

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



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Osceola Township Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2023, 6:15 PM

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on December 13, 2023, at 7:04 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 Janke, to approve the agenda with an addition under “Unfinished Business”, d. Dollar Bay Christmas Decorations. AVIF

Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Wareham to accept the minutes of the November 8, 2023, Board Meeting. AVIF

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

Motion by Christina Gardner, 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 7:10 PM.

Jim Siira mentioned that in Franklin Township he gets meeting material emailed prior to the meeting, suggesting it as a possibility for us to try. Public Comment closed at 7:12 PM.

Reports:

- a. Assessor: No report submitted.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted.
- c. OT Utility Board Action items: Motion by Christa Gardner, supported by Wareham to approve up to \$4,000 for UPEA to submit vehicle grants and a TMF LSLR grant application on our behalf. Roll call vote: 4 – yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain due to conflict of interest. Motion passed.
- d. DBVFD: Written report submitted. Discussion about considering the need for a new fire truck and expansion of truck storage, and beginning the RD application process now, so that we would be potentially ready in a few more years when the other loan is paid off.
- 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: No report.
- i. Supervisor report: MTU students, at the recommendation of John Cima from the Houghton County Road Commission met with the township on storm drain issues for a class project. Another meeting is set for the end of January; The Board of Review met on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The March schedule has been set. Some members will need training in 2024; UPPCO master agreement is still pending. Some work has begun looking at the possibility of turning streetlights in Dollar Bay back on. Audits and budgets are being reviewed, and more information will be coming; Waiting on a bid from Baraga Telephone; Budget amendments will be done by the February board meeting; REA has been in contact about the pole they are planning on erecting in the Road Commission right-of-way, and wanted to make sure we had

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no issues with it; Our 5-year Rec Plan was not approved by the DNR. Will be in contact with WUPPDR to make the requested corrections; TL PAC planning and membership; Met with the township attorney last week. Looking at the Dangerous Building ordinance regarding a house on Millionaire Street; The snowmobile trail is open, the ribbon cutting ceremony on the 30<sup>th</sup> went well; Met with Matt Torreano from the DNR, discussion about them reimbursing the township \$3,500 for the cost of the survey of the Burcar property.

#### Unfinished Business:

- a. Water Project Plan –update: Discussed at the utility meeting.
- b. Dollar General Project – On hold until next summer.
- c. Snowmobile Trail update – Discussed in Supervisor’s Report.
- d. Dollar Bay Christmas Decorations – Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Janke to approve \$2,000 this year and \$2,000 next year for the purchase of Christmas decorations in Dollar Bay. Roll call vote: 4 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain due to conflict.

#### Tabled Business:

- a. Elm Street restoration plan – Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to remove from the table, and from all future agendas. AVIF
- b. Town Hall Meetings – leave on table.
- c. County Designated Assessor Agreement – Motion by Janke, supported by Christa Gardner to remove it from the table, and move it to the agenda. AVIF
  - a. The proposed agreement and the previously signed agreement were reviewed by our attorney. He indicated that there are issues and inconsistencies between the two. Because of that, the township does not feel comfortable moving forward with the agreement. No action is being taken.

#### New Business:

- a. Truck Bids – next steps: We need to get plow quotes, for a heavy-duty v-plow.
- b. Christmas – Schedule, office hours, gathering: The office will be closed Monday, December 25. A holiday gathering is a consideration and will be looked at by office staff.
- c. Houghton County Rec Plan and Master Plan: Information in packet, just informational.

Additional questions about the ARPA spending plan came up. It is being worked on, but not finished. Need to also start to bid out the gooseneck work on Elm Avenue between Main and 5<sup>th</sup>. Hoping to have it ready for the January meeting.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 8:06 PM. No public comment was offered. Public comment closed at 8:06 PM.

Adjourn: Motion by Christa Gardner, supported by Wareham to adjourn at 8:07 PM. AVIF

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:15 PM at the Osceola Township Board Room.