

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger St., Big Bay MI 49808
February 18, 2025
Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:02 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.
5. Approval of Minutes – **Motion** to approve January 21, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve January 31, 2025, Revenue & Expenditure Report (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Budget Amendments Report – **Motion** to approve January 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, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
9. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve Bills to be Paid (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
10. Committee & Department Reports:
 - a. Ambulance Department: J. Boudreaux/EMS: There were 2 calls for service.
 - b. Emergency Management: K. Bourgeois/EMS:
 - i. Food bank openings are going well.
 - ii. The Emergency Plan was sent to Marquette County for review and returned with recommended revisions. Once the revisions are final, the Plan will route to the staff and Board for approval.

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- c. Fire Department: M. Anderson/Fire Chief:
- i. There were zero Fire calls in January.
 - ii. There was one run in February so far. It was a lockout.
- d. Parks and Recreation Department: H. Shatz/Chairperson:
- i. Spark Grant and Draver Park – The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) plans, specifications, and bids were publicized, and Hall Contracting was chosen. We are awaiting the project start date. The hope is for project completion by mid-September, to enable all annual fall events.
 - ii. Safe Routes to School Grant – We are waiting on a response from Powell Township School to see if they would like to move forward on this grant.
 - iii. The Department advertised and is still seeking volunteers for the Big Bay Relay (May 17, 2025; if interested, contact Heidi Shatz or Marcia Gonstead).
 - The April 12, 2025 annual Easter Egg Hunt volunteer is Darlene Turner.
 - The July 12, 2025 annual Fire on the Bay Fundraising Chair is Levi Ellis.
 - The December 6, 2025 annual Christmas Tree Lighting volunteer is Laurie Shaw.
 - iv. 36th Annual Honey Bear Classic Ski and Snowshoe Fundraiser – We had 80 participants in the 36th Annual Honeybear classic.
 - This year there were 15 volunteers – the most in its history.
 - Cookie donations were made by Joy Barber, Liz Boe, Michelle and Puck, Jean and Jane Gertz, and Darlene Turner.
 - The winner of the Honeybear Challenge was Kathy Keup.
 - The Powell Township School delayed their ski of the Honeybear until Friday, February 21, 2025, due to cold weather.
 - v. Powell Township 5-Year Recreation Plan update:
 - Surveys and links are posted on information boards outside of the Town Hall, Post Office, and Halfway Fire Station, in a special addition to the Big Bay Newsletter, and via hardcopy at several locations throughout town (including Town Hall and Township offices).

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- The Plan is taking more time than expected, and we are exploring options with Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) regarding Plan completion.
- e. Planning Commission: D. Hudson/Trustee:
- i. No report this month.
 - ii. The next Planning Commission Meeting is on March 19, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.
- f. Sewer Department: C. Sorby – No problems.
- g. Water Department: C. Sorby/Water Operator:
- i. Sanitary Survey results from Amy at the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) were satisfactory.
 - ii. Three reports, including a cross-connection control report and annual pumpage report, are in progress and will be submitted to EGLE by March 31, 2025.
 - iii. The hydraulic analysis and map updating (such as valve location identification) will occur in spring 2025, with help from Matt Treado of Treado Engineering, in accordance with the signed engineering agreement.
11. Correspondence: None.
12. Presentations: Michael Springer gave a 5-Year Recreation Plan Survey update presentation.

Public Comment: None.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Motion** to approve request for a method to address purchase price fluctuations (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). Two (2) in favor, three (3) opposed, motion failed.
2. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve request to increase credit card spending limit (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All opposed, motion failed.

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3. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve request to increase credit card spending limit (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All opposed, motion failed.
4. **Motion** to table dam repairs pending details from Drain Commissioner (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
5. **Motion** to approve Perkins Park and Campground Plowing Agreement (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

6. Ambulance Department: **Motion** to approve request to seek grant funding and/or donations for a new EMS patient vitals monitor. (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve request to seek grant funding and/or donations for new turnout gear and wildland gear (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
8. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve request to pay Trudell Plumbing & Heating for 4 February 2025 heater check and thermostat replacement at Bill Dionne/Halfway Fire Hall (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
9. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve request for a replacement for Laurie Shaw's 3-year Parks and Recreation Committee term. (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
10. Planning Commission: **Motion** to approve request for a replacement for Laura Mohrman's 3-year Planning Commission term (D. Wilcox, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
11. **Motion** to table request to approve agreement and payment amounts for Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (U.P.S.E.T.) services. (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
12. **Motion** to approve document "Noquemanon Trails Network (NTN) – Powell Township Memorandum of Understanding" for signature (L. Ellis,

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D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.

13. **Motion** to approve a Powell Township Employee Earned Sick Leave Policy (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard - Aye, motion carried.
14. **Motion** to approve the 2025 Powell Township Property Exemption Policy and Procedures (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard - Aye, motion carried.
15. **Motion** to approve the 2025 Powell Township Board Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income and Asset Test Guidelines for Property Tax Relief (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard - Aye, motion carried.
16. **Motion** to approve the 2025 Powell Township Income and Asset Test Guidelines for Property Tax Relief (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard - Aye, motion carried.
17. **Motion** to approve the 2025 Powell Township Assessing Department Accessibility Policy Pursuant to PA 660 of 2018 and Copying of Assessing Records (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard - Aye, motion carried.
18. **Motion** to approve the 2025 Powell Township Assessing Department Audit Procedures for Granting or Removal of Real Property Exemptions Policy (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard - Aye, motion carried.
19. **Motion** to approve the 2025 Powell Township Assessing Department Personal Property Annual Canvass Policy (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard - Aye, motion carried.
20. **Motion** to approve the 2025 Powell Township Assessing Department Policy Regarding Public Inspection of Assessing Records (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard - Aye, motion carried.

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21. **Motion** to approve the 2025 Powell Township Resolution to Allow Property Owners to Protest to Board of Review in Writing (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard - Aye, motion carried.

Public Comment:

- D. Turner: Regarding dam repair, she recommends working with the Lake Independence Association while resolving dam repairs.
- M. Anderson: Regarding Trudell thermostat replacement, there have been no further issues since it was replaced on February 4, 2025.

Board Comment:

- L. Ellis: Regarding dam repairs, he is aware of the Lake Independence Association's involvement, and he is waiting on cost information from the Drain Commissioner to relay to residents as requested prior to resolving payments and repairs.
- D. Wilcox: Thank you to the audience for attending.

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

Adjourn 8:17 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: M. Mramor, Deputy Clerk