

**POLKTON CHARTER
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2020 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWNSHIP HALL, 6900 ARTHUR, COOPERSVILLE, MI.**

Board Members Present: D.Busman, W.Courtade, J.Key, C.Langeland, R.Liszewski, B.Sahlberg and R.Scott. Absent: None

Additional Attendees: Lori Laug, Carlene Habian, Kevin Wieringa, Bill Henke and his daughter, Keith Hanenburg, with Dave Johnson representing Muskegon Waste Water and Carly Filler representing Britemark Energy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with Sahlberg offering the invocation. Supervisor Sahlberg called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

AGENDA: Courtade moved to approve the agenda as presented Scott supported. All Ayes; Approved.

AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA: Liszewski moved with Langeland in support, to approve the Consent Agenda. Approved were: Regular meeting minutes from December 5, Bills to be paid, PC minutes of December 17, Fire Authority minutes December 14 with financials. Sheridan Park minutes December 16, SE School December 6 and the BOR minutes from December 10. All Ayes; APPROVED.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

Bills Paid: GF-CK \$450,027.47 (Ck#2853-2874) Payroll, 1 EFT PR Tax, (GFCks#10100-10128 from a new account) plus Certified Check to Joint Bldg Authority for \$400,000 and WF-CK \$25.36 (Ck#1500 also from new account).

**BOARD
REPORTS**

Treasurers Report: Liszewski: Writing checks from the New Accounts beginning this month.

PC Report: by Scott: Gordon Carpenter has been appointed as the PC secretary. The PC will be holding Public Hearings at their Jan meeting for the proposed Barn Event Ordinance, SLU Ordinance Changes and a OCFLandfill SLU request.

Fire Authority Report: by Courtade and Busman: Minutes were presented with the financial report. The Joint Fire Building Authority requests the remainder of the \$400,000 funds to be released toward the allocated down payment toward the Fire Station. If there is any overage of funds for the building project, those funds will be used to reimburse the Fire Authority for architectural expenses paid previously. 2020 Fire Budget within the categories have been adjusted not affecting the total, Busman states the total budget number is projected to be adequate for three years. May 9, 2020 is a tentative date for dedication.

Sheridan Park: by Key: The 6x6 posts have been installed and the cables around the parking area have been removed. The new parking area was compacted well and is holding up good. Additional ADA cement work will be completed in the spring.

SE Schoolhouse: by Key: If the meeting is to be held off site of the township hall, a notice should be posted.

Board of Review: Minutes were reviewed noting one change to a PRE.

INTRODUCTION PRESENTATION OF A PROPOSED DIGESTER BY BRIGHTMARK: Brightmarks mission is to "Create significant long-term value and a positive global impact by delivering waste and energy solutions". With three area farms showing interest in this program, BriteMark is proposing leasing property from Beaver Creek Farms for a Brightmark owned multiple tank digester site. Proposed Pipelines and installation will also be paid for by Britemark.

**DIGESTER
BY
BRITEMARK**

This project is still in the design stages, yet Britemark has successful projects in several States. This digester would only be allowed to take in "certified manure and would not be allowed to take any food product". It was said that the food products are what causes the obnoxious odor from digesters, while the manure smell is on the farm already.

The proposed digester would be built half underground and half above, include 15 miles of pipe line to the Muskegon Waste Water plant to the north and 1.5 of pipeline south to the ANR gas pipeline (no permits yet) from the proposed location.. The object is to turn manure into useable by products, methane gas, organic fertilizer and fiber bedding for cows. Reducing sand use for bedding and reducing spreading of manure. A flame will be used to burn off minimal excess methane as you see at the OCFLandfill. The Township would be required provide an Ordinance for the DEQ and a resolution to grant permission of this proposed Digester. No financial commitment would be required. Britemark would contract with digester users and bill them directly.

Continued

PROPOSED DIGESTER CONTINUED: Interested parties in the digester are Beaver Creek Farms in Polkton Township, River Ridge Farm Dairy in Allendale Township and denDulk Dairy from Muskegon Co. denDulk Dairy may be interested in additional pipeline for transporting liquid manure to the digester location. Swanson Pickle and Ravenna Waste Water may be interested in hooking into the waste water pipeline but only for transport to the Muskegon Plant. Many additional questions and concerns will arise going forward. The time line for the proposed project: 2020, complete design and obtain all necessary permitting begin construction with completion and start up in 2021. The above presentation was presented by both Carly Filler of Britemark and Dave Johnson representing Muskegon Waste Water. Craig Murphy is the project manager from Britemark however was not able to attend this meeting.

**DIGESTER
Continued**

PC APPOINTMENT: After much consideration Kevin Wieringa has offered, with recommendation for from Supervisor Sahlberg, to serve on the PC Board. Wieringa has shown respect for the ordinances, the process and the ability to understand ordinance language. Busman moved to approve Kevin Wieringa as the named alternate member to the Planning Commission, support from Langeland. All Ayes. Approved.

**PC
APPOINTMENT
Kevin
Wieringa**

2020 WATER RATES: In keeping with the proposed schedule provided by Ottawa County, Busman moved with support from Scott to increase the water rate commodity charge by .05/1000 gals and increase the ready to serve charge by .25/month. Being \$3.35/1000 gals and \$8.00/month for ready to serve per REU. All Ayes. APPROVED.

**2020 WATER
RATES
Res#**

2020 MEETING DATES AND SCHEDULES: No changes at this time, however Fire Authority meetings will be moved to 30 Conran Dr, likely in April and the SE School Committee will occasionally meet at SE School when the township meeting room is busy with elections. Print Dates for public hearing notices may be affected due to publication to be made on Tuesdays (lower costs) in the GR Press. Courtade motioned to approve as amended, support from Liszewski. All Ayes. Approved

**2020 Mtg
DATES**

COMPUTER WORKSTATION and BACKUP UPDATES: Two workstations are to be replaced with a third updated to Windows. Provent 360 software is to be purchased for backups with a monthly fee. Costs for Computers and upgrade to be \$1997.99 with Provent monthly at \$169.99. If and when Ottawa County can add us to their system, the provent can be canceled. Liszewski moved to release funds for the computer replacements and up grades as well as the monthly fee for the provent back up software. Support from Scott. All Ayes Approved.

**NEW
COMPUTERS
& NEW
BACK-UP**

MEDICAL MARIJUANA: Busman has contacted Ottawa County and Legal Council. The Township Board cannot place this topic on a ballot. A questionnaire with several topics of concern were placed in with the winter tax bills, this was one of them. Busman requested that the Board wait until the winter tax season is completed and questionnaires returned for the best source of current opinion for review. Consensus agreed.

**MEDICAL
MARIJUANA**

WEBSITE UPGRADE: Last year two presentations were made to the Board regarding web page work. Sahlberg moved to have Webtecs Inc., Tony Kartsten complete this revision. Support from Liszewski. All Ayes Approved. This will begin in March of 2020.

**WEBSITE
UPGRADE**

BOARD DISCUSSION: Carpets to be scheduled for cleaning in Township Hall. The blue vaccum used for cleaning started smoking last cleaning, Jim cleaned it however it should be replaced. The OCF Landfill will bring a SLU request before the PC. Public notice prices will be increasing, and fees for meetings and applications will need to be looked into. A property maintenance ordinance will be looked into, it would give the township some recourse to pursue building projects that have been left uncompleted or those out of compliance. Moratorium Status, a committee has worked on this and will present its results. Fire Audit will be held Feb 26.

**BOARD
DISCUSSIONS**

40 Acre woods and grant status, two appraisals have been received with an appraised value of 410K & 425K for the 40 Acres woods contiguous to the SE School House. Properties like this are getting harder to come by. The Seller does not wish to have the property split up and would like to see future use of this property as additional natural park property in the Township. The Board consensus is to continue to pursue a grant which would require a 25% match from the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lori Laug commented that she believes 2019 had a lot of progress with medical marijuana and is now being recognized as a legitimate form of medication. Recreational marijuana has caused price increases for the medical form.

COMMENTS

It was moved and supported to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. The next regular meeting is to be held on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Minutes written by: Connie Langeland, Clerk. Approved 2/6/20