

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger St., Big Bay MI 49808**  
**January 21, 2025**  
**Minutes**

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1. Call to Order at 7:04 P.M. by the Supervisor.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call of Officers – Levi Ellis (Supervisor) present; Daryl Wilcox (Treasurer) present; Sharon Mattis (Clerk) present; Stephen Girard (Trustee) present; Denise Hudson (Trustee) present.
4. Approval of Agenda – **Motion** to approve Agenda with the following additions (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
  - a. Add #19 Request to assist Marquette County with Perkins Park access.
  - b. Add #20 Request to approve \$153.56 payment to Pomp’s Tire Service.
5. Approval of Minutes – **Motion** to approve December 17, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes (S. Mattis, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve December 31, 2024, Revenue & Expenditure Report (D. Hudson, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Budget Amendments Report – **Motion** to approve January 20, 2025, Budget Amendments Report (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
8. Treasurer’s Report - **Motion** to approve Treasurer’s Report (S. Mattis, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
9. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve Bills to be Paid (D. Wilcox, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
10. Committee & Department Reports:
  - a. Ambulance Department: J. Boudreaux/EMS:
    - i. There were 5 calls for service.
    - ii. The Ambulance Department engaged in joint Fire Department snowmobile rescue training on snowmobile and ski trails and noted some winch issues. The issues have no impact on being able to respond.

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- iii. The AED monitor at the Halfway location was pulled out of service due to incompatibility with FDA regulations. In case of a need for an AED the Department will grab the one from the fire truck until resolved.
  - iv. The Department is searching for a new patient AED/monitor type and is currently getting quotes and grant options. The less expensive, hospital-based monitor will not work in the ambulance.
- b. Emergency Management: K. Bourgeois/EMS: Nothing to report.
- c. Fire Department: M. Anderson/Fire Chief:
- i. There was 1 EMS call with minor response issues.
  - ii. Other items are on the Agenda under New Business.
- d. Parks and Recreation Department: H. Shatz/Chairperson:
- i. Spark Grant and Draver Park - The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) plans, specifications, and bid documents have been approved. Bids were publicized. The Department received 3 bids and the subcommittee will review the bids over the next few weeks.
  - ii. Safe Routes to School Grant – It is in limbo. The walking area around Draver Park does not qualify. We are reassessing the route details with Powell Township School and the Road Commission.
  - iii. The Department advertised and is still seeking volunteers for:
    - 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Honey Bear Fundraiser (February 15, 2025; need help with registration, need cookies and/or bars for skiers, need advertising by word of mouth from residents)
    - Big Bay Relay (May 17, 2025; if interested, contact Heidi Shatz or Marcia Gonstead)
    - Annual Fire on the Bay Fundraising Chair
    - Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
    - Annual Easter Egg Hunt
  - iv. Powell Township 5-Year Recreation Plan update:
    - Public surveys (related to the Plan's development) will be posted on information boards outside the Big Bay Post Office and Bill Dionne Halfway Fire Station, and posted in

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- the January/February Newsletter, and made available in person as hardcopy surveys.
- The public hearing on the Plan is now postponed to March 11, 2025, to enable time for public survey completion.
  - The Department is working with the Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL) who will conduct an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assessment of the Plan.
- v. Lauri Shaw has served her 3-year term with Parks and Recreation. Her last meeting will be on February 11, 2025. The Department thanks her for her service, laughs, and ideas. She will be missed.
- e. Planning Commission: D. Hudson/Trustee (for Chairperson Phil Moran):
- i. Future Land Use Map: This is pending further instructions from the Supervisor.
  - ii. Model Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance (CREO): The Board discussed the Michigan Public Service Commission Order and the conflict between it and the Michigan Township Association (MTA) model CREO. It was noted that several townships have joined together and brought suit to set aside the Order.
  - iii. Recommended ordinances: The Board discussed the status of the recommended ordinance amendments.
  - iv. The next Planning Commission Meeting is on March 19, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.
- f. Sewer Department: S. DeMoulin – No problems.
- g. Water Department: C. Sorby/Water Operator:
- i. There were no known pipe freezing incidents.
  - ii. There was an outage when power glitch and trip occurred in the cabinet. The trip notification was delayed due to the backup also being tripped. There were no major impacts.
  - iii. C. Sorby will follow up with L. Ellis since this is the second time the backup power tripped and caused a communication delay or outage.
  - iv. C. Sorby is working with Matt Treado of Treado Engineering & Development regarding a 15 January 2025 services agreement

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proposal, also under New Business Item # 11.

11. Correspondence:

- a. Big Bay Rummage Sale 2025 (Kristi Mills): Looking for a volunteer to continue the annual Big Bay Rummage Sale for 2025.
- b. Big Bay Events Newsletter 17 January 2025 (Linda Ludwig): The Newsletter is out via e-mail, posting boards, hardcopies in the Town Hall and Township offices, and on the Powell Township website (powelltownship.org).

12. Presentations: Mike Springer will present Parks & Recreation's 5-Year Recreation Plan public survey during New Business Item #3.

Public Comment:

- K. Wermager:

- (1) The Big Bay Stewardship Council (BBSC) will have a free film screening of "Cruise Boom" on Friday, January 24, at the Big House at Bay Cliff Health Camp, with popcorn. It is about the tourism boom and its effects on Sitka, Alaska. Afterward, the filmmaker will meet via Zoom for a discussion with the Big Bay audience.
- (2) The next BBSC meeting is Thursday, January 30, at 6:30 P.M. It will be spiced up with local vendors, pizza, and a raffle. This is to bring in residents for as much input as possible to the meeting topic of rethinking the "Discover Big Bay" brand.
- (3) The BBSC will bring the 2025 Rummage Sale topic to the next Steering Committee meeting.

- B. Brown: Wanting to understand the Dam report showing areas needing fixed and being rated as "moderate priority". This is for those living on or near Lake Independence. Asking to bring items to a future board meeting agenda following further discussion with L. Ellis and receipt of information from the Drain Commissioner.

- J. Gertz: Asked about receiving agendas via e-mail ahead of board meetings. This was done in the past. L. Ellis responded that Agenda, attachments, and reports were posted to site at powelltownship.org and will continue to be posted prior to each meeting.

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Unfinished Business:

1. **Motion** to table Wellhead Protection Areas – Zoning Amendment decisions until Planning Commission reconvenes in March 2025 (D. Hudson, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
2. **Motion** to table Environmental Protection Strip – Zoning Amendment definition change (S. Mattis, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

3. **Motion** to approve changing Parks & Recreation’s 5-Year Recreation Plan online survey provider from company “Survey Monkey” to company “Typeform” at a cost of \$116.00 for 4 months of use (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Motion** to approve Parks & Recreation’s 5-Year Recreation Plan survey with the addition of a residency demographics question (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
5. **Motion** to approve \$422.70 payment to Dressler’s Emergency Repair for Fire Station 1’s Boiler (sharing cost 50/50 with EMS) (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Motion** to approve \$187.50 payment to Trudell’s Emergency Repair for Fire Station 2’s Fire Bay Furnace (D. Wilcox, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
7. **Motion** to approve \$150.00 payment for Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs boiler inspections scheduled by Township Insurance Company (share cost 50/50 w/EMS) (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
8. **Motion** to pay overage cost of \$2,951.64 from Equipment Fund 5 for 2024 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant for fire hose (S. Mattis, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Motion** to approve Budget Amendments to shore up the unplanned \$7934.02 expense of the new fire truck tires in fall 2024 for Engines 2101

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and 2102 (by moving \$1500 from Travel 336-860.000 to Vehicle Repairs 336-930.100 and moving \$2500 from Equipment 336-974.000 to Vehicle Repairs 336-930.100) (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

10. **Motion** to table Fire Department's request to approve a method to address purchase price fluctuations until a review of related policies and ordinances is complete (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
11. **Motion** to approve Treado Engineering & Development's 15 January 2025 services agreement proposal for as-needed municipal engineering services to meet Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) water and sewer regulatory requirements (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
12. **Motion** to approve training pay to any outgoing township staff who train incoming staff, for up to 40 hours each, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
13. **Motion** to approve \$845.09 payment to Huntington Bank for charges to Powell Township Government account ending in 6767 (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
14. **Motion** to approve expenses up to \$2,000.00 per person for Powell Township staff members to attend March 31 – April 3, 2025, Michigan Township Association Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
15. **Motion** to approve pay rate increase from \$120.00 to \$130.00 per hour effective January 1, 2025, for future legal services provided by Bensinger, Cotant & Menkes, P.C. (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
16. **Motion** to approve re-appointment of Deputy Clerk Marti Mramor (under new Clerk Sharon Mattis) effective January 2, 2025 (D. Hudson, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
17. **Motion** to table the dam repair information request from a resident until Superintendent receives a reply from Drain Commissioner (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
18. **Motion** to table the requests to increase Fire and Parks & Recreation Departments' credit card spending limits until a full card policies review

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is complete (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.

19. **Motion** to table the request to approve assisting Marquette County with Perkins Park winter access until a fair agreement is in place (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.

20. **Motion** to approve \$153.56 payment to Pomp's Tire Service and service charges and fees for bills not paid on a timely basis (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment:

- B. Brown: A suggestion for New Business Item #10 is to have the Fire Department recommend purchase price fluctuation threshold amounts to the Board. This could help when the item comes back for discussion.

Board Comment:

- S. Mattis: Thank you to staff members who have been a real help to her in her role as the incoming Township Clerk.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting February 18, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn 8:11 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: M. Mramor, Deputy Clerk