

TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP
3546 S. Straits Hwy
Indian River, MI 49749
August 9th, 2022, Meeting Minutes

- Call to Order with the Pledge of Allegiance made by Supervisor Ridley at 7:00 pm.
- **Roll Call of Board Members**
 - Attended by: Kramer, Webb, Ridley, Balazovic, Vance
 - Absent: 0
- **Minutes of June 21th Meeting Minutes:**
 - Motion made by Vance, supported by Balozivic to approve. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Minutes of June 28th Minutes:**
 - Motion made to dispense by Ridley supported by Kramer. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Minutes of the July 13th Special Minutes**
 - Motion made by Vance to accept as written by Vance, supported by Webb. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Adopt Agenda:**
 - Motion made by Balazovic, supported by Webb to adopt the agenda with addition Hiring Committee for open Assessor's position.
- **Public Comment on Agenda Items:**
 - There were no public comments.
- **Correspondence**
 - Two letters of correspondence - Correspondence from Buffy Weldon (Cheboygan County Elections Commission) read into the minutes.
- **Treasurer's Report and Bills**
 - Motion to approve the Treasurers' bills made by Balazovic supported by Webb with addition of Dodds's tree service (\$4000.00) for tree removal at Oak Hill Cemetery. All in favor, motion carried.

- **Budget Adjustment**
 - Motion to approve made by Kramer, supported by Vance. \$103,782.74 from 101-000-377.00 Boat Launch Fund Balance Restricted to 101-756-995.00 Boat Launch Transfer Out. All in favor, motion carried.

- **Police Report: N/A**

- **Reports:**
 - **DDA:**
 - Will be finishing the concrete work in front of the bank within the week.
 - **Parks Commission:**
 - Doug requested a credit card for the Parks and Rec. Motion made by Kramer supported by Vance to grant request. All in favor, motion carried. Co-op Playground will be closed the first two weeks of September.
 - **Planning Commission**
 - Motion made by Webb to approve the contract for NEMCOG to complete the 10-year Master Plan update supported by Balazovic. All in favor, motion carried.

- **Library Report:**
 - Summer reading program is coming to an end so they will be having an ending party August 20th. They be having an essential oils class on August 31st. The library now has wifi hotspots that can be checked out.

- **Sewer Report:**
 - Motion to authorize a sealed bid proposal for preparing the application for the EPA grant at a cost of \$50 - \$75,000.00 to be re-imbursed by Phase2 SAD if approved made by Kramer support by Vance. All in favor, motion carried.

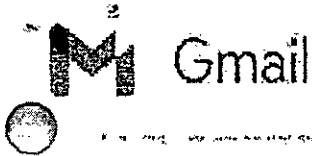
- **Cemetery**
 - Janice sent a written request for support items including access to the Pontem software, index cards etc. Bobbi requested that the work be pulled back into the office because she voiced concern when the Board hired the Sexton that it would not work to send it out and that the office was now getting complaints from customers that were not getting

return calls/timely service. Janet read the open-door policy in the employee handbook. Bob and Janet requested that we give her the tools and re-evaluate in six months. Janice resigned the Sexton position effective immediately.

- **Backup Generator:**
 - Motion by Kramer supported by Vance to use fund balance money to pay for down payment on backup generator. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Building Repairs:**
 - Motion by Kramer supported by Ridley to approve parking lot sealcoat to be paid from ARPA at a cost of \$4128.40. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Motion by Balazovic, supported by Kramer to send out RFP to have firms assess and give the Board a proposal with costs to repair/replace air handling system. RFP language to be developed by Mike/Doug. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Budget Adjustment - Sewer Phase 1 Design costs:**
 - Motion made by Ridley, supported by Kramer to establish the enterprise fund. Webb motioned, supported by Kramer to transfer \$51,195.50 from the general fund balance to an enterprise fund for Performance Engineering for Phase 1 design costs first installment.
- **Club Road rehab:**
 - Tabled.
- **Airport (Basic/Utility reclass):**
 - Andy Bowman requested that we allow the change to the classification on the airport to save the Township money by reducing the number of trees that need to be trimmed or removed to stay in compliance. Motion by, supported by to approve the airport to reclassify from General to Basic utility. All in favor, motion carried
- **Purchase agreement for Industrial Park**
 - Motion by Webb supported by Kramer to Accept purchase agreement with America Storage LLC for lot 19 in the Industrial Park

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- **MTA Twp of Excellence in Governance**
 - Janet presented the information and suggested that the Board start looking at the checklists for best practices.
- **PIEG Resolution**
 - **Motion to approve the permit to use the right of way to**
- **Assessor Hiring Committee:**
 - Motion by Vance supported by Kramer to approve Bobbi and Mike as the hiring committee and to and place ad for new Assessor.

- **19. Public Comment**
 - There were six public comments
 - Gretchen Bearce gave the Board a "pre-emptive" petition to prevent the closing of Slocum Rd. She requested that should the request come through from Doug Duke to approve the request to close Slocum Rd that it be denied.
- **20. Board Comment**
 - There was one comment.
- **21. Motion to Adjourn**



Mike Ridley <supervisor@tuscaroratwp.com>

Response

1 message

Buffy Weldon <buffy@cheboygancounty.net>

Thu, Jul 28, 2022 at 4:29 PM

To: Bob Kramer <exit310@outlook.com>, Bobbi Balazovic <treasurer@tuscaroratwp.com>, Tuscarora <supervisor@tuscaroratwp.com>, "clerk@tuscaroratwp.com" <clerk@tuscaroratwp.com>, "jay.reidsma@gmail.com" <jay.reidsma@gmail.com>

Cc: Judge Daryl Vizina <dvizina@cheboygancounty.net>, Karen Brewster <kbrewster@cheboygancounty.net>, Tax Info <taxinfo@cheboygancounty.net>

To Whom This May Concern:

The Cheboygan County Election Commission would like to respond to the concerns of the attached letter from Jay Reidsma and email from Bob Kramer.

Each of the 83 County Election Commissions in the state is composed of the county clerk, the chief judge of probate of the county or probate court district, and the county treasurer. The Commission members are responsible for the following:

- * Authorizing the printing of ballots for use in federal, state and countywide elections, as well as certain school district elections;
- * Furnishing specified election supplies (including ballots and forms) for statewide August primaries, statewide November general elections and special primaries and elections held to fill vacancies in federal, state and county offices;
- * Holding hearings to determine the factualness and clarity of the wording used on recall petitions;
- * Establishing precinct boundary lines for school districts that are contained within more than one city or township in the event only a school questions appears on the ballot; and
- * Making temporary appointments to fill vacancies on a township board, if the number of vacancies on the township board results in the loss of a quorum on the board.

The Election Commission does not have the authority to decide if a Township Deputy can run the election on an election day. The deputy of each township is appointed by the Township Clerk and when the Township Clerk is on the ballot, the deputy clerk runs the election. Each election Inspector must attend training before each August Primary and November General. Please contact this Commission or the Bureau of Elections with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Cheboygan County Election Commission

Buffy Jo Weldon
Cheboygan County Treasurer
870 S. Main St., PO Box 70
Cheboygan, MI 49721
231-627-8821 Phone
231-627-8415 Fax

"THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN PREPARED ON RESOURCES OWNED BY CHEBOYGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN. IT IS SUBJECT TO THE CHEBOYGAN COUNTY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICY." CHEBOYGAN COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROVIDER
[CO. LOGO 300]

3 attachments

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Buffy Weldon

From: Bob Kramer <exit310@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 8:58 AM
To: Karen Brewster, Jessica Carter, Tax Info
Cc: Kim Chimner
Subject: Tuscarora Township Election.- For Ms. Brewster, Ms. Weldon, Judge Vizina
Attachments: LTE - Board of Elections 2 (1) (1).docx; LTE - Board Members not told of township employee status.docx; Webb - Fisher letter 20220711.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Cheboygan County email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Election Commissioners (Ms. Brewster, Ms. Weldon, Judge Vizina):

It is my understanding that on July 11th, Jay Reidsma, a candidate for Tuscarora Township Clerk, has asked to replace the person or persons running the township election on August 2nd due to bias.

I would like to know the outcome of Reidsma's request and get a copy of the response.

Best Regards

Bob Kramer
(231) 290-0044

Cheboygan County Board of Elections

PO Box 70

Cheboygan, Michigan, 49721

231-627-8808

July 11, 2022

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

To the Cheboygan County Board of Elections:

The purpose of this letter is to document the current bias in the Tuscarora Township Clerks office, that may impact our election integrity, if not addressed.

Request – As a Candidate for Clerk in Tuscarora Township, I am requesting help in obtaining an unbiased Cheboygan County representative, or equivalent to run our Election.

Background – The Interim Appointed Clerk, Dawn Webb, has recused herself from running the election because she is a candidate and has delegated this responsibility to her Deputy Clerk, Sue Fisher.

While Ms. Fisher has run elections in the past, she is extremely biased towards incumbent clerk Dawn Webb, and biased against me. The following observations have documentation:

- Ms. Fisher has publicly endorsed Ms Webb.
- Ms. Fisher has financial interest in keeping Ms. Webb in office to retain her paid position as Deputy Clerk
- Ms. Fisher has written an erroneous / fictitious letter to the Editor of the Straitsland Resorter, our local weekly paper, claiming "it is not true", questioning my "honesty" and "integrity" (article attached). I have an article (attached) which provides a factual record of events that led to Ms. Webb granting Ms. Fisher her employment months after her "consultant contract" had lapsed without Board approval to hire, to set her wages, and to conceal Payroll reports from the Trustees.
- On July 1, on the Dawn Webb for Tuscarora Twp Clerk facebook page, Ms. Fisher wrote "Dawn, let's keep the momentum going forward. Any other vote is a vote backwards!!"

Why is this important? -- Ms. Webb was hired as the Interim appointed clerk by 3-1 majority of the Board (previous Clerk had resigned) without considering other candidates, including Jan Dillaha, who was the runner-up candidate in the 2020 election and

recommended by Trustee Janet Vance. A citizen, Patrick McGinnes, commented that this was very "under-handed" (documented in the Resorter). One can conclude that this was a biased action to maintain a 3-2 majority for Supervisor Ridley. This is one of many documented reasons (in the Resorter, available upon request) showing the under-handed behaviors of this Board. It's their lack of integrity, openness, and lack of fiduciary responsibility to serve the interests of Tuscarora Township citizens that I chose to run as Candidate for Clerk.

The totality of these circumstances make it impossible for Deputy Clerk Fisher to be trusted to carry out her sworn statutory duties in an unbiased manner.

In conclusion, I request your intervention on this matter to insure the Integrity of the Election for myself and the residents of Tuscarora Township. I specifically request that Ms. Fisher be removed as the acting official in charge of the upcoming election, and that she be immediately replaced with a qualified person of your choosing to supervise this election.

HARD COPY HAND SIGNATURE in contrasting color ink

Respectfully,

Jay Reidsma

PO Box 3010

Indian River, MI 49749

231-360-2515

CC: Karen Brewster – Cheboygan County Clerk
State of Michigan Bureau of Elections
Secretary of State Joclyn Benson