

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger St., Big Bay MI 49808**  
**December 17, 2024**  
**Minutes - DRAFT**

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1. Call to Order at 7:00 pm by the Supervisor.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call of Officers – Levi Ellis (Supervisor) present; Daryl Wilcox (Treasurer) present; Mitch Walker (Clerk) present; Stephen Girard (Trustee) present; Denise Hudson (Trustee) present.
4. Approval of Agenda – **Motion** to approve agenda with the following additions (M. Walker, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
  - a. Remove #16 5-Year Recreation Plan
  - b. Add #19 Budget Amendment
5. Approval of Minutes –
  - a. **Motion** to approve November 19, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes (M. Walker, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **Motion** to approve December 12, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes (M. Walker, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve November 30, 2024, Revenue & Expenditure Report (D. Hudson, M. Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Treasurer's Report - **Motion** to approve Treasurer's Report (M. Walker, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
8. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve Bills to be Paid (M. Walker, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

Committee & Department Reports:

- A. Ambulance Department: J. Boudreaux/EMS:
  - a. There were 5 calls for service.
  - b. Tyler Vargo is working with the contractors on the computer dispatch system on the EMS truck. They are resolving items related to its Global Positioning System (GPS).

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- c. The Department has been working with the lift system (to assist with lifting objects or patients) with positive results. One result is back strain mitigation, which will enable work productivity.
- B. Emergency Management: K. Bourgeois/EMS: Nothing to report
- C. Fire Department: M. Anderson/Asst. Fire Chief:
- a. There were 8 runs for November.
  - b. Regarding the grant for a new truck, the Board needs to sign the grant paperwork by 10 January 2025 to be able to get price quotes. On Friday, B. Roell gave the Board the paperwork for signing.
  - c. An ice rescue training last week went very well.
  - d. There was a request to repair a plugged culvert running under the road from Lake Independence to Kathy Pond. They were unable to fully resolve the issues. Since the culvert's also falls under Marquette County management, the county may be able to help in the spring.
- D. Parks and Recreation Department: H. Shatz/Chairperson:
- a. The annual tree lighting went well and included about 26 kids in attendance. Thank you to those who volunteered and made it a success: Darlene Turner, Yvonne, Kelcey, Matt Anderson, Connie Shatz, and others.
  - b. The Spark Grant and MDNR documents were approved.
  - c. Safe Routes to School Grant – we are still re-submitting the application using the Road Commission plans.
  - d. Volunteers are needed for the following annual events:
    - i. Fire on the Bay
    - ii. Easter Egg Hunt
  - e. The 5-Year Recreation Plan is in progress. The related public hearing meeting for the community is now TENTATIVELY 6:30 P.M., 11 Feb 2025. Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL) cannot meet to discuss the Plan until January or later, and the public hearing depends on the SAIL meeting (it will occur afterward).
  - f. The Department will send the Draver Community Park & Trailhead bid documents for posting to the Powell Township site.

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E. Planning Commission: D. Hudson/Trustee:

- a. There have been 5 new permits issued since October 2024.
- b. The Department is waiting to hear from Marquette County about the cost of updating the town maps.
- c. Rewriting the Master Plan is in process.
- d. The verbiage in marijuana ordinance needs to be completed.
- e. The storage container & fence ordinance wording was never sent to the Marquette County Planning Commission.
- f. The Environmental Protection Strip documentation was sent to the Marquette County Planning Commission.

F. Sewer Department: S. DeMoulin – No problems.

G. Water Department: C. Sorby/Water Operator:

- a. The fire hydrants in town are winterized & pumped out.
- b. 1 hydrant near the Big Bay Cemetery is tagged as “out of service”. It is an old hydrant near the main line that was never replaced.
- c. The Department would like to replace this tagged “out of service” hydrant, and replace the one near the Big Bay Trailhead so that its breakaway is above ground level.
- d. The January 2025 water bills will have a water testing deficiency notification letter from Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) attached. October water testing was completed a day early and EGLE was not okay with this.
- e. C. Sorby passed the S4 Licensure for Water Operator exam and was EGLE-certified on November 6, 2024.

H. Correspondence: None.

I. Presentations: None.

Public Comment:

- G. Champagne: Welcome new board members; welcoming new members is always a pleasure, and he looks forward to working with them over the next few years.

Unfinished Business:

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1. **Motion** to accept Tyler Vargo's resignation as EMS Coordinator (M. Walker, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
2. **Motion** to approve Public Comment Resolution (M. Walker, D. Wilcox). Roll call vote add attachment to minutes. Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, M. Walker – Aye, S. Girard – Aye, D. Hudson – Aye, motion carried.
3. **Motion** to table Wellhead Protection Areas – Zoning Amendment (D. Wilcox, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Motion** to table Environmental Protection Strip – Zoning Amendment definition change (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

5. **Motion** to approve 2025 township meeting time and date cycles (M. Walker, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Motion** to approve payment of IRS fines from general savings fund (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
7. **Motion** to approve benefits for the Township Custodian (M. Walker, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
8. **Motion** to approve overtime hours for plowing and removal (D. Hudson, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Motion** to approve Powell Township Fire Department purchase of Positive Pressure Ventilation fan with exhaust extension, totaling \$2,673.90, with 6-20-24 Marquette County grant funds (M. Walker, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
10. **Motion** to accept Laura Mohrman's resignation from Planning Commission (M. Walker, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
11. **Motion** to accept Tyler Vargo's EMS coordinator resignation and appoint Josh Boudreaux as the EMS coordinator (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

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12. **Motion** to approve purchase of the demo lift pillow the EMS Department has been using, totaling \$1,374.00, with donated funds (D. Wilcox, M. Walker). All in favor, motion carried.
13. **Motion** to approve purchase of a new patient monitoring system for EMS Department use, totaling \$3,000.00, with donated funds (M. Walker, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
14. **Motion** to approve Parks and Recreation Department's use of the Powell Township Hall reception area computer (D. Wilcox, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
15. **Motion** to approve parking area plowing of the Powell Township Recreation Area Trailhead (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
16. **Deleted.**
17. **Motion** to appoint Coty Sorby as Water Operator effective 06 November (M. Walker, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
18. **Motion** to appoint Sharon Mattis as Clerk effective January 2, 2025 (D. Hudson, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
19. **Motion** to approve budget amendment (M. Walker, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment:

- J. Boudreaux: appreciates all the Parks & Recreation Department's work and efforts/successes in looking for funding from outside sources. He came from a small MN mining town and watched its healthy growth by expanding events and activities in the same manner.
- C. Sorby: Thank you in return and equally appreciates the EMS and Fire Departments' work and successes
- B. Roell: The next Fire Department meeting is Thursday January 2, 6 P.M., at the Fire Hall. [note: this is viewable on Powell Township site's calendar.]

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- L. Ellis: Moving forward we can all help each other and work together; I will be getting with all departments to enable this as we progress as a team.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting January 21, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn 8:00 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: M. Mramor, Deputy Clerk