

**BURT TOWNSHIP
BOARD MINUTES
May 5, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Burt Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Harold Koviak on May 5, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Burt Township Hall, 7029 Birchwood Road, Cheboygan, Michigan 49721.

ATTENDANCE: Harold Koviak, Art Pillen, Eugene Hodulik, Shirley Reimann, Donna McDougall

Absent: None

GUESTS: Kathy Bricker, Chris Brown, Joanne Cromley, Russ Elmhirst, Brad Gerlach, Sharon Gerlach, Julia Gerlach, Dave Hutto, Jim Larson, Vince Lumetta, Dave Patterson, Jill Patterson, Edlin Quandt, Lori Kindsvatter, Tim MacArthur, David Valler, Steve Vorenkamp

Supervisor Koviak led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: Koviak

Additions: Millage renewals; fire, operating, and roads

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Hodulik to accept the agenda with additions.

MOTION APPROVED

Public Comment –

Steve Vorenkamp read a letter of support of the Burt Lake Trail (attached).

Jim Larson said he would like a true accounting of the trail. Koviak said that the only township funds paid for the trail was the initial engineering cost. It is the responsibility of the Township Board to maintain the trail, and it is being done at minimal cost.

Jill Patterson asked how much maintenance was for the trail last year. Koviak said the cost was \$26,800 and \$25,800 of that amount was for paving on the hills.

Kathy Bricker, Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch, gave a short presentation in support of a resolution regarding Enbridge's Line 5. She said the Straits of Mackinac are important for bird migrations, and 18,000 birds migrated through the straits area last year. Ms. Bricker also invited all attendees to a greenbelt program at the Cheboygan Library on Wednesday, May 11th at 6:00 pm.

Dave Patterson asked if greenbelts will be discussed tonight. Koviak said it is not on the agenda.

Vince Lumetta asked if comments may be given after the Line 5 program and Koviak said public comments would be taken.

Consent Agenda – Koviak

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Hodulik to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2016 as published and payment of the bills.

MOTION APPROVED

Unfinished Business

Painting and Crack Sealing – Koviak

Koviak received bids from the Road Commission for crack sealing - \$2,240 and striping roads - \$2,405. He said Chickagami Trail really is beyond repair and needs an overlay. Dave Hutto said it needs patching in the interim, and Koviak agreed with him.

MOTION: Moved by Hodulik, supported by Pillen to accept the Cheboygan Road Commission's bid to crack seal and stripe township roads at a total cost of \$4,645.

MOTION APPROVED

Millages - Koviak

The millages for Operations, Fire and Roads expired in 2015. Koviak read the following resolutions prepared by attorney Tim MacArthur:

- 1) Resolution of Burt Township Board authorizing placement of a General Operating Millage Renewal proposition on the Ballot for the Primary Election on August 2, 2016
- 2) Resolution of Burt Township Board authorizing place of a Fire Millage Renewal proposition on the ballot for the Primary Election on August 2, 2016
- 3) Resolution of Burt Township Board authorizing placement of a Road Millage Renewal proposition on the ballot for the Primary Election on August 2, 2016

All three millages are for ½ mil for 4 years – 2016 through 2019 and would generate approximately \$64,730 in revenue for the first year.

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Hodulik to place the Road millage renewal proposition on the ballot for the Primary Election on August 2, 2016. (Resolution 2-2106)
Roll Call vote: Reimann – yes; Pillen – yes; Hodulik – yes; McDougall – yes; Koviak – yes

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

MOTION: Moved by Hodulik, supported by McDougall to place the Operating millage renewal proposition on the ballot for the Primary Election on August 2, 2016. (Resolution 3-2016)

Roll Call vote: Reimann – yes; Pillen – yes; Hodulik – yes; McDougall – yes; Koviak – yes

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Reimann to place the Fire millage renewal proposition on the ballot for the Primary Election on August 2, 2016. (Resolution 4-2016)

Roll Call vote: Reimann – yes; Pillen – yes; Hodulik – yes; McDougall – yes; Koviak – yes

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

New Business

Enbridge Line 5 - Joanne Cromley

Joanne Cromley, with assistance from Gary Street, gave a presentation on the situation with Enbridge Pipeline 5 which goes under the Straits of Mackinac and the possibility of a disaster if the pipeline ever leaked into the Great Lakes or watershed. The potential for 4,500 gallons of crude oil could spill into the watershed creating the need for massive clean up efforts.

Vince Lumetta from Cheboygan commented that is a huge risk for Michigan to take of Canadian oil going through Michigan to Sarnia, Ontario.

Chris Brown, Cheboygan County Commissioner said a lot of information going around regarding the pipeline is not factual and that Enbridge is working on a big project in Mackinaw City and pays huge property taxes in Michigan, \$23 million a year. He said the 1” thick pipeline under the straits has decreased pressure now, and pumps on both sides of the straits control the pressure. He thinks that without the pipeline, there will be increased shipping of oil on the lakes which could result in an even greater potential for disaster. He is 100 percent in favor of oversight for the pipeline.

Vince Lumetta said pipelines are the most efficient ways of moving crude oil, but still has a problem with the age of the pipeline and the lack of transparency from Enbridge.

Dave Patterson said Burt Township should be more focused on the pipeline in terms of our watershed and he will get a report on improvements in that area.

Gary Street said Line 5 is not needed for the State of Michigan as there are other possibilities Enbridge can use to move the oil.

Chris Brown said oil from Traverse City and Kalkaska also uses Line 5 and that from M 55 north, 75percent of propane comes through line 5.

Koviak thanked guests for comments and read a suggested resolution supplied by the Straits Area Concerned Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment.

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Koviak to pass a resolution to request that Governor Snyder utilize the State’s authority by acting immediately to cause the Line 5 to be restricted to not more than 300,000 bbl per day and its cargo be limited to non-oil products until the recommendations of the Michigan Petroleum Pipeline Task Force have been satisfied and an independent panel of pipeline experts has certified that Line 5 is safe. (Resolution 5-2016)

Roll Call Vote taken: Pillen - yes; Reimann – y es; Hodulik – yes; McDougall – yes; Koviak – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Audit – Koviak

The Township audit is due this year. Nieland and Kosanke, CPA’s of Cheboygan submitted a bid of \$4,250 to perform the audit and prepare the F-65. The cost two years ago was \$4,225.

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Hodulik to contract with Nieland and Kosanke to perform the 2015-2016 audit and prepare the F-65 at a cost of \$4,250.

MOTION APPROVED

Indian Point Rd. – Koviak

The Cheboygan Road Commission submitted a bid to upgrade Brutus/Indian Point Rd. (approximately one mile) at a cost of \$47,850.

MOTION: Moved by Hodulik, supported by Pillen to contract with the Cheboygan Road Commission to upgrade Inidan Point/Brutus Rd. at a cost of \$47,850.

MOTION APPROVED

Planning Commission Resignation – Koviak

Bob Babcock submitted a letter of resignation, citing family and business obligations preventing him from performing duties of a Planning Commission member.

MOTION: Moved by Koviak, supported by Pillen to accept Robert Babcock’s letter of resignation from the Planning Commission with regret.

MOTION APPROVED

Koviak said Bob Babcock suggested appointing Paul Janness of Mullett-Burt Rd., as a member of the Planning Commission to replace himself.

MOTION: moved by Pillen, supported by Hodulik, to appoint Paul Janness as a member of the Planning Commission to fulfill Robert Babcock's term. ()

MOTION APPROVED

Trail Report – Hodulik

Hodulik said the grant application has been submitted to MNRTF for Phase II of the Burt Lake Trail. A site review will be conducted later this fall. The MDOT grant will be sent in before the end of May. Letters of support have been received from Senator Wayne Schmidt, Lee Chatfield and Peter Petallia.

Planning Commission – Hodulik

Three Public Hearings will be held on May 16, 2016 at 6:30 pm regarding:

1. Seating area around fire pits
2. Definition of ordinary high water mark
3. Number of copies required for zoning permits

The regular meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. Dr. Grenatta Thomassy will give a presentation on septic systems, water quality and vegetation strips arranged by Dave Hutto.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Katie Parker

Two Public Hearing appeals were heard on April 29, 2016.

1. James Coles, 6465 Needles Rd., was given approval for a 12' x 20' soft-sided building to be used for storing firewood.
2. Mr. Chris Potoski, Tracey Jordan Properties, 3753 White Goose Drive, variance approved in order to construct a new entryway, replacing a porch on the White Goose Drive side of the home.

The next ZBA meeting is May 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm. Three variance requests will be discussed.

Zoning Administrator – Jim Larson

Larson said he has not had many completed plans but has received many inquiries. A fire occurred at a detached pole barn on S. Extension Rd. two weeks ago.

Supervisor's Report – Koviak

The bridge over the Maple River on Brutus Road will be rebuilt beginning in August. Brutus Road will be closed for three months for the construction. Traffic will be rerouted via W. Burt Lake Rd. and Riggsville Rd. A public hearing will be held on May 18, 2016 at 8:30 am at the Emmet County Road Commission building for more information.

Township Newsletter – Koviak

The next newsletter will go out with the tax bills in July. Topics for the newsletter : Millages; Maple River bridge detour; timbercuts. This can be finalized at the June board meeting. The newsletter needs to be complete by June 15th.

The access site at Hoppies is in need of a small amount of repair.

Correspondence -

1. MTA minutes dated: March 31, 2016
2. Road commission minutes dated: April 14, 2016 and April 21, 2016
3. Letter from Cheboygan Road Commission dated April 28, 2016 – bid for Indian Point/Brutus Rd.
4. Cheboygan County Road Commission 2015 Annual Report
5. Emmet County Road Commission letter dated April 27, 2016 – Maple River Bridge

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Reimann to accept and place on file the correspondence.

MOTION APPROVED

County Commission's Report - Chris Brown

1. Brown said the County's annual planning session was last week. The grant for the marina required that the County maintain the marina which now needs \$3.5 mil in repairs. For many years the marina was profitable but not anymore.
2. The Economic Development Committee was disbanded several years ago but will be reinstated this year.

Public Comments:

Russ Elmhirst asked who pays for the recent School election. McDougall said the township will be reimbursed for the election expenses.

Dave Patterson asked if all of the upcoming road projects could coincide to be done at the same time. Koviak said that is impossible as there are separate entities doing the work. Patterson asked if the unpaved section of Brutus Rd. could be paved. Koviak said it is on the list of roads to be paved but there is no timeline for the work.

Steve Vorenkamp said Jim Parker's granddaughter is sick in Ann Arbor. Koviak said the township will send a card.

Next meeting is: June 2, 2016, at 7:00 pm.

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Hodulik to adjourn.

MOTION APPROVED

Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McDougall, Clerk