

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808**  
**June 20, 2023**  
**Minutes**

---

**Call to Order 7:02 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/December) all in favor, motion carried.
  - a. Ambulance:
    - i. Leslie Hahn to join EMS
    - ii. \$20 for CPR Certificate
    - iii. \$35 for Driving Certificate
  - b. Park & Rec
    - i. Apply for a Venmo/PayPal account
    - ii. \$700 to repair bleacher boards at Draver Park
  - c. July MTA classes in Escanaba:
    - i. \$100 for tuition and 1 night lodging for the Fire Chief to attend.
    - ii. \$300 for tuition and lodging for Trustee Hudson to attend.
  - d. \$900 for Draver Park maintenance in the '24 – '25 fiscal year.
  - e. \$1,470 from ARPA funds for 906 to purchase and install a new firewall
4. Approval of Minutes - **Motion** to approve May 16, 2023, Board meeting minutes, with the following changes (Santilli/Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
  - a. New Business 7(b), add “up to 3”
  - b. Public Comment #10(c), correct address to 201 CR KT
  - c. Committee and Department Reports #9, correct spelling of Draver Park
5. Revenue & Expenditure Report:
  - a. **Motion** to approve April 30, 2023 report (December/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve May 30, 2023 report (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Budget Amendment Report:
  - a. **Motion** to approve March 31, 2023 Budget Amendment Report, (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve May 31, 2023 Budget Amendment Report Q1, (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Treasurer’s Report
8. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve Bills to be Paid (Santilli/December), with the following addition. All in favor, motion carried.
  - a. \$1,506 to the Hannula Agency for 3<sup>rd</sup> annual installment of Marquette County Township’s Firefighters Association Group Life and Accident addition to Worker Compensation

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808**  
**June 20, 2023**  
**Minutes**

---

**Committee & Department Reports:**

1. Ambulance Department: No Report
2. Emergency Management: Joanne will no longer be able to continue volunteer at the Food Bank, will re-evaluate service this summer and come up with a plan going forward.
3. Fire Department: Chris Sutter, Fire Chief. See attached report.
4. Parks and Recreation Department: Kelli Santilli, Treasurer.
  - a. Concert on June 10 went well: 175 people attended
  - b. SPARK grant will be submitted next week.
  - c. Aggregate will be purchased to maintain trails
  - d. Next concert will be for Fire on the Bay, looking for a new band and volunteers.
  - e. Planning Commission: Denise Hudson, Trustee.
    - i. At the last meeting, discussed the tiny house on Lake Independence, non-conforming properties, future land use, 2 permits issued in May for a cabin and a residence and a presentation by M. Springer regarding the SPARKS grant.
    - ii. Next meeting tomorrow at 7pm.
5. Sewer Department: Pete TenEyck (Custodian), all good.
6. Water Department: Joe Santilli (Water Operator).
  - a. During the scheduled power outage in Monday, the generator and water system ran great.
  - b. The Annual Consumer Confidence Report has been completed and is available for public review.
  - c. Monthly water samples were good, more samples next month.
  - d. All reports are up to date, and we are meeting our compliance obligations.
7. Correspondence: Email from Katrina Jennings

**Public Comment:**

1. C. Sorby (Trail and Park Manager) reserves time to speak to agenda item #12
2. J. Mapes conveyed that he was pleased to see action being taken on the 102 Schneider Avenue property and shared his thoughts regarding the Township Blight Ordinance. Requested information from the Board regarding any policy, processes, or procedures in place to address compliance with the Township Blight Ordinance.
3. C. Wheelock – were calls made to J. Derocha regarding the 102 Schneider Avenue property? Supervisor Turner provided an update.

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808**  
**June 20, 2023**  
**Minutes**

---

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Credit Card Policy. M. Walker (Clerk) presented a Draft of a new Credit Card Policy based on input from the Board which now incorporates the Monthly Credit card expenses form. **Motion** to table the Draft Credit Card Policy (Santilli/December). All in favor, motion carried.
2. Monthly Credit card expenses form is now included in the Draft Credit Card Policy
3. Invoice Tracking form – permanently tabled
4. Crams expense form – permanently tabled

**New Business**

9. Ambulance Department.
  - a. **Motion** to approve Leslie Hahn to join EMS (Santilli/Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve \$20 for a CPR certificate for Leslie Hahn (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - c. **Motion** to approve \$35 for a Driver Certificate for Leslie Hahn (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
2. Fire Department:
  - a. **Motion** to approve request to apply for MI Fire Equipment Grant – no matching with \$10,000 Limit (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve request to apply for MI DNR Fire Grant – 50/50 Grant with \$4,999 Limit (December/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
  - c. **Motion** to approve \$400 for Annual Fire Extinguisher Service & Maintenance Checks (Santilli/December). All in favor, motion carried.
  - d. **Motion** to approve \$350 for 4 Rescue Rope Bags (1 for 2101, 2102, 2105 & 2106) w/75' of Life Safety Rope (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - e. **Motion** to approve \$45 to purchase 2 Water Curtain Nozzles (Santilli/Turner). All in favor, motion carried.
  - f. **Motion** to approve \$300 to purchase 8 Marquette County Plat Map Books for the fleet if new books are not available (Santilli/Walker). (4) in favor, (1) opposed, motion carried.
  - g. **Motion** to approve \$300 to cover the additional 2.5" Ball valve that needed to be replaced during pipe work. (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
  - h. **Motion** to approve \$5,731 to replace a Radio & Pager lost in a January Structure Fire (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - i. **Motion** to approve \$962 Emergency Replacement of tires on Brush 2106 (Santilli/December). All in favor, motion carried.

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808**  
**June 20, 2023**  
**Minutes**

---

- j. **Motion** to approve \$70 to purchase lumber to extend the hose storage rack at station 1 for 2103's hose (Santilli/December). (4) in favor, (1) opposed, motion carried.
- 3. Park & Recreation Department:
  - a. **Motion** to approve \$500 for Kids Games & Saw Dust Pile (Hudson/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve \$804 for the Concert Band, Banners & Posters (December/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - c. **Motion** to approve \$100 for stickers for the new Track Steer equipment (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
  - d. **Motion** to approve \$150 to repair hydraulic hose on the excavator (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
  - e. **Motion** to approve application for a Venmo/PayPal account (Hudson/Turner). All in favor, motion carried.
  - f. **Motion** to approve \$700 to repair bleacher boards at Draver Park (Santilli/Walker). (4) in favor, (1) opposed, motion carried.
- 4. Fourth of July:
  - a. **Motion** to approve \$50 for each of the Park & Rec, Fire and Ambulance Departments to purchase parade candy (Santilli/December) All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve \$200 for ice cream (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
- 5. MTA UP Education Extravaganza:
  - a. **Motion** to approve \$300 in tuition and 2 nights lodging for the Supervisor (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve \$100 for tuition and 1 night lodging for the Fire Chief (December/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
  - c. **Motion** to approve \$300 for tuition and lodging for Trustee Hudson (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
- 6. Cemetery: **Motion** to approve \$13,850.00 for Trimedia to perform cemetery mapping (\$7,000.00 yr. 23/24, balance 24/25 yr.) (Walker/Hudson) All in favor, motion carried.
- 7. Water Department: **Motion** to approve \$100,000 for St. Germain Sandblasting to service the water tower (December/Santilli). Roll call vote: Turner – Yes, Santilli – Yes, Walker – Yes, December – Yes, Hudson – Yes, motion carried.
- 8. Bookkeeper: **Motion** to hire a temporary bookkeeper, Samantha Morin, at \$15 per hour to assist the Clerk's Office (Santilli/Walker). (4) in favor, (1) opposed, motion carried.
- 9. Purchases: **Motion** that the Board designates General Ledger numbers for all purchases approved by the Board (Santilli/Walker). (4) in favor, (1) opposed, motion carried.

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808**  
**June 20, 2023**  
**Minutes**

---

10. **Motion** to approve \$1,450 for the purchase of a foam machine from the Building and Grounds, Townhall account (Santilli/Turner). All in favor, motion carried.
11. **Motion** to approve the transfer of \$15,000 to the Park and Recreation Donated Funds to be disbursed between Fire on the Bay, Music Concert Series and General Operating (Santilli/Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
12. **Motion** to approve an additional \$900 for maintenance of Draver Park in the '24 – '25 fiscal year (Santilli/Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
13. **Motion** to approve \$1,470 from ARPA funds to 906 Technologies to purchase and install a new firewall (Walker/Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.

**Presentation:** Mike Springer, Grant Committee member. Provided a review and status update of the SPARK Grant application to be submitted on June 26, 2023. Requested additional public input/detail regarding the adverse effects of COVID 19 on community events and functions to be included in the application.

**Public comment:**

1. N. Korstead inquired if it was possible for a portion of the temporary bookkeeper's time could be used for training in the Clerk's Office.
2. J. Gertz, commented regarding the number questions directed to current and past Clerks and inquired as to the level of training provided to the Clerk based on the scope of the duties of the Clerk's Office.
3. D. Butler inquired as to whether the Clerk's office could use another accounting application, such as QuickBooks, to facilitate the creation of accounting reports.
4. J. Mapes inquired as to the Board procedure regarding blight: how is it identified and what actions are taken when it is determined to be blight. Supervisor Turner detailed Township and legal procedures.
5. C. Root shared prior Township experience in attempting to enforce the Blight Ordinance.
6. C. Wheelock stated that she has presented her blight complaint for over 3 years and it has not been addressed. Inquired as to if 102 Schneider is purchased, will the purchaser be permitted to continue to store junk outdoors.
7. K. Bourgeois shared that in the past we worked with a contractor to removed junk cars and that it was very effective.
8. J. Gertz shared that blight has been an issue raised at Board meetings for years that has not been addressed.
9. J. Mapes expressed that the pocket parks are a great idea.

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay 49808**  
**June 20, 2023**  
**Minutes**

---

10. C. Sorby has reached out to the Supervisor in the past but it seems like there is no enforcement mechanism. Does not feel it should be the Supervisor that should enforce the ordinance.
11. J. Mapes inquired if other townships are experiencing a blight issue and if there was any merit to forming a coalition to jointly address the issue.

**Board comment:**

1. K. Santilli, Treasurer - has been in contact with J. Solomon (Marquette County Treasurer) regarding 102 Schneider and she asked if we had someone who could mow the lawn and we provided a name. J. Solomon also stated that on July 3 she will know if she can start the demolition process. If demolition is approved, she will contact the Land Bank that have funds for this purpose.
2. M. Walker, Clerk.
  - a. Addressed D. Butler's questions about QuickBooks and thanked Embers Bank and all the bank volunteers that did a wonder job painting the Draver Park concession stand and playground equipment.

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

**Adjourn 9:205 pm**

Minutes prepared by:  
Mitch Walker  
Powell Township Clerk