

Powell Township Board Meeting
PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808
February 21, 2023
Minutes – APPROVED 3/21/2023

Call to Order 7:03 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 the following changes. (Santilli/Hudson) all in favor, motion carried.
 - a. Unfinished Business – None.
 - b. New Business #8 – Remove “Bookkeeper”.
4. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. **Motion** to approve December 20, 2022, Board meeting minutes (Santilli/December) all in favor, motion carried.
5. Expenditure & Revenue Report – **Motion** to approve report (Santilli/Walker) all in favor, motion carried.
6. Treasurer’s Report
7. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve bills to be paid (Hudson/Santilli) all in favor, motion carried.

Committee & Department Reports:

1. Ambulance Department: D. Turner: 8 Calls this month. Ambulance did not start on February 21 due to a problem with the electrical charging equipment.
2. Emergency Management: K. Bourgeois, Emergency Management Chair, nothing new, all well.
3. Fire Department: Chris Sutter, Fire Chief. See attached report.
4. Parks and Recreation Department: Kelli Santilli, Treasurer.
5. Planning Commission: Denise Hudson, Trustee. Met last week and created a list of Planning Commission tasks. Next meeting is the 3rd Wednesday of May.
6. Sewer Department: Peter TenEyck, Custodian: All good.
7. Water Department: Peter TenEyck, Custodian: All good.
8. Correspondence: None.
9. Presentations: None

Public Comment: Sven Gonstead, Park & Recreation Chairman, reserved time to comment regarding New Business #3(a)(b)

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

1. Ambulance Department

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- a. **Motion** to approve \$800 from Ambulance Equipment expenditure account for the purchase and installation of a new charging system for the ambulance (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
2. Fire Department:
 - a. **Motion** to approve 1 waiver of fees for Fire Department response due to lack of homeowners insurance and financial hardship (December/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **Motion** to approve 1 waiver of fees for Fire Department response due to lack of homeowners insurance financial hardship (Santilli/December). All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. **Motion** to approve application for AAA traffic safety grant (Hudson/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
 - d. **Motion** to approve an additional \$2,700 expenditure for repairs to the new brush truck (Walker/Santilli). 1 in favor, 4 opposed, motion fails.
 - e. **Motion** to approve \$300 expenditure for annual maintenance of the generator located at Fire Station #1 (Santilli/Walker). 1 in favor, 4 opposed, motion fails.
 - f. **Motion** to approve \$1,300 expenditure for 15 portable radio batteries (December/Walker). 1 in favor, 4 opposed, motion fails.
 - g. **Motion** to approve \$1,500 expenditure from donated funds for the purchase of a trailer for the ATV purchased from the Ambulance department (Santilli/Walker). 4 in favor, 1 opposed, motion passes.
3. Park & Recreation Department:
 - a. Public Comment: Sven Gonstead, Park & Recreation Chairman, spoke regarding the need, use and funding for an ASV Compact Track Steer.
 - b. **Motion** to approve \$74,500 expenditure from donated funds for the purchase of an ASV Compact Track Steer (Santilli/Turner). All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. **Motion** to approve \$4,500 expenditure from the Equipment account (after budget amendments moving \$2,500 from Professional Services and \$1,500 from the Trail Service account to the Equipment account) for the purchase of attachments for the ASV Compact Track Steer (Santilli/Turner). All in favor, motion carried.
 - d. **Motion** to approve a \$350 expenditures from the Park & Recreation ARPA funds for the purchase of storage racks to be installed in the storage container (Santilli/Walker).). All in favor, motion carried.
 - e. **Motion** to approve Linda Ludwig to the Parks & Recreation Committee (Santilli/Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
4. Health Insurance Policy: No action taken.
5. Supervisor Turner announced the following dates for Board of Review meetings.

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- a. March 10, 2023 10:30 - Organizational Meeting
- b. March 15, 2023 9 am to 3:00 pm – Public Questions
- c. March 17, 2023 3 pm to 9 pm – Public Questions
6. **Motion** to approve the Poverty Tax Income Exemption for 2023 at \$15,000 for 1 person and \$20,000 for 2 persons (December/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
7. **Motion** to approve the resignation of Joy Barber as Deputy Clerk (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
8. **Motion** to approve the appointment of Sue Bevins as Deputy Clerk (Walker/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Motion** to approve adding the Monthly Bank Reconciliation Duties [attached] to the Utility Billing Clerk duties at the rate of \$15 per hour (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.

Public comment:

1. D. Wilcox, Water Operator: Commented regarding the funding of the \$1,500 to purchase the trailer for the Fire Department ATV, why the repairs on the new brush truck were not approved and the timing of annual maintenance for the generator located at Fire Station #1.
2. K. Bourgeois, Emergency Management Chairperson: Provided information about the upcoming Powell Township School play scheduled for March 3 and 4, 2023.
3. D. Hudson, Trustee: Expressed feedback she had received regarding posting of minutes and attachments.
4. J. Gertz: Expressed concern over the priorities of the Board when it comes to the approval of funding requests from the Fire Department vs. the Parks & Recreation Department and that these priorities should be more even.
5. J. Gertz: Expressed concern that department chairs are not permitted to provide information during discussion of motions affecting their departments while they are debated during Board meetings as their input would be of value to both the Board and the Public.
6. C. Sorby, Trail Manager: Inquired regarding updates to the calendar on the Township website.

Board comment:

D. Turner, Supervisor: Expressed concern over the clarity of remaining expenses and year end budget levels of the Fire Department as in the previous fiscal year the Township received a negative audit finding for the Fire Department being over budget. Reminded Trustees of their responsibility for financial oversight and need to review financial reports before meetings.

K. December, Trustee: Expressed concern that she was not provided with Trustee training materials and has been made to feel unwelcome at the Township offices.

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M. Walker, Clerk:

- Thank you to Joy Barber for her time and effort in the Deputy Clerk position.
- Thank you to Sue Bevins for coming forward, with her years of business experience, to take on the role of Deputy Clerk.
- Requested that Board members and Department chairs, when submitting motions for expenditures, include with their motions the fund and accounts they are requesting to charge these expenditures to.
- Suggested that Department chairs or other experts provide the Board with additional information regarding major expenditures being considered, possibly during the Presentation section of the Board meeting
- Analysis of Fire Department expenditures will be completed before the next Board meeting which should provide the Board with the clarity they require to approve the expenditure requests presented at this meeting.

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

Adjourn 8:344 pm

Minutes prepared by:
Mitch Walker
Powell Township Clerk