

Powell Township Board Meeting
PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay MI 49808
November 19, 2024
Minutes - DRAFT

1. Call to Order at 7:06 pm by the Supervisor.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call of Officers – Darlene Turner (Supervisor) present; Kelli Santilli (Treasurer) present; Mitch Walker (Clerk) present; Karen December (Trustee) present; Denise Hudson (Trustee) present.
4. Approval of Agenda – **Motion** to approve agenda with the following additions (K. Santilli, K. December). All in favor, motion carried.
 - a. To Unfinished Business:
 - i. Planning Commission Environmental Protection Strip
 - ii. Planning Commission Wetland Protection Zone
 - b. #6 Township Meeting Public Comment Resolution
 - c. #7 Approval of Tyler Vargo Back to Fire Department
 - d. #8 Discussion of the Eagle Mine Grant
5. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. **Motion** to approve October 15, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes (K. Santilli, M. Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **Motion** to approve October 18, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes with revisions (K. Santilli, M. Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. **Motion** to approve October 25, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes (K. December, K. Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve October 31, 2024, Revenue & Expenditure Report (K. Santilli, D. Hudson). 3 in favor, 2 opposed, motion carried.
7. Treasurer’s Report.
8. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve Bills to be Paid (D. Hudson, K. Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.

Committee & Department Reports:

- A. Ambulance Department: Brian Roell/Asst Fire Chief
 - a. We passed the annual State Inspection with no deficiencies.

Powell Township Board Meeting
PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay MI 49808
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- b. There were 8 calls since the last meeting.
- B. Emergency Management: K. Bourgeois/EMS:
 - a. The Food Bank is open as of November 6.
 - b. There are flyers and other ongoing outreach measures in place to let the town know about Food Bank.
 - c. The Emergency Plan needs to be updated by January and the team should have it available for review by the next meeting.
 - d. The team is also updating the emergency numbers list.
- C. Fire Department: B. Roell/Asst. Fire Chief: See report in **Attachment 1**.
- D. Parks and Recreation Department: H. Shatz/Chairperson: See report in Attachment 2.
- E. Planning Commission: D. Hudson/Trustee:
 - a. The Master Summary of 2024 trail usage is available for this meeting, the public, and on request, and D. Hudson is available for any questions.
 - b. We had a short meeting last month due to power issues.
 - c. Next meeting is tomorrow night, 20 Nov, 7 P.M. at the Township Hall.
- F. Sewer Department: S. DeMoulin – No problems.
- G. Water Department: C. Sorby/Assistant Water Operator:
 - a. C. Sorby took the S4 Licensure for Water Operator on 6 November and results are pending within 45 days.
 - b. We are in the process of pumping out the hydrants. We had a sump pump failure, so we put in a new one this week.
 - c. We have water shut off to Draver Park, Big Bay Cemetery, and other required places for the season.
 - d. We had generator service, one-hour testing, and maintenance at the sump pumps, and everything went well.
 - e. We also had our annual sanitary inspection at the water tower, pumphouse, and the wells with Amy from Eagle. Everything went well. She recommended possible security measures at the pumphouse and the wellheads, such as reflectors for roadside

Powell Township Board Meeting
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visibility and cameras.

H. Correspondence:

- a. Bay Cliff Health Camp will have their Open House Christmas, December 6, 4-8 P.M., everyone is invited.
- b. All employees and boards of Powell Township are invited to the Marquette County Township Association Christmas Pot Luck, December 4, 5:30 P.M. at Ishpeming Township Hall. Bring one gift (\$25) from the township, and a dish to share, and the sponsoring Association will provide the meat.
- c. The Huron Mountain Club distributed grants of \$10,000 to the EMS and \$10,000 to the Fire Department.

Public Comment:

- J. Gertz: Thanked outgoing Board members Karen, Kelli, Darlene, and Mitch for their hard and often thankless work, which was greatly appreciated.
- J. Gertz: Inquired about a payment made to Marquette Regional History Center for Burns Landing grant sign pictures. D. Turner explained costs were \$25 per picture for 4 professional pictures taken at Burns Landing to be used on the Burns Landing signage and \$15 for entrance to the Marquette Historical Society.
- M. Springer: Thanked all outgoing Board members and consideration of each initiative P&R brought forth to them. Thanked D. Turner and K. Santilli for the time and energy invested in the Spark Grant.
- B. Ford: Seconded the comments from M. Springer.

Unfinished Business:

1. Environmental Protection Strip
 - a. Powell Township received a letter from the county about the environmental protection strip and their opinion on what they think should be
 - b. D. Hudson will share the letter with the Planning Commission for consideration

2. Wellhead Protection
 - a. Powell Township received a letter from the county about wellhead protection

Powell Township Board Meeting
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November 19, 2024
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- b. D. Hudson will share the letter with the Planning Commission for consideration

New Business:

- 1. Ambulance:
 - a. Tyler Vargo stepping down as EMS Coordinator, December 31, 2024. Looking for someone to take his position.
 - b. **Motion** to increase the EMS credit card limit from \$500 to \$1,000. (M. Walker, K. Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.

- 2. Fire Department:
 - a. **Motion** to pay \$7,888.97, amended to \$8,093.26, for Biennial Pump Testing, Annual Fleet Maintenance & DOT Inspections for 5 vehicles (K. December, M. Walker). All in favor, motion carried
 - b. **Motion** to pay \$980.00 for Fire Department / Auxiliary Shirts and Hats – donated funds (K. Santilli, K. December). All in favor, motion carried.

- 3. Parks and Recreation:
 - a. **Motion** to pay \$25.00 to Survey Monkey (K. Santilli, M. Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **Motion** to pay \$650.00 to Mining Journal for ads for 5-Year Recreation Plan (K. Santilli, K. December). All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. **Motion** to pay \$500.00 for Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAILS) Accessibility Plan (D. Hudson, K. Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
 - d. **Motion** to pay \$300.00 for dog waste station at Thomas Rock (K. Santilli, M. Walker). All in favor, motion carried.

- 4. **Motion** to pay for Gravel for Thomas Rock and Big Bay Cemetery at \$450.00 a load (3 loads needed; 2 loads for Thomas Rock and 1 load for Big Bay Cemetery) (K. Santilli, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

- 5. **Motion** to pay \$1,200.74 for Cummins Generator Pump House (K. Santilli, M. Walker). All in favor, motion carried.

Powell Township Board Meeting
PO Box 319, 101 Bensinger, Big Bay MI 49808
November 19, 2024
Minutes - DRAFT

6. **Motion** for Resolution for Township Meeting Public Comment (K. Santilli, K. December). Motion tabled.
7. **Motion** to Approve Return of Tyler Vargo to the Fire Department (M. Walker/K. Santilli). All in favor, motion carried.
8. **Motion** to Discuss Eagle Mine Grant (K. Santilli, M. Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Motion** to accept the \$200,000.00 donation from Eagle Mine Grant (D. Turner, K. Santilli). 4 in favor, 1 no vote, motion carried.

Public Comment:

- J. Gertz: Noted that the Huron Mountain Club generosity is evident. Noted discussions of #8 and #9 bring up certain perceptions about what Board policies are and are not followed.
- H. Schatz: Inquired about whether the policy forms were filled out and approved for the two Eagle Mine grants.
- M. Anderson: Noted that Huron Mountain Club donates annually to Fire and EMS departments without request. Clarified the timeline and events surrounding a rescue pontoon boat's procurement.
- C. Sorby: Noted P&R service at every community event and tireless servants in P&R. Stated gratitude for Eagle Mine and Huron Mountain Club support. Noted infighting between departments that should not continue.

Board Comment:

1. K. December: Congratulations to Steve Girard who will be the new Trustee. Will have all pass-on information available for Steve.
2. M. Walker: Congratulations to the new Supervisor. Would like to clarify his gratitude for the tireless work of the P&R department and its volunteers.
3. D. Turner: Passing on the Supervisor pen and gavel to Levi Ellis.
4. L. Ellis: Looks forward to serving the community.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting December 16, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn 8:06 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: M. Mramor, Deputy Clerk