

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808**  
**January 17, 2023**  
**Minutes - DRAFT**

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**Call to Order 7:01 pm by Supervisor**

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call of Officers – Darlene Turner (Supervisor) present; Kelli Santilli (Treasurer) present; Karen December (Trustee) present; Denise Hudson (Trustee) present; Mitch Walker (Clerk) present.
3. Approval of Agenda – **Motion** to approve agenda with one addition (Santilli/Walker) all in favor, motion carried.
  - a. Add New Business #5 – SPARKS Grant
4. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. **Motion** to approve December 20, 2022, Board meeting minutes (Santilli/Hudson) with noted correction, all in favor, motion carried.
    - i. Update New Business item #4 – “for 2 people”.
5. Expenditure & Revenue Report – **Motion** to approve report (Hudson/Santilli) all in favor, motion carried.
6. Treasurer’s Report
7. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve bills to be paid (Santilli/December) all in favor, motion carried.

**Committee & Department Reports:**

1. Ambulance Department – No report.
2. Emergency Management – K. Bourgeois, Emergency Management Chair, nothing new.
3. Fire Department
  - a. 6 calls for service since the last township meeting: 1 vehicle fire, 2 snowmobile accidents with injuries, 2 lockouts, and 1 structure fire.
  - b. Fleet and Stations are doing good.
  - c. The Marquette County Firefighters Academy begins tonight for the new firefighters: 2 of the 5 scheduled to attend have dropped out due to scheduling conflicts. Academy location has been changed to Negaunee City FD.
  - d. Auxiliary Meetings have been re-scheduled to the second Tuesday of each month.
  - e. The Marquette Coast Guard is scheduled to come up for our January 26th FD Meeting for Ice Rescue Training.
  - f. The L'Anse Truck #2104 has been at Marquette PW since last week for its initial service and hitch install. They also found a bad tank to pump ball valve and a brake line that needs repair. El-com was scheduled to install the radio today while the vehicle was at Marquette PW. We have submitted a PO tonight for the needed hand tools and rescue gear to outfit the new truck for service. Once in full service this vehicle will be

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responding to 70% of all calls out of station #1 and will be primary for car accidents, brush fires, rescue calls, and as a tow vehicle for the Snowmobile, ATVs, and water rescue boat. We hope to have this vehicle in service by the end of the month. Lettering and logos are still pending an install date.

- g. We received word that the DNR has awarded us a 50/50 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant to assist us in purchasing a 70–80-gallon skid unit with around the tank foam and a 100' booster line. This skid will help give us firefighting capabilities on all of our new bike and hiking trails, and any off trail fires where the fire trucks can't get to. The skid unit will also have a drop down platform that can hold a stokes basket allowing us the ability to rescue injured firefighters on a wildfire and assist EMS in multiple patient recoveries or search and rescue calls in the woods.
- h. No word on the AFG grants still outstanding, but as we have not received a turn down letter yet, it is still possible.
- 4. Parks and Recreation Department - Kelli Santilli, Treasurer. Will be working on MDAR grant and need help completing the application. Special meeting this Friday @ 5:00pm to discuss vision for the PTRA. New member, Linda Ludwig, was approved.
- 5. Planning Commission. Denise Hudson, Trustee. Meeting tomorrow evening at the Townhall.
- 6. Sewer Department. Peter TenEyck, Custodian: Everything fine.
- 7. Water Department. Daryl Wilcox, Water Operator: Everything is good.
- 8. Correspondence: Michigan Planner available for anyone to review.
- 9. Presentations: None

**Public Comment:** None

**Unfinished Business:**

- 1. **Motion** to approve Fire Department purchase of ATV from EMS for \$5,000 from ARPA funds that were allocated to paving of CR KK (December/Walker). 4 in favor, 1 opposed, motion carried.
- 2. **Motion** to approve \$250 for Signs Unlimited to create and place stickers on the PTFD ATV purchased from EMS from Fire Department Equipment Repairs budget (December/Walker). 4 in favor, 1 opposed, motion carried.
- 3. **Motion** to approve \$360 for City of Marquette service to the PTFD ATV purchased from EMS from Fire Department Equipment Repairs budget (December/Santilli). 4 in favor, 1 opposed, motion carried.
- 4. **Motion** to approve \$2,356 to purchase a new trailer for the PTFD ATV purchased from EMS from Fire Department Equipment Repairs budget and the PTFD should consider purchasing a used trailer at a lower price if available

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(December/Santilli). Discussion regarding which fund to book this expense to and PTFD remaining budgets. 2 in favor, 3 opposed, motion failed.

**New Business**

1. Fire Department:
  - a. **Motion** to accept \$6,900 DNR VFA 50/50 grant with the PTFD \$3,450 portion to be taken from Donated Funds. (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve \$70 for 2 replacement hand light batteries for engine 2102 (Santilli/Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
  - c. **Motion** to approve \$2,600 for initial hand tools and rescue equipment for new brush/rescue vehicle 2104 (December/Santilli). 3 in favor, 2 opposed, motion carried.
2. **Motion** to approve transfer of \$3,000 from Fire Department/Repairs-Building to Building and Grounds/Townhall which represents the balance of the cost of Halfway Fire Hall septic field repair/replacement that exceeded the \$5,000 allocated from ARPA funds (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
3. Discussion of public input to the SPARK grant application.

**Public comment:**

1. Patricia Thoma: Question regarding purpose of recently acquired PTFD vehicle #2104. Chris Sutter, PTFD Fire Chief responded that #2104 will be a multipurpose brush/rescue vehicle used in all seasons.
2. Daryl Wilcox – Water Operator. Commented about the Amended Budget figures in the Revenue and Expenditure Report.
3. Chris Sutter – Fire Chief. PTFD will need to replace radio batteries before the end of fiscal year.
4. Sven Gonstead – Park and Recreation Committee Chairman. Regarding the SPARK grant, the application focused on what needed to be done to get the park back into shape. Understands the need for a community building and it is part of long terms plans, but at this time, the community is not ready to take on the funding and ongoing operational expenses associated with this project.

**Board comment:**

Trustee Hudson: Would like to see the PTFD have an inventory of tools so that the Board has a better idea of what tools are needed.

**Next Regular Board Meeting February 21, 2023; 7:00pm**

**Adjourn 7:54 pm**

Minutes prepared by:  
Mitch Walker  
Powell Township Clerk