

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808**  
**May 16, 2023**  
**Minutes - APPROVED**

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**Call to Order 7:00 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. (Hudson/Santilli) all in favor, motion carried.
  - a. Add presentation by Mike Springer
  - b. Add item #2e – request for approval of \$2,500 for Summer Concert Series
  - c. Add item #10 – report on Michigan Connected Future.
  - d. Add the following items to the Bills to be Paid report:
    - i. \$1,350 to Dressler Mechanical
    - ii. \$2,088 to BS&A software
    - iii. \$249.26 to Anderson Tackman & Co
    - iv. \$111.00 to Marquette County Township Association
    - v. \$65.00 MIAPA
4. Approval of Minutes - **Motion** to approve April 18, 2023, Board meeting minutes (December/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve report (Santilli/Hudson). (2) in favor, (3) opposed, motion failed.
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: No Report
2. Emergency Management: Food Bank going great and people are making donations. Thanks to JoAnne and Ashley for managing the Food Bank.
3. Fire Department: Chris Sutter, Fire Chief. See attached report. Walker, Fire Department Liaison – working with Fire Department Auxiliary to schedule a weekend training event with food, purchased water alarms with WiFi for Fire Hall for the Chief to test.
4. Parks and Recreation Department: Kelli Santilli, Treasurer.
  - a. Marsha Gonstead met with Committee regarding Big Bay Relay scheduled for this coming weekend: volunteers still needed, sign up at runsignup.com.
  - b. Eagle Mine is donating 390 yards of aggregate for the parking lot at the PTR.A.
  - c. Burns Landing is waiting on bids delayed due to weather.
  - d. First Music Concert Series event is June 10, 2023.
5. Planning Commission: Denise Hudson, Trustee. Meeting tomorrow at 7pm.

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6. Sewer Department: Darlene Turner, Supervisor. Per Pete Ten Eyck (Custodian), all good.
7. Water Department: Darlene Turner, Supervisor. Received a violation letter from EGLE that will be addressed later in this meeting. Fortunate to currently not having any problems.
8. Correspondence: MRA Rails flyer and this month's Country Lines magazine includes a article about the only Nickle mine in the UP.
9. Presentations: Mike Springer, Grant Committee member. Purpose of the presentation [see attached] is to inform the public regarding grant applications and activities, recommend that this presentation be made at tomorrow's Planning Commission meeting, gather information from Powell Township Board and Committee meeting minutes to bolster the grant application and request that we increase funding for Draver Park by \$800.
10. **Public Comment:**
  - a. C. Wheelock – requested status of her complaint, made at the Board meeting, regarding the green house adjacent to 102 Schneider Avenue. Per Kelli Santilli, Treasurer: the custodian determined that the structure is unsound to support boarding up, Jackie Solomen, Marquette County Treasurer is considering demolishing the structure, she has been unable to inspect the structure due to weather and officer scheduling but should be here this week.
  - b. J. Gertz – there are many other areas of Big Bay suffering from blight that also need attention.
  - c. J. Gertz – there are vermin and bad smells coming from the house located at 201 CR KT and the children in the Bay Cliff Health Camp parade must walk within one house of this structure. This poses a danger to the children and embarrassment to the town.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Credit Card Policy. Discussion of recommended changes to the policy.
  2. Monthly Credit card expenses form. Discussion
  3. Invoice Tracking form
  4. Crams expense form
- Motion** to table Unfinished Business items 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Santilli/Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

**New Business**

1. Ambulance Department. None
2. Fire Department:
  - a. **Motion** to approve \$175 2023 MCFFA Dues & 2022 Meeting Fines (Santilli/Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

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- b. **Motion** to approve \$265 2023 MCFFA Firefighter Class Fee (Santilli/December). All in favor, motion carried.
  - c. **Motion** to approve \$4,500 FireCatt Hose, Nozzle, & Ladder Testing (Hudson/December). All in favor, motion carried.
  - d. **Motion** to approve \$1,400 Replacement Radiator & Water Pump for Brush ATV 2112 (December/Santilli). (4) in favor, (1) opposed, motion carried.
  - e. **Motion** to approve \$140 Replacement Boat Battery, New Battery Box & Marine Trickle Charger (Hudson/Santilli). (4) in favor, (1) opposed, motion carried.
  - f. **Motion** to approve \$200 for 2 Vehicle Shoreline Cord Reels for Station 1 Apparatus (December/Hudson). (4) in favor, (1) opposed, motion carried.
  - g. **Motion** to request approval of new member - Firefighter Kevin Kondra (December/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - h. Discussion of water main failure at Fire Station #1
3. Park & Recreation Department:
- a. **Motion** to approve a maximum of \$500 to replace the refrigerator at the food shack (Santilli/Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve \$100 for a sign directing people to bike trails / hiking trails (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - c. **Motion** to approve \$100 for supplies to be used by Ember Credit Union employee volunteers to do painting at Draver Park (Santilli/December). All in favor, motion carried.
  - d. **Motion** to approve \$600 for gravel for the Thomas Rock -Driveway and parking lot (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - e. **Motion** to approve \$2,500 for the summer Music Concert Series (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
4. Cemetery Department:
- a. **Motion** to approve \$200 for burial planks (Santilli/December). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve \$200 for Memorial Day flowers (Santilli/Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Fire on the Bay: **Motion** to approve \$25 to update banner (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Motion** to approve \$500 flowers for community planting (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Water Operator:
- a. **Motion** to approve Pat Dewitt as Water Operator at \$400 per month for 6 months (Walker/December). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve Joe Santilli as assistant to the Water Operator at \$15 per hour (December/Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
8. **Motion** to approve \$75 per applicant, up to 3, to attend Water Operator class (December/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.

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9. **Motion** to approve Nancy Gaines to the Planning Commission (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
10. Michigan Connected Future: Mitch Walker (Clerk) provided information regarding the Michigan Connected Future listening session scheduled for May 17, 2023 at 4pm at NMU.

**Public comment:**

1. J. Gertz, questioned which trails are designated as bike only or hiker only and why signs are required. Per Kelli Santilli, trails are not designated as bike only or hiker only.
2. J. Gertz:
  - a. Expressed concern that last summer hiking trails were not mowed and as a result, there were lots of ticks. Darlene Turner responded that trails are now mowed by the Trails Coordinator, but they were not prior to his hiring last summer.
  - b. Expressed concern that if high speed internet providers receive funding then savings should be passed onto the consumers. Mitch Walker responded that the funding is intended to offset the high speed internet providers' capital outlay in rural areas and will ask at the Michigan Connected Future listening session what connection and monthly fees would be if high speed internet providers receive grant funds.
3. C. Sutter thanked Assistant Fire Chief Matt Anderson, Retired Fire Chief Mike Toma and Pete TenEyck for their assistance during the water main break in Fire Station #1.

**Board comment:**

1. K. Santilli, Treasurer.
  - a. The Township has partnered with the Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund so that the public can get assistance with their water bill and that the MIHAF website has further information regarding assistance with mortgage, car, and other payments from their ARPA funds.
  - b. In planning for kids' games for Fire on the Bay, she would like the Township to conder purchasing
    - i. A foam machine, cost \$800 to \$2,500 and rental is expensive and this could be rented out to the public to recover some of the cost.
    - ii. A wall of water device, which could be operated by the Fire Department, rather that the pool we currently use.
2. M. Walker, Clerk. Thanked Mike Springer for his presentation and the time he has put into the grant application processes and thanked Joe Santilli for his

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assistance with the Water Department while we search for a replacement Water Operator.

3. D. Turner, Supervisor. Passed on to the Fire Department that the Big Bay relay will need access to the rest room facilities at the Halfway Fire Station #2 this coming Saturday and the Eagle Mine Forum will be at the Township Hall on May 30, 2023 at 5:30pm.

**Next Regular Board Meeting June 20, 2023; 7:00pm**

**Adjourn 8:45 pm**

Minutes prepared by:  
Mitch Walker  
Powell Township Clerk