Powell Township Board Special Board Meeting

PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808 April 18th, 2022 6:30 PM

Draft Minutes

- 1. Call to Order at 6:30 pm by Supervisor
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance
- 3. Roll Call of Officers: Darlene Turner (Supervisor); Kelli Santilli (Treasurer); Denise Hudson (Trustee); Karen December (Trustee); Mitch Walker (Clerk)
- 4. Approval of Agenda: motion to approve agenda.
 - a. (Santilli/Hudson) All yes, motion carried.

Public Comment

- 1. Joe Cram
- 2. Bill Ford
- 3. Al Edgar
- 4. Bernie? Malory (not present read by Bill Ford)
- 5. Dan M ? (Lighthouse Road)
- 6. Gene Champagne
- 7. Jane Gertz

New Business

- 1. Correct Wages for the 22/23 budget year.
 - a. Review of hourly rate increases approved at the March 17, 2022 Special Board Meeting.
 - i. Discussion of individual hourly rate increases:
 - Turner: Disagrees with attachment to minutes of the March 17, 2022 Special Board Meeting which details the hourly rate increases approved: all general labor rates should have been increased to \$15 per hour.
 - 2. Walker: Individual hourly rate increases were voted on and approved. Although discussed, no motion was approved regarding an increase to all general labor rates.
 - ii. Turner: Will make a motion during the April 19, 2022 regular Board Meeting to increase wages that were not voted on or are incorrectly listed in the attachment to the minutes of the March 17, 2022 Special Board Meeting.

2. Discussion for ARPA funds:

- a. Turner: Treasurer is required to have a list of approved expenditures submitted to the State by the end of the month. One Board meeting was held, but no vote was taken. Are we going to meet this deadline?
- b. Walker: Spreadsheet of agreed upon expenditures from the March 24, 2022 was circulated to the Board members but there were still some of the funds not allocated. Another meeting is required but has been unable to finalize a date and time when all Board members are available.
- c. Santilli: No extensions will be granted by the State.
- d. Hudson: Proposed meeting on Saturday April 23, 2022.
- e. Board: All agreed to 10:00 am meeting on Saturday April 23, 2022. Clerk will make necessary public postings.

3. Township Road Fund

a. Turner:

i. The Township received from the Marquette County Road Commission 3 bids for paving of County Road KCB (Lighthouse Road) and repaving County Road KCG (Homier Road) and County Road KS (Matis Road) - Attachment #1. The Marquette County Road Commission recommends the bid from Payne and Dolan.

ii. Discussion:

- 1. December: Agrees that Lighthouse Road should be done: many potholes and when the spring thaw occurs all the muck has been causing problems for resident's vehicles. Requests that other roads done too, but priority should be to unpaved roads.
- Hudson: County Road KCG (Homier Road) was on the Powell Township Road schedule for repaving in 2022 (Attachment #2).
 There have been issues with school buses getting stuck on this road during the winter, so it is need of repaving.
- 3. Santilli: The Powell Township Road schedule was made according to need: Homier Road is next and Mattis road is next, KA is next, and Lighthouse Road after that. Although it is great to get extra money and make it cheaper for the Township, it is not fair to people that have been waiting to wait even longer because they don't have money to contribute. It would be great if we could get a bond, but we may not be able to get this money and get this many roads done in one season.
- 4. Turner: The bids are for these 3 roads for being done in 2022.

- 5. Hudson: We do not have the money to even do Homier Road without financing.
- 6. Turner: Township has \$124,088 in Road Fund to spend. If we accept the \$200,000 donation from the Hogans and pave Lighthouse Road, the Township would be \$126,874 short. We would have to finance this amount and recommends we borrow from the General Fund, which has sufficient funds. Original petition for Lighthouse Road was 21 years ago, which has 85 tax parcels. Homier Road has 27 and Mattis Road 25. Recommends that Township accept the \$200,000 donation from the Hogan's, which would leave the Township with \$505,000 for the 3 roads. Township has \$124,000 available which would require us to finance \$381,000. This would take the Township 4 years to pay back as we get about \$90,000 a year that we can use. Aware of sources of financing including the Marquette County Road Commission or the bank. Prices will increase next year. Is it then better to do all 3 roads now? Do we put a special assessment on the Lighthouse Road residents?
- 7. December: Disagrees with special assessment as we do not put special assessment on other residents for repairs or upgrades to their roads.
- 8. Hudson: What kind of road surface would be put down on Lighthouse Road?
- 9. Discussion: The road would be a secondary road, the same as Club Road that lasted approximately 50 years, which was almost impassable when done.
- 10. Hudson: Paving Lighthouse Road could be expected to last at least 40 years.
- 11. Turner: If we do this it would not leave funds for repairs to Club Road or Brown Deer Road in the next few years, but still recommends doing all 3 roads now.
- 12. Santilli: When would funds be available for repairs/upgrades to other roads?
- 13. Turner: After 4 years.
- 14. Walker: The Township should recognize the extreme generosity of the Hogan's \$200,00 donation offer to the Township and their neighbors. It would be a slap in the Hogan's face to not work with them on some solution. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the Township as this offer is not on the table forever and the cost

of paving Lighthouse Road is only going to increase over time. This road will have to be done sooner or later and this is the best opportunity we will ever have to get Lighthouse Road done. Not all expenditures benefit the whole community: if that was the requirement for spending, nothing would ever get done. We need to redouble our effort to find grants and other matching government funds to reduce the cost to the Township. Understands concerns that this would somewhat change the character of Lighthouse Road, but it is more important to honor the request of the majority of the residents on Lighthouse Road that want this project done. Lighthouse Road is a tourist attraction with a local business, and we must support our local businesses when we can. The residents of Big Bay are generous and caring for one another and the Hogan's donation reflects those values, which we need to continue to encourage. It is acceptable to change one's position on this issue based on new information and funding that has recently become available.

- 15. Turner: If we accept the Hogan's donation and pave Lighthouse Road, there might be the perception that you get your way if you have the money or that the Township and/or the Board is being bought.
- 16. Walker: Believes that this is simply a generous donation by the Hogan's.
- iii. Motion: Walker/December: The Township move forward with the paving of County Road KCB (Lighthouse Road) and repaving County Road KCG (Homier Road) and County Road KS (Matis Road) and that the Township explore every financing opportunity available in addition to the Hogan's donation:

1. Discussion:

- a. Turner: Contactor needs to be notified as soon as possible and it may take some time to find additional financing. But the Township can guarantee the total funding if we don't find other state or federal funding. If that funding is not found, the Township could borrow \$381,000.
- b. Discussion: Traffic volume and increase in tax base on Lighthouse Road.
- c. As some properties on Lighthouse Road are VBRO's, this would bring business into Big Bay which we should accommodate.

- 2. Roll call vote: December (yes), Walker (yes), Hudson (yes), Santilli (no), Turner (yes). Motion carried.
- iv. Motion: Walker/December. The Township will accept the generous donation from the Hogan's and back the remaining financing of the 3 roads and explore options, including grants and other donations.
 - 1. Discussion: None
 - 2. Vote: All yes, motion carried.
- v. Turner: Will contact Hogan's and attorneys to execute and agreement for the Hogan's donation.
- vi. Motion: Walker/December: The Township will seek grants and the best financing options available for the remaining estimated \$381,000.
 - 1. Discussion: 5% and other charges maybe added to the estimates.
 - 2. Vote: All yes, motion carried.

Public Comment

- 1. J. Cram: Township passed 2 mils per year for the roads which is the equivalent of about \$280,000 per year. It was stated during this meeting that only \$90,000 per year was available for roads. Where does the rest of this money go?
- 2. B. Ford: Thanks member of Board for supporting this project including J. Cram and D. Turner. Doing all 3 roads makes the most sense and saves the most money. A lot of hard work was put into this and it will pay off and will make a lot of people happy.

Virtual Comment - Not Available

Board Comment

- 1. Turner: With regard to the road millage money that comes in, for '22 '23 it is \$147,073. With Commercial Forest we could go up to \$153,000, but that is iffy. We have a bond payment due yearly that is \$61,694. That leaves us approximately \$90,000 per year to spend on roads. This \$147,073 is from 1.75 mils.
- 2. Walker: Thank everyone for attendance, participation and working on this project. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our thanks to the Hogan's for enabling this to happen.
- 3. Hudson: This is a good time to approach the contractor doing Lighthouse Road if you want your driveway paved which you will have to pay for yourself.

Adjourn 7:31pm

Minutes prepared by M Walker Powell Township Clerk

ATTACHMENT #1

MARQUETTE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION 2022 PRIMARY ROAD AND LOCAL ROAD HMA RESURFACING BID

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A. Lindberg & Sons 766,925.85

Payne & Dolan 704,840.50

Bacco Construction 731,350.90

POWELL TOWNSHIP TOTAL

ATTACHMENT #2

October 2020

Powell Township Roads

Rating for conditions and repair

#1 KE (Saux Head/Luma Farm) To be resurfaced 2020

#2 KF (Squaw Beach) 2021

#3 KCG (Homier Rd.) 2021

#4 KCD, KCE (VFW) KS (Mattis's Rd.) 2022

#5 KCB (Lighthouse Rd) 2023?

#6 KA (Hungry Hallow Rd), KD (Dam) 2024?

#7 Village Streets

Years after that would be for preventive repairs.

Gravel Roads Fair to Good

KD, KB, KEA, KN, KJ, KR, KI, KCF, KCC

Seasonal KT

Roads Resurfaced:

KCI Halfway Fire hall)

KCH (Remington Rd)

KG (Dump Rd)

KK (Huron Mountain Club)

KCB (Lake Independence /Lighthouse)

Balke Street