

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

DRAFT

Attendance: Jon Babbitt, Lori McShane, Sara Secrest, and Tim Jenkins, (Paul Williams-ZOOM)

Public Comments: Toni Whaley commented on behalf of the Grand Marais Chamber and asked if the township would be a pick up/drop off location for the paperwork for the upcoming 4th of July parade theme contest.

Agenda: Motion by McShane, second by Babbitt to approve agenda – moving the Law enforcement contract and Todd Brock up on the agenda to before unfinished business – 4 ayes.

Correspondence: Letter from UPSET (Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team) asking for funding to assist with operating expenses.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Babbitt, second by Secrest, to approve the minutes from the February 11th regular meeting and the February 18th and March 4th special meetings. 4 ayes.

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

Appointments/Resignations: none

Supervisor Report: Working on snowmobile traffic and snow removal, and attending meetings and getting prepared for the busy summer. We have been working on our budget, and recently learned we secured the grant funding for a water project on Wilson Street. I attended the water rescue training with our fire and rescue folks. We are working on the transient merchant ordinance and the short-term rental ordinance. March is Board of Review month!

Treasurer's report and Approval of Bills: Treasurer's report – (\$1,552,918.05) Motion by Babbitt, second by McShane to accept treasurer's report and approve the bills for payment (\$29,198.39). 4 ayes.

Unfinished Business:

Planning Commission: Next meeting of the planning commission is March 20th. This meeting will wrap up the public hearing for a conditional use permit to open a campground out in the buffer zone. The township board will attend this meeting as well to have an open discussion with the planning commission to encourage communication. Keep watching our facebook and web page for scheduling the next zoning ordinance review meeting.

Law enforcement contract: Sheriff Todd Brock was present and available for all questions from the community. Sheriff Brock began by presenting three of our local Alger County Ambulance personnel with lifesaving achievement awards for their service. Congratulations Cynthia Aeschliman, Mark Zwart, and Chuck Cardinal. Thank you for your dedicated service to Burt township.

Transient Merchant Ordinance review: Further discussion of the transient merchant ordinance – specifically food trucks. Board has reviewed copies of the ordinances from Munising, Marquette, and other UP areas. Board asked for volunteers from community members present to submit a report of their findings to the board. Supervisor Babbitt selected Toni Whaley, Jessica Flynn, and Tisha Panter to serve on this committee. Motion by Babbitt, second by McShane, to remove the stipulation from the Transient Merchant application that residents do not have to pay the fee. 4 ayes.

WILSON/WOODRUFF WATER PROJECT – USDA APPLICATION: UPEA will actively begin working on the plans for the water project completion. We will go out for bid in January 2026 with construction and completion in summer 2026. The engineering fees are estimated to be about \$80,000 and we may need to cash in a water fund CD to pay – but will be reimbursed at the time of loan/grant closing next spring.

New Business:

Darley – Quote for the Fire turn out gear: Motion by McShane, second by Babbitt, to approve the quote from Darley for the four (4) sets of new turn out gear for firefighters, at a cost of \$7,461.75. 4 ayes.

2025/26 Fiscal year budget discussion: Brief review and discussion of the 2025/26 recommended budget, scheduled to be adopted at the March 18th special meeting. Board decided to forego any investment into new equipment at this time, instead to start actively saving and setting money aside for a new gym that would be accessible to everyone. Motion by Secrest, second by Jenkins, to allocate \$9,000 to the Chamber for the 4th of July fireworks. 4 ayes. Treasurer Secrest requested the board entertain a resolution for an increase to the clerks salary.

Other: Special meeting – PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING – scheduled for March 18th – 6:00 PM. **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: Tom Cleary thanked the board on behalf of the chamber for the fireworks contribution.

Adjournment: 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted March 18, 2025

Lori McShane, Clerk