

Powell Township Board
Public Hearing/ Special Budget Meeting
PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808
Thursday, 2021 6:30PM
Draft Minutes
Approved 03/23/2021

- 1) Call to order at 6:32 PM, by Supervisor, via FreeConferenceCall and at the Township
- 2) Roll Call: Denise Hudson (Trustee); Karen December (Trustee); Kelli Santilli (Treasurer); Samantha Morin (Clerk); Darlene Turner (Supervisor)

Public Comment:

- J.Gertz (in person)- Meeting or Hearing question? Supervisor Turner responds that first it is the Public Hearing and then the Meeting
- No further comments

Supervisor Turner Opens Public Hearing at 6:45PM, Clerk Morin has all virtual attendees un-muted

Public present in person and via FreeConferenceCall

- J.Gertz (in person)-
 - Page 5 line 157, clarification needed on equipment increase.
 - Supervisor Turner responds that the large increase for Ambulance Equipment is for a Side by side that the Ambulance is looking for the new budget year; also part of the purchase will be coming from the donated funds
 - Clarification needed for what Donated Funds are gained and spent.
 - Supervisor Turner responds that people give donations to the township for the Ambulance department and unless specifically stated it can go to the departments pooled donated funds; intention is for larger equipment purchases
 - Page 6 line 177, clarification needed on wage increase.
 - Supervisor Turner responds that line 183 was added for a new position that Parks and Rec. committee are wanting to create for Trail and Parks Manager but then deleted to add back to line 177 after discussion with auditor that all wages would be under one line; Job Description has yet to be approved but draft has been started for the board
 - Clerk Morin responds that the positions under those wages include already Parks and Rec Committee, Parks Attendant, Custodian hours involved at the Parks, Summer Custodian Aide that is involved in Parks restoration and preparation; any employee plowing Thomas Rock, and the increase is for a possible position for Trails and Parks Manager; trails are used year-round for walking/hiking, bikes, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, etc.
 - Trustee Hudson responds with trying to get DNR involvement on the trail system and possibly not needing the increase; DNR are searching for community "Summer" Projects
 - Trustee December responds with personal opinion that increase to manage the trails is not needed and no more money spent on trails. Wants Noquemanon or Big Bay Pathway to cover the Trails.
- M. & R. Hogan (via virtual) – also needs clarification for Parks and Rec. Trail systems; would like the nice trail to the lighthouse

- Supervisor Turner states it is the hope of the Parks and Rec. To further the trail system all the way down to Burns Landing to connect all the Township Parks
- J. Gertz (in person)-
 - Page 7 line 236 needs clarification for increase in Budgeted use of Fund balance increase in Parks and Recreation Donated Funds
 - Supervisor Turner responds that is what the Parks and Recreation have in Funds available in donations; page 9 line 272 is Trail Services projected to be used; with that increase in Fund Balance the donated Funds would still have unused amount of \$27,550 which would remain for future years if not spent; the \$60,000 in budgeted use of fund balance does not mean it would all be used; any purchases or furthering of trails would still have to be individually approved by the board
- B. Ford (in person)- clearing out of the trails is needed; he has been walking it; really beautiful in the fall; pay for someone to do the trail is an idea; volunteers are hard to get
- M. & R. Hogan (via virtual) –
 - travel lines clarification needed
 - Clerk Morin responds that most travel was cut for the budget year 2021-2022 for the all departments because most classes are virtual; example of travel still needed would be for water operator to attend class to further his certification
 - Volunteer Fire Department Equipment discussion
 - Donated funds increased for maintenance and possible large equipment purchases
 - Clerk Morin responds that cuts and increases in the Fire Department have been approved and sanctioned by the fire department.
 - Trustee December states personal opinion that Fire and Ambulance are what M. & R. Hogan see of their taxes only

No further public comments or questions for budget

7:15PM Public Hearing is called to a close by Supervisor and opens up the Board Discussion on Budget

3. Road Fund Discussion

- a. Trustee Hudson- page 7 line 204 Loan Proceeds in Road Fund clarification
- b. Supervisor Turner responds that the Beach Road Turnaround was scheduled for this year and that it was suggested by the Auditor to contact Road commission to split the payment and that was what this line was designated
- c. Trustee December – thinks error from previous road approval on the extension to KE
- d. Trustee Hudson – 13 million in grants are going to Marquette County for Road Improvements and wonders what the county will do with that money
- e. Trustee December – argues about money spent in previous budget year was erroneous
 - i. States personal opinion that the board members in office are going out of their way to not welcome her
- f. Clerk Morin – states that the board meeting isn't the time to continue this grievance; we have heard her statements; we will learn from the mistake and work on this budget year now
- g. Trustee December- continues to argue about money spent in previous budget year for roads

- h. Supervisor Turner- states to Trustee December she has been told that she can continue this with the lawyer if she finds fault in her approval to finish county road KE after the recommendation from Marquette County Road Commission; to leave the one section of County Road KE, would have cost more in later years to go back and finish then to complete the project while started; approval was from the previous board members
 - i. Trustee Hudson- board members were voted in to be community leaders and emergency approvals have happened
 - j. Supervisor Turner- states she was mistaken in not sharing with the community after the emergency approval was needed during a regular meeting
 - k. Trustee December- acquiesce this response from Supervisor Turner of the mistake
 - l. Supervisor Turner- (continues on with this budget year) the project to complete the beach turnaround was a quote for \$150,000 (round estimated without paperwork); a loan from the general fund would be \$30,000 (round estimated); the loan proceeds line is half of the project to be spent; questions the board if this is the year we should fix the road or not; it is little bit over a mile
 - i. Supervisor Turner answers question on bid process being controlled by the Marquette Road Commission and the quotes include 3% in paperwork and 8% in engineering costs
 - m. Agreement is made by board members this stretch is in need of repair severely
 - n. Treasurer Santilli- questions if this is a stretch of road that goes to the county owned Marina would the County pay a percentage to have it corrected?
 - i. Supervisor Turner responds that it can't hurt to ask
 - o. Treasurer Santilli - budget for it and pricing can hopefully go down that the amounts could be different
4. Parks & Trails Manger Job Description Questions
- a. Trustee Hudson has questions on the new position and the increase in wages for it
 - b. Supervisor Turner responds the possible position is for a year round, part-time employee for up to 16 hours a week at \$15 per hour to groom trails, replace signage, and other improvements needed
 - c. Trustee Hudson- the grants were to develop with Noquemanon and Big Bay Pathway and agrees now it is the township should maintain
 - d. Trustee December- states her personal opinion again that Noquemanon and big Bay Pathway should cover itself
 - e. Supervisor Turner- by the Tuesday March 23rd meeting the budget will be approved and during that meeting this discussion will be done
 - f. Trustee Hudson- would like to remove the \$11,000 from Budget for Parks and Rec. Wages budget
 - g. Supervisor Turner – responds that Parks and Rec. has 5 miles of trail that has been developed and needs to be maintained now

7:42PM Recess by board approval. 7:48PM end of Recess

- h. Discussion on custodian, custodian helper, winter plowing at Thomas Rock, Parks Attendent and the job descriptions
- i. Trustee December – brings up that the County and State close parks all year round and is concerned for safety of those who enter in winter
- j. Supervisor Turner- points out that people still visit but at their own risk; at Thomas Rock there were Safety Issues of people parking on the road that leads to Eagle Mine for access to Thomas Rock in Winter; this is why the board approves to plow Thomas Rock

- k. Supervisor Turner- states she would like to leave the \$11,000 in Parks and Recreation budget
 - i. Clerk Morin- states her opinion to leave it in the budget
 - ii. Treasurer Santilli- says to leave the amount in and investigate further others to work on maintain trails
 - l. Trustee Hudson- post around town the for hiring as well as for youth volunteers
5. Communication with Tax Payers
 - a. Trustee December has done research on different companies that could be paid to create lists to send notifications or letters to tax payers that wish further communication
 - b. Treasurer Santilli – reiterates to Trustee December that she could create an outlook group that wouldn't cost the Township anything further; asks Trustee December why she thinks the website isn't good enough and what kind of information she thinks needs to be sent weekly on top of what is posted on the website?
 - c. Trustee December would like a posting to encourage those to join the list
6. Short Term Rentals
 - a. Trustee December believes in regulating Powell Township Short Term Rentals; is worried about litter, noise, and fire hazards
 - b. Treasurer Santilli- questions who would enforce it?
 - c. Trustee December wants an enforcer for Ordinances even to pay the Marquette County Sheriff Department to come up
 - d. Trustee Hudson- responds with Planning Commission information that those that are Homestead are able to rent out 14 days out of the year; Homesteads can't be short-term rentals longer than that

Public Comment:

- M. & R. Hogan (via virtual)- would like to see talking via virtual with cameras on
- M. & R. Hogan (via virtual)- important to have Public Comment before and after the board begins discussion
- J. Gertz (in person)- questions where the paving would start for beach turn around access project to which it would start after the stop sign and the split to go down
- M. & R. Hogan (via virtual)- welcome Karen December to the board

Final Budget Approval March 23rd, 2021 at Township Regular Meeting
Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm by Supervisor

Minutes prepared by
Samantha Morin
Powell Township Clerk