

PORTER TOWNSHIP

August 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Marlow with the pledge to the flag

Roll Call: Present were Croninger, Marlow, Harman, Wylie, Russell

Minutes: The minutes were reviewed from last month meetings, Wylie made the motion to accept all the minutes with support from Croninger all in favor motion carried

Treasurers report General fund balance \$100,000.00 in Horizon \$331,794.60 in Sturgis Bank & Trust savings \$312,266.18 Bair Lake \$13,570.71 total sewer Operations & Maintenance Funds \$73,552.68, Sewer Receiving Funds \$832,495.32. Motion made by Marlow and supported by Wylie. All in favor motion carried

Correspondence: were read

SEPSA Report: For the month of June there were the following calls, in Mason 13, Outside the Area 11, Porter Township 19 with a total of 43 calls

Building Report: For the month of March \$746,000.00 in new and remodeling construction.

Bills: Township Bills \$59,919.36, Sewer bills \$51,605.42 Motion made by Wylie with support from Croninger to pay the bills. All in favor motion carried

Old Business:

North Drive: Niblock Construction's representative was here as well as CCRC Rep Thompson to discuss what is going on with North Drive and paving it. Several people in attendance are not in favor of the paving. It was advised that Niblock has done other projects in Elkhart, IN and will be doing this one in a similar fashion. Thompson advised they will be checking the drains to make sure they are done properly. They will not be doing any meetings or any other studies on this. The material that will be used must be up to the CCRC standards which will be checked also. There was also discussion as to if the Township would have to sign off of the project. Per the Township Attorney the Township that North Drive is platted a Private Road and as such the Township will not have anything to do with this project and will not have to sign off on it, that will be for the CCRC to do

SEMCO Franchise Renewal: Russell made the motion with support from Croninger to accept the renewal franchise for SEMCO, roll call taken, Croninger – yes, Marlow – yes, Harman – yes, Wylie – yes, Russell – yes, the new contract was signed

New Business:

Benke: Sheriff Benke was here to give information on the new Tower that will be going up for on Baldwin Prairie Road on Five Star Life property, this will benefit the Cass County and St Joseph County also as well as SEPSA. He advised when officers are in this area they have spotty reception. They will be getting a lifetime lease for the land where it will be located. They are hoping to start this project soon

O’Ryan Solar Company: Michael Cressner explained how they are on a larger scale for utility companies, they are inquiring about hosting solar farms in the area. The elements will cover about 35% of the ground within a solar farm and would be fenced in if necessary. They need five to ten acres is needed with construction on this would last between 6 – 12 months. He also advised this will bring in several new full-time jobs for the ongoing operations and maintenance of the solar farm.

Fish: Explained that he has had a Bubbler/Aerator for about 23 years and does not see a problem with them if used correctly, as he also advised they should be used in March when the ice if melting not ran the entire winter as some are currently doing.

Miscellaneous: None

Sewer Report: Klappauf advised the plant is still doing 10 out of 10 for the budget, Emergency callouts for the month were Power outage C-13 (Primary Line Insulator Failure), Plant SBR Alarm (Air Control Valve Failure), Power outage c-13 (transformer failure). Routine Maintenance was Plant Cloth Filter (Replacement of Filter Bags). Pending Projects are the Septage receiving tank and EGLE permits, they are also looking into EGLE funding from Michigan HB4123. They are also still working on the insurance claim from the weekend of 6/18 this should be taken care of this next week.

Septage Report: Nagy advised May had 147,337 gallons of septage, he also advised that he has heard that several other septage drop off places are raising their prices soon as such they are hoping that they will increase the septage. When asked he advised it has been about 2 years since prices were raised.

ZBA report: Harman advised they had a meeting on August 5, a 50 X 50 building was approved to be constructed by McElwee beside the other 2 that he currently has

Wetlands Committee: No report

Planning Commission: Nagy advised at the last meeting they had a legal representative from Bair Lake Shady Campgrounds who currently rents out spaces for RV's and would like to convert it to Condo's with each having its own parcel number, with a common area also. Only 20% of the property is in Porter the remaining is in Newberg, Porter has a Subdivision Ord that they will have to follow no one has heard anything back from them.

County Commissioner: Dyes reminded everyone the county is having another cleanup/hazard waste day August 21, 2021 from 9 am to 12 pm this will be at the CCRC 240 N O'Keefe Street in Cassopolis. He also advised the supervisors will be meeting next week again regarding the ORV/ATV ORD that they have been working on. The Medical Facility was sold and the money will be put toward the old Courthouse/County Building. They are also discussing taking 65 acres for a Solar Farm

Public Comments: Delee from Shavehead Lake Association advised they did a survey also on Bubblers and will give the results to the Clerk,

Motion made by Harman and supported by Croninger to adjourn all in favor motion carried at 8:42 p.m.

Beth Russell
Porter Township Clerk