

**BURT TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MINUTES  
September 2, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Burt Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Harold Koviak

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

**Also Attending:** Tim McArthur township attorney, Fred Lindroth township assessor, Jim Larson zoning administrator, Renee Kinney, Russ Elmhirst, Judge Aaron Gauthier, Mrs. Gauthier

**AGENDA - Koviak**

**MOTION:** Moved by Hodulik, supported by Parker to approve the Agenda with the addition of Judge Gauthier update on the courts and the MTA Blight Ordinance discussion.

**MOTION APPROVED**

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**CONSENT AGENDA – Minutes of August 5, 2021, and Payment of the Bills**

**MOTION:** Moved by Hodulik, supported by Parker to approve payment of bills and the minutes of the August 5th meeting with the change of ‘access’ to ‘accessory’ in reference to the planning update.

**MOTION APPROVED**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Fire Agreement with Mullett Township – Koviak

- Draft contract overview:
  - 5-year contract April 2021- March 2026
  - Need to request and additional .5 mill for 2022-2023
  - Year 1: 50K, year 2: 68K, years 3-5 equal to 1 mill
  - Need to pass 1 mill by 2026 to extend the contract past 5 years
- Discussion over item number 4 in draft contract – emergency service costs:
  - Emergency service costs would be billed to recipients and passed along to insurance although it is not in practice today
  - Larson suggested language should clarify that Mullet residents would also be included to ensure no extra costs would be subjected just to Burt Township
  - Per McArthur, an ordinance would need to be passed in Burt for recipients of services to be collectible
  - Consensus of Board is to delete the emergency service cost paragraph removed from the contract
- Per Hodulik, we can present contract with deletion above

**MOTION:** Moved by Parker, supported by Hodulik to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft contract with the deletion of number 4 (emergency service cost paragraph).

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

## **MOTION APPROVED**

### 2. Corner Property at Crump/Burt-Mullett Road

- McArthur and Koviak have not heard back from EGLE
- Per Kinney, she had a meeting with EGLE yesterday on the house (not the property). Revised house plan will be supplied to Kinney based on negotiations
- Lot discussion:
  - Per Lindroth, assessed value difference of the Burt Township and Kinney property is estimated at about \$3,500
  - Appraisal of Kinney property (without house) is \$12,000 and Burt Township property was appraised at \$22,500
  - Per McArthur, fair market value should be used since it is a public property
  - The board will consider what the cost avoidance value would be with the Kinney property in making it a trail head (no need to clear property, etc.) and review at the next meeting. Kinney to provide estimate she received on excavation

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 3. Letter from PIE&G

- PIE&G is asking for money to build their broad band fiber network from Burt Township ARPA funds
- County has already committed money to Presque Isle Electric for this initiative so there is no reason for Burt to get involved at this time as there is still no direction from the state treasury on how to spend the ARPA funds
- Koviak suggested the board file the request for the time being

### 4. Judge Aaron Gauthier update on courts

- 2020 new case filings were down a bit
- The courts are at post pandemic operations – operating back to normal with monitoring of infections
- Criminal docket back in person but Zoom is still used in some circumstances
- Civil and family is mostly over Zoom but can come in person
- Staggered scheduling in effect (appointment times) which is more efficient and saves attorney fees and allows attorneys to take on more cases
- Hearings are still on YouTube except for the family docket
- Jury trials have resumed in Cheboygan and Presque Isle but will not be on YouTube at this time
- Drug Court name changed to Recovery Court – certification was passed in order to make this change

### 5. MTA Blight Ordinance

- Proposal presented for a blanket ordinance
  - Multiple townships would sign with no deviations and enforced by the sheriff
  - Ordinance addresses blight – first step, complaint would be filed with the Township Board and the Township would decide to act or let it lie; second step, a letter would be delivered to the property by a police officer with 45 days given to comply with the order; third step, if the blight is not addressed, a citation is issued and will go to court
- Burt Township does have some aspects of blight covered in zoning ordinances. Per Koviak, we try to work with the property owner to help resolve any issues and doesn't think we need to have an ordinance
- The Township will discuss the ordinance further in the next meeting

**Burt Lake Trail Committee** – Hodulik

- Work starting day after Labor Day
- Gary Street arranged a meeting on August 31 with Brent Shank, Mike Spierling, and Scott from UofM regarding the gorge water issue – a proposed solution has been identified

**Planning Commission** – Hodulik

- Sept 9 @6:45pm Public hearing on accessory building definitions, fire pit definitions, etc.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** – Koviak

- Sept 17<sup>th</sup> meeting – 3 appeals

**Zoning Administrator's Report** – Larson

- Busy as usual

**Supervisor's Report** – Koviak

- UP MTA conference – Koviak, Parker and Lindroth attending
- MTA on the road Sept 21 at 7pm– at Inverness Township Hall, Koviak hosting

**County Commissioner** – Mary Ellen Tryban

Not present

- Koviak asked Lindroth to connect with Tryban and let her know the MTA is very disappointed that county commissioners, including Tryban, who want to eliminate township representation in the CCE 911 Interlocal Agreement

**PUBLIC COMMENT –**

- McArthur:
  - Judge Barton, District Court Judge – her position was done away with after her appointment but as long as she is still serving as judge the position is funded by the State. If she does not run again (which is rumored), her position will go away. Legislation to bring back the District Court Judge position is being worked on and Sue Allor has agreed to introduce it to Lansing. A resolution may be requested of the Township in support of the legislation
  - McArthur resigned from his position with Mullett Township and they are no longer a client of his

Next meeting October 7, 2021 at 7:00 pm

**MOTION:** Moved by Parker, supported by Reimann to adjourn.

**MOTION APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christy Kozlowski, Clerk