

**BURT TOWNSHIP
BOARD MINUTES
September 3, 2020**

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Harold Koviak on September 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Burt Township Hall, 7029 Birchwood Road, Cheboygan, MI 49721

PRESENT: Harold Koviak, Shirley Reimann, Katie Parker, Gene Hodulik, Christy Kozlowski
Absent: None

Also Attending: Aaron Gauthier, Carolyn Hodulik, Allen Kozlowski, Dave Hutto, Tim MacArthur, Jim Larson, Russ Elmhirst, Jim Lozier

AGENDA - Koviak

MOTION: Moved by Parker, supported by Hodulik to approve the Agenda with the following additions to New Business:

- 1) Circuit County Court update - Aaron Gauthier, Chief Judge of the 53rd Circuit Court of Cheboygan
- 2) Internet Update – Allen Kozlowski

MOTION APPROVED

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA – Minutes of August 6, 2020 and Payment of the Bills

MOTION: Moved by Hodulik, supported by Parker to approve the minutes of August 6, 2020 with the 2nd Public Comment change from Hank Jallo to Jim Lozier and payment of the bills.

MOTION APPROVED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fire Agreement with Mullett Township - Koviak

Tim MacArthur provided a draft of “Inter-Local Agreement for Maintenance of Joint Fire Department

- Follows the requirements of public Act 33 (Tim supplied copy of statute)
- Suggesting board appointment of 5 members (staggered terms, 1 to 4 or 6 years); 2 Burt, 2 Mullett, and 1 alternate (alternate term tbd), managed by Fire Board-
- Other townships figure percentage contribution based on taxable value (recalculated every 3-5 years) or fixed cost basis (more like a contract)

Mullett will have new board in November and Koviak will be meeting with them possibly late September, early November.

Township Hall Remodel - Koviak

Brian Cofell, Builders were approved for the remodel and expected to start the week of 9/7/20. There are several decisions yet to be made: ramp floor color, railing color, lights, meeting announcement board (if deemed we need a new one), 36’ door with glass at top, color for metal roof, and drop box. Harold, Katie, and other interested board members to go to builder’s office to view options.

Drop box: Aloha township just got a new box – contact clerk. Nunda township as well. Christy to follow up Aloha Township Clerk (Teresa Sullivan) and with election supply company.

Tree Removal - Koviak

Tree removal has been approved and is scheduled this fall.

Recycling at The East Side Transfer Station – Koviak

Cameras, poles and signage is up. Grass area between recycling and dumpsters has been removed and crushed rock has been put in place. Katie provided recycling guides to be handed out at both transfer stations.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Circuit County Court update - Aaron Gauthier, Chief Judge of the 53rd Circuit Court of Cheboygan
 - Visiting once a year to touch base with the townships and to hear any feedback from the township and public
 - Changed up schedules and Jury selections to be more efficient
 - Meeting regularly with the lawyers
 - Coronavirus update
 1. Continued emergency hearings during shutdown
 2. Zoom videos and live streaming through YouTube, with public access
 3. 90% cases still through Zoom
 4. Current challenge: how to resume jury trials, how to handle jury selection (possible via Zoom)
 - Changes to drug court – giving addiction driven crimes a chance to work with the community versus going to jail. Accepting methamphetamine cases to the program.
2. Internet Update – Allen Kozlowski
 - Aspen, a partner of Merit, has not been very responsive. Merit has confronted them about it.
 - Currently working with a consultant, Ben Fineman, who will be attending the Planning Meeting on September 10. Ben has been working with Merit over the last 18 months and recently helped a community similar to size as ours get a Ballot initiative passed to fund their project.
 - Next steps:
 1. Step one: Feasibility Study (cost estimated at 10-20K)
 - Feasibility study will give us the solid numbers for a formal RFP but an estimate to build the infrastructure was provided by Ben based on the following numbers Allen acquired from the county:
 - 663 people in the Township
 - 837 households
 - 1,350 parcels
 - 61.65 road miles (any roads serviced by 911)
 - Taxable value of property: 139.7M
 - Other pertinent information
 - Per the FCC – any person that gets a speed of 25MG or higher is considered “served with high speed”
 - 70% of those not served with high speed want it
 - 30% served with high speed still wanted it
 - Burt Township estimate per Ben Fineman (feasibility study needed to verify)
 - 450 resident take rate (are part-timers included, Harold thinking this number might be low)
 - Overall cost estimated: 3.5M to 5.5M

- Variable costs can be determined once feasibility study is done
- RFP needed for Feasibility Study (expected cost between 10K-20K)
 - Ben has several templates we could use
 - We would commission Becket & Raeder to help fill in the blanks
 - Distribute to firms interested in bidding
 - Once we know what the costs will be, we can look into funding options
- 2. Step Two: Funding Options
 - Propose millage of 1.3 to 2 mills (estimate of additional \$14 to \$23/mth property tax), possibly for May 2021 (off cycle election)
 - Linden Township (similar Twp. to Burt, was able to pass 2 mills)
 - Per Tim MacArther – we may want to consider securing a Financial Consultant or Bond Council as we would need to float bonds to get the money up front. Tim recommended Tom Traciak but also has names for Bond Council (Miller Canfield in Detroit). Get with them early as they don't charge until the millage is passed (they take a percentage).
 - Ensures whole community will be serviced
 - Township could also help subsidize with budget each year
 - Long term loan (20% equity needed though)
 - Grant money can be requested once project is “shovel ready”
 - Metro Act – not necessary for our township
- 3. Step Three: RFI/RFP
 - Put out RFI for getting the work done and operating it
- 4. Update on Cherry Capital
 - Allen spoke to resident in a serviced county and she waited three years to get connected after the initial down payment, construction has been slow
 - Harold has spoken to residents in other townships who have been very happy with the speeds, hard cable and fixed wireless
 - Have them possibly submit for RFP
 - Allen set Cherry Capitals offer to Ben to see if he thinks that is even feasible
- 5. Jim Lozier – comment on Star Link (Elan Musk satellite project)
 - Putting in satellites in UP to service this area with high speed – available this fall or early spring – 25MG
 - May impact a Millage if another low-cost option is available

REPORTS

Burt Lake Trail Committee – Hodulik

Upgraded trail handbook is available – will be put up on Top of Michigan Trails council

Phase II is complete - still needed is a bench and trash receptacle but they are coming in any day (both to be made from recycled plastic) - cost is \$1,650 for both.

- Phase II last invoice \$73,930.75, waiting on reimbursement of \$88K+ from the trust fund (from a bill paid in late July) and they will reimburse us the \$74K and that will complete
- Put the bike stencils back on Mullett-Burt Road at no cost

Phase III - Huron Engineering is working on Phase III.

- Done with survey – company is writing it up
- UM to walk the trail one last time

- ~~Carry Sloviak~~Karie Slavik will take it to UM Real Estate Division
 - Cost estimate for Phase III is \$516,000 - grants from DNR Trust Fund and MDOT should cover it
 - Raising money: \$10k offer from donor in Houston – possibly ask people to match
- Phase I maintenance - the section from Maple Bay Road east to where it is already has been paved. This will make this section maintenance free east to Mundt Road.

Planning Commission - Hodulik

Public Hearing will be held on September 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm with the regular meeting to follow (in-person or call in):

1) Accessory buildings - change from two acre minimum to one acre minimum as long as it meets the setbacks required

2) Revise language for non-conforming lots of record

The Planning Commission is also working on high-speed internet service for the township.

3) Internet discussion

Zoning Board of Appeals – Koviak

September 18, 2020 meeting - four variances to look at. Taking place in-person and by phone.

Zoning Administrator’s Report - Larson

Larson reported it has been extremely busy – zoning permits and questions are up 10-fold. Updated list provided. Three more to be submitted yet for the November meeting. Chicagami communication is better – decent progress is being made.

Supervisor’s Report – Koviak

1. No update

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Hutto – Nice that the Brutus Rd portion of the trail was paved. Question was raised on if there has been any more discussion on paving the Phase I part of the trail. Response: yes, it is a constant conversation. Need to find funds to pay for it.

Dave had a list of paving projects and when they would be done – is project still going for 2021? The new ~~form-plan~~ is likely to say the same thing as it has not been updated. Question on Chicagami Trail and Maple Bay (Maple Bay cost approximately ~~\$240K~~147.4K) – they are not tied together but no date on Chicagami Trail. Per Harold, we should know better when we have budget finalized next March/April.

Jim Larson – Issue with mailboxes and the crew putting them back hitting the gas line. They cut his down to match the hole which is not nearly as deep as it should be. ~~Dave-Jim~~ emailed DTE and they said to call if any gas smell is noticed. ~~Dave-Jim~~ emailed the Cheboygan County Road Commission and they said they would send someone out to replace his post. Harold saw the Road Commission walking down the street and checking mailboxes today.

Next meeting October 1, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

MOTION: Moved by Parker, supported by Reiman to adjourn.

MOTION APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Christy Kozlowski, Clerk