

Charter Township of Port Huron Board

Regular Meeting Held May 15, 2023
3800 Lapeer Road, Port Huron, MI 48060

MINUTES

ROUTINE BUSINESS:

The pledge of allegiance stated.

Roll Call: Trustees Livingston, Reno, Riehl, Treasurer Shonka, Clerk Davis, Supervisor Lewandowski

Absent: Trustee Dudas

Special Guests: Robert Goldenbogen, Atty.; Andrew Persig, Fire Chief; Mike Leuffgen, DLZ; S.C.C. Sheriff Dept Sgt. Pohl.; Fire Personnel, Residents

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2023, meeting by Livingston and supported by Reno.

Vote: All in favor

Result: Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Carol Miller 2340 Randolph. Stated she still has concerns regarding the ditches in her neighborhood and her water service line connection.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business presented.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. **Attorney's Report:** Report was given as presented. Update for Petit St abatement, court date will be held in 3 weeks.
- B. **Engineer's Report:**
Update on the sidewalk at Howard St sidewalk design is done, permit issued bid for the project will go out soon, discussed inventory of water system with DPW to coordinate approximately 350 interior inspections, closeout proceeding for the DWRP project. Holding for Maywood Pump station until the rules of the grant are made available.
- C. **Sheriff's Report:** Report was given as presented. Department has hired and sworn in 6 new deputies.
- D. **Fire Chief's Report:** Report was given as presented.
 1. Approve the hiring of Tyler Shoudy as a Paid-On-Call 6 month Probationary Firefighter:

Motion by Reno, supported by Riehl to approve the hiring of Paid-On-Call 6-month probationary Firefighter

Vote: All in favor

Result: Motion Carried

2. Approve the Hiring of Peter Ney as a Part-time Firefighter:

Motion by Livingston, supported by Reno to approve the Hiring of Peter Ney as a Part-time Firefighter.

Vote: All in favor

Result: Motion Carried

E. Approve current quote from SLC Meter for water meters:

Motion by Dudas and support by Reno to approve current quote from SLC Meter for 3268 water meters in the amount of \$548,412.18 with the quote expiring on 8/1/23. Not all meters will be purchased at the same time, but most likely in phases.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Livingston, Reno, Riehl, Shonka, Davis, Lewandowski

Nays: None

Absent: Dudas

Result: Motion Carried

D. Approve Resolution #23-15-5 to Oppose the Camp Grayling use of State lands by Permit:

PORT HURON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE CAMP GRAYLING USE OF STATE LANDS BY PERMIT RESOLUTION NO: 23-15-5

WHEREAS, The DNR and the Michigan National Guard have entered into a contract, entitled "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU), as a framework for the issuance of a series of permits over the next five years and beyond, for the use of state lands up to 52,000 acres for military training exercises, and controlled trials of cyber and electronic warfare training technologies with up to 600 soldiers and "affiliated partner members".

WHEREAS, Northern Michigan, and specifically our township, relies on the recreational opportunities presented by their beautiful rich forests, pristine rivers, and open farmlands and the people of Northern Michigan want to retain what is left of its rustic and natural outdoor playground atmosphere, for the enjoyment of its citizens and visitors.

WHEREAS, the Guard is still dangerously vague about the planned activities they will be conducted and the potential for adverse efforts and the lands, wetlands and wildlife; and that there is no provision in the MOU for an environmental impact statement or even an environmental assessment, that should be done on the entire acreage before any permit is applied for or issued.

WHEREAS, the Michigan National Guard has yet to demonstrate that they cannot conduct these military uses on their existing 230 square miles.

WHEREAS, the "access" by the public to these lands as described in the MOU is a fallacy, because operations and maneuvers by as many as 600 soldiers and partners will interfere access by others.

WHEREAS, the permit process as outlined in the MOU and as provided by law does not provide the opportunity for the public to be heard and have input.

WHEREAS, the supposed restrictions on uses by the Guard are a fallacy, because there is no mechanism for the DNR to track violations of these restrictions; no mechanism for people to report violations; no mechanism or obligation of the Guard to remedy violations; and there are no repercussions, including the termination of the MOU, when the Guard violates any of the restrictions meant to protect these lands and allow continued public use.

WHEREAS, these proposed uses on these lands will disrupt the peaceful enjoyment of the natural resources and reduce the effectiveness of the "PURE MICHIGAN Campaign," reduce tourism dollars to community businesses, and create even more hardships for its citizens.

WHEREAS, the Michigan National Guards usages of our public land has already created contamination of the areas ground water and has already been poisoning citizens for years without giving the community a plan for cleanup.

WHEREAS, the MOU increases use within the Manistee, Muskegon and AuSable River watersheds, thus increasing the possibility of contamination in the Great Lakes; since the Manistee and Muskegon Rivers both flow into Lake Michigan. The AuSable River flows into Lake Huron.

WHEREAS, the proposed expansion of Camp Grayling uses of state lands is directly contrary to the Mission Statement of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources: "We are committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations." and it is contrary to the DNR's obligations by state law: "The department shall protect and conserve the natural resources of this state; provide and develop facilities for outdoor recreation; prevent the destruction of timber and other forest growth by fire or otherwise; promote the reforestation of forestlands belonging to this state; prevent and guard against the pollution of lakes and streams within this state and enforce all laws provided for that purpose with all authority granted by law; and foster and encourage the protection and propagation of game and fish."

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Port Huron Charter Township Board opposes the MOU and the allowing these military uses of state lands by permits to be issued to the Guard.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Governor and the DNR Director to immediately terminate the Memorandum of Understanding, as provided for in that contract.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the DNR and the Governor to strike a better balance in favor of the environment and our community by denying the use of additional state lands by the Guard.

IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Port Huron Charter Township Board directs the Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Shannon Lott, Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, this Township's State Senator and State Representative, and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

*This Resolution was offered by _____ supported by _____
By roll call vote:
Those voting in favor:*

Those voting against:

Those abstaining/absent:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Township of _____

Dated: _____ By: _____ Township Clerk

Motion by Livingston and supported by Davis to approve Resolution #23-15-5 to Oppose the Camp Grayling use of State lands by Permit.

*Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Livingston, Davis, Riehl, Shonka, Lewandowski
Nays: Reno
Absent: Dudas*

Result: Motion Carried

Approval of Bills:

Prepaid Bills: None

Motion to approve payment of the current bills by Shonka supported by Livingston.

Amount: \$224,245.49

Check #s: 52490-52547

*Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Shonka, Livingston, Dudas, Riehl, Reno, Davis, Lewandowski
Nays: None
Absent: Dudas*

Result: Motion Carried

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE:

Carol Miller letter for 2340 Randolph addressing issues previously presented to the Board.

Motion by Reno supported by Livingston to approve the letter as it is written and mail certified.

*Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Livingston, Davis, Riehl, Shonka, Lewandowski
Nays: Reno
Absent: Dudas*

Result: Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Riehl supported by Livingston to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried.

