out when the Tax Tribunal is meeting.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted.
- c. OT Utility Board Action items: Letter of Interest will be discussed under Unfinished 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. NHCWSA: Written report submitted.
- i. Supervisor report: TLPAC meets next week; Met with the Houghton County Road Commission on a number of issues – township signage has gone up, Mr. Sawyer's fence will need to be discussed with the Road Commission directly; REA has a pole to put up in the township; there was a request to resurface a road in precinct 1; the Vet ad hoc committee continues to meet; the office telephone system keeps going out, will need to replace at some point soon; there is a draft letter for truck bid specifications; met with Tim Palosaari, he plans to have a concrete slab and a fence behind his building; still waiting on the UPPCO master agreement; Dollar General appreciates the extension, is having permitting problems. Discussion also took place about Fir Avenue in Dollar Bay with the flooding, and subsequent pumping.

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Unfinished Business:

- a. Water Project Plan – Letter of Interest – Motion by Christa Gardner, supported by Wareham to authorize UPEA to send in a Letter of Interest on our behalf for the water project. AVIF
- b. Dollar General Project – Discussed in Supervisor’s Report
- c. Snowmobile update – DNR gave an overview at the Houghton County Rec Authority meeting – the trail from Dollar Bay to Tamarack City, and from Tamarack City to Lake Linden is all but done, with the exception of the portion in TC that is still under discussion.
- d. CD’s – Discussion about the DGOG money, since they can’t continue the project until next year, we could invest that money for now into a CD. Motion by Janke, supported by Christina Gardner to move \$10,000 to a CD at Superior National Bank for 11 months. AVIF

Tabled Business:

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

New Business:

- a. Maintenance Hourly Pay Rate – After much discussion, motion by Wareham, supported by Christina Gardner to make the Head of Maintenance hourly rate \$20 per hour, effective November 1, 2023. Roll call vote: 5 yea, 0 nay. Motion passed.
- b. FY 22-23 Township Audit – Audit is complete, everyone has their copy. Copies are available at the township office as well.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 7:31 PM. Jim Siira mentioned a wastewater certification taking place in March. Public comment closed at 7:33 PM.

Adjourn: Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to adjourn at 7:33 PM. AVIF

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