

**NOTICE
THESE ARE THE UNAPPROVED**

**BURT TOWNSHIP
BOARD MINUTES
April 1, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Burt Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Harold Koviak on April 1, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

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

Also Attending: Renee Kinney, Jim Larson, Tim MacArthur, Dennis Reimann

AGENDA - Koviak

MOTION: Moved by Parker, supported by Reimann to approve the Agenda with the addition of the Charitable Institution Exemption Policy.

MOTION APPROVED

PUBLIC COMMENT – N/A

CONSENT AGENDA – Minutes of March 4, 2021 with the change of verbiage to the Fire Agreement, adding “for the entire township” after 1 ½ mill and “we currently pay them ~ \$34,000” to “we currently pay Mullet Township \$30,100” and Payment of the Bills

MOTION: Moved by Hodulik, supported by Parker to approve payment of bills and the minutes of the March 4th meeting with the verbiage change.

MOTION APPROVED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fire Agreement with Mullett Township - Koviak

Koviak and Hodulik met with Laz Surabian (Mullett Supervisor) on March 18, also in attendance was Mike English and Brent Lindgren but they did not comment

- Surabian is standing firm on the 1.5 mill wanted from Burt Township
- Koviak and Hodulik suggested a flat fee, not based on millage, of \$44,000 but Surabian did not agree
- There is a signed fire contract with Mullett from 2019 in place but neither Burt nor Mullet can find the fully signed document which expired March 21, 2021

Hodulik supplied different scenarios for fire allocation:

- 1 mill on East side of Burt Lake is estimated at \$68,213
- Last year the Burt Township total fire income (1/2 mill) was \$68,350 (\$30,100 to Mullet, \$34,250 to Pellston)
- This year’s Burt Township fire income (1/2 mill) will be \$72,021 which will be split accordingly

- Mullet says their new fire fund budget is \$386,400 but our estimate was \$200,000 based on quarterly estimates of expenses of \$50,000 (which Mike English believes is accurate). Difference is likely due to the new building
- Based on \$200,000 estimate and that the West side of Mullet accounts for 2/3 of their budget and Burt township makes up 1/3 of the West side runs, we estimated a fee of roughly \$44,000
- Larson suggested if Mullett wants Burt Township to pay up to 1.5 mill they should build the new fire building in Burt Township. If Burt Township taxpayers are paying 1.5 mill they should be able to get a refund on their fire insurance. A valid point but it is not likely they would do that
- Hodulik supplied different scenarios with a 3% yearly increase in costs plus an additional allocation from our fire fund. These scenarios are over an 8-year period. We would need to add additional funds for these scenarios but we still need to understand the justifiable costs to base an actual funding model on
- We also offered Mullet a fixed fee plus an additional fee per run but they were not receptive
- Possible next step is for us to wait and see what Mullet does next or send a letter to Mullet asking them to back up numbers they are suggesting
- MacArthur was asked to comment on if there is a reasonable alternative: Possibly Pellston, Inverness, Mackinac. Per Koviak, a reasonable alternative would be Pellston or Tuscarora. Koviak did contact Tuscarora (who is an LLC and run by the fire chief and fire board), Ridley and then Dave Carpenter, for information and they will look at East side of Burt and talk with the fire board. They do already service a lot of townships through contracts
- Burt Township will continue to pay Mullett for services based on the 2021 fire income and next steps will depend on whether they accept the payment (continue with current contract while negotiations continue) or reject the payment, in which case they would send a letter to us

NEW BUSINESS

1. Corner Property at Crump/Burt-Mullett Road
 - EGLE is going to be doing work there. Koviak spoke with Melissa Kendzierski, a project manager for EGLE, for the clean-up at Kinney's property
 - Burt Township owns a 4.86-acre parcel on Crump (assessed value of \$15,000) and we were looking at a swap of property but the Kinney lot is .27 acre (1/2 acre square).
 - Kinney feels the trail head would be better positioned on the corner and she would like to move away from the corner and Hodulik agreed. Kinney may be willing to pay the difference in value if affordable. Kinney pointed out that if she did buy the Burt Township parcel it would be subject to property tax and would be revenue for the Township going forward
 - The Kinney property needs to be remediated, with concrete structures put in underground to control drainage. The Township would need to have in writing that there won't be any issues going forward if we put in the trail head with a potential parking lot. Per Kinney, after remediation there can be a well and septic and drain field added to the property
 - Supposedly there is a land bank option but Kinney has not heard back from them on that topic. Kinney expressed that she wants to be within 10 miles of her current home
 - Per MacArthur, we need to talk to EGLE on the procedure, they will want fair market value on the property (once it is signed over to them). Current taxable value of the Kinney property is \$29,700 but we would need it assessed without a building on it, just as land. Koviak asked if we need appraisal for the Township property - yes. What the Township needs answers on: what role will EGLE play, when will the Kinney lot be able to be used and what can be done with it
 - Kenderzierski will be invited to the next township meeting to discuss further, along with Kinney and MacArthur. Koviak to follow up on appraisal of the Township land

2. Electricity at Hall - Dennis Reimann

- The power feed coming into the hall needs to be redone in order for siding work to be completed, it is currently not safe for work to be done and is also a fire hazard. The power should either have a ~~mask~~ mast for the feed coming in or the line can go underground. Reimann supplied an estimate from Stan's Electric for both options
 - Underground is less expensive but must go under the road (must be line bored, requiring an addition fee) and is the recommended approach
 - Koviak needs to call Consumers Energy to begin the process but work may not even begin until the fall
- Dennis Reimann also supplied a quote for \$3,900.75 for the Town Hall siding but materials cost may change due to supply shortages. Work can only begin after electrical issue is resolved (possibly not until the fall) and supplies would be ordered at that time

3. Charitable Institution Exemption Policy - Koviak

- Lindroth needs an approved policy for AMAR review
- MacArthur took state proposed verbiage for a policy and a form and changed it accordingly. The policy grants real or personal property tax exemption for charitable, educational, or religious organizations, although as this time we have none

MOTION: Moved by Parker, supported by Hodulik to support the Burt Township Charitable Institution Exemption Policy.

MOTION APPROVED

Roll call: Reimann – yes, Parker – yes, Hodulik – yes, Kozlowski – yes, Koviak - yes

REPORTS

Burt Lake Trail Committee – Hodulik

- Received Easement that will need to be signed by Kozlowski and Koviak, notarized, and registered with Cheboygan Register of Deeds. UofM needs a copy of the signed document and we keep the original. The construction agreement is coming but does not need to be notarized or registered but will need to be signed and filed
- MDOT Tap has funded our Phase III. Bids will be out in April or May and results should be back by the first week in June and by law, would be required to start within 30 days of approval
- Spierling Construction has a power sweeper and they will sweep all the paved shoulders on East Burt, West Burt, Mullett-Burt, and the portion that goes through UofM. This will happen the following week – Thursday or Friday (April 8 or 9)
- Put in a \$10,000 grant with Dalmac (Lansing) – we have received two in the past and are hoping to get a third for Phase III. Need to supply them with a support letter – Hodulik to supply one to Koviak to sign. Additional letters to come from BLPA, Top of Michigan Trails Council, Brent Shank, and possibly from Sheriff Clairmont. Decision expected first of May

Planning Commission - Hodulik

- Still working on pole barn issue
- Internet – Spectrum may be coming down West Burt Lake Road. Per Koviak, they are also coming down Sturgeon Bay Road all the way to Chris Kindsvatter

Zoning Board of Appeals – Koviak

Next meeting April 16th – 2+ currently on the table

Zoning Administrator's Report – Larson

- Getting busier
- No construction has started yet on those approved
- Stratford Lane – ZBA approved addition and garage addition but paved half the lot but they are now looking to build another addition to the house
- Stratford Lane Road issue is still going on – many are still against it but it was voted on and approved. They want to pave and put a drainage ditch down to the lake on a private road

Supervisor's Report – Koviak

N/A

County Commissioner – Mary Ellen Tryban

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Next meeting May 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm

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

MOTION APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Christy Kozlowski, Clerk