

Regular Meeting of the Burt Township Board
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 -- Community Center - 6:00 PM

DRAFT

Attendance: Jon Babbitt, Lori McShane, Sara Secrest, Tim Jenkins, and Paul Williams

Public Comments: Cathy Egerer announced that the UP 200 sled dog race is on this year and we have 17 teams signed up. Lots of activities and race watching at the community center on Saturday, 02/15/24. Jessica Flynn invited the board to attend the Alger County Road Commission meeting on February 24th at 4:00 PM. On the agenda will be parking along the streets in the winter and possible repercussions. Ms. Flynn also asked about the alleyway directly behind the Grand Marais Tavern and the maintenance needed.

Agenda: Motion by McShane, second by Secrest to approve agenda as written. 5 ayes.

Correspondence: Message from Maria Johnstone regarding the speeding snowmobiles on Airport Rd. Letter from Karen Brzys thanking the board for committing to use the gift from the Rock and Mineral show for a Mobi mat walkway on Agate beach. Email dated 02/10/25 from Briana Rupel asking for additional signage in the school forest to prevent accidents with snowmobiles and pedestrians/skiers.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Williams, second by Babbitt, to approve the minutes from the January 14th regular meeting and the January 28th special meeting. 5 ayes.

Department and Committee Reports: Reports were available from the Assessor, DPW & Water, Fire, Library and Woodland Park.

Appointments/Resignations: none

Supervisor Report: Once again January has been a busy month. The snow gods have blessed us. I had a meeting with the ACRC to discuss plans for 2025 and future road improvements. Also met with the Sheriff to talk about future changes to the law enforcement contract. Sheriff Brock will be here to address the community and the board at our March 11th regular meeting. I attended both the fire department meeting and the ambulance meeting this month and learned a lot. Thank you to the dedicated folks working to make our community safe. And lastly, I am still working with business owners to develop a plan for snowmobile and snowmobile trailer parking. I welcome your comments and concerns.

Treasurer's report and Approval of Bills: Treasurer's report – (\$1,374,712.63) Motion by McShane, second by Williams to accept treasurer's report and approve the bills for payment (\$25,360.16). 5 ayes.

Unfinished Business:

Planning Commission: Next meeting of the planning commission is February 20th. This is a public hearing for a conditional use permit to open a campground out in the buffer zone. Keep watching our facebook and web page for scheduling the next zoning ordinance review meeting.

Township alleyways – Lawrence/Petersen: Board discussion regarding the township responsibility regarding the alleyways throughout town and specifically the one behind the Petersen home on Brazel street. Trustee Jenkins visited the register of deeds at Alger County as well as equalization to try and ascertain the current status of the alleyways throughout town. Some have been vacated, but the majority of them are still township property. The issue needs further discussion and investigation, possibly a committee, but the board decided to take no action at this time.

Law enforcement contract: Supervisor Babbitt has talked with Sheriff Brock and our resident deputy Nic Paul and feels the contract that we agreed to in 2022 is sufficient. Sheriff Brock will be here for our March regular meeting to discuss.

Transient Merchant Ordinance review: Special meeting scheduled for March 4, 2025 @ 6:00 PM to review and revise the Transient Merchant Ordinance to better regulate the food trucks and other vendors setting up shop on township property. Trustee Jenkins noted that appropriate locations for food trucks was spelled out in the master plan. We will also review the short-term rental ordinance as well.

PUBLIC HEARING – WILSON WOODRUFF WATER PROJECT – USDA APPLICATION: Burt Township has submitted an application to Rural Development for a loan/grant to complete the water infrastructure replacement that was started in 2011. The last area that needs upgrade is Woodruff Street/Wilson Street. This project cost is estimated at \$2,000,000. There were no public comments or questions. Motion by McShane, second by Williams to close the public hearing. 5 ayes.

New Business:

Fitness Center: Chris Lawless addressed the board and talked about the Andy Bailey Fitness Center and how it got started many years ago. She explained that it is need of an equipment upgrade. She presented a rough estimate for two new treadmills and some miscellaneous equipment for about \$12,908.00. Board will discuss as the 2025/26 fiscal year budget is worked on.

Ambulance Personnel Bonuses: Motion by Babbitt, second by Williams, to give the ambulance personnel a \$750 bonus to show appreciation for their service. 5 ayes.

Chamber letter – fireworks donation: Letter was read from Tom Cleary, Grand Marais Chamber of Commerce fund raising committee member, asking for a \$9,000 donation from the township this year to pay for fireworks. It was noted that this is an increase, the township has given \$3,500 for many years and the last two years had increased that to \$5,000. Many people spoke on how important it is to have the fireworks on the 4th of July. The board agreed to discuss in the 2025/26 budget workshops.

Other: Special budget workshop meeting scheduled for February 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Second Special meeting scheduled for March 4th to discuss the transient merchant ordinance. Burt Township DUMP DAYS will be held on June 13th and 14th 2025. **Please notice the flyers throughout town and on our facebook page and website – sign up for text message alerts to stay informed of special meetings and other township notifications.**

Public Comment: Trustee Jenkins asked that the full board meeting packet be available on the website. He also talked about Jack Bergmans efforts to keep the Iron Mountain post office facility in operation. Talked about all of the training available through MTA for all board members, and the state budget and possible grant opportunities for Burt Township. Sandee Fisher felt we should raise the campground rates. Bob Stocking asked about the police statistics missing from this month's packet. Jeannie Kain asked for details on the parking ordinance that prevents parking on the street in the winter as it relates to her residence and place of business.

Adjournment: 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted January 17, 2025

Lori McShane, Clerk