

**Town Board Meeting
July 11, 2017, 5:00 pm
Township Hall
Special Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to Order** by Rob Manigold
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call:** Present--Manigold, Westphal, Bickle, Achorn, Sanders, Wahl, Wunsch
4. **Approve Agenda** Westphal requested that a slight deviation in the sequence of the agenda occur by allowing one of the Park Commission candidates speak first due to a conflict in his schedule. Hearing no objections to the request, the agenda was modified. Bickle moved to approve the agenda; Sanders seconded the motion.
Passed Unam
5. **Brief Citizen Comments** None
6. **Conflict of Interest** Wunsch stated that one of the candidates (Ginny Coulter) for the PDR committee is his aunt; the Town Board indicated that they saw no conflict of interest.
7. **Business**
 - a. **Interview Park Commission candidates; appoint candidate for position (first candidate)**

Dennis Arouca, 850 Neahawanta Road, was interviewed for the Park Commission seat vacated by Jon Andreas. Each Town Board member asked Mr. Arouca about his qualifications, experience, and interests in serving on the Park Commission. His opening statement addressed the importance of having quality park and recreation resources for attracting the types of young families and talents that contribute to the quality of life in the region. His life work in the business arena has involved bringing disparate groups of people together for a common purpose with common goals. He said his work in the private sector can transfer to this type of position which is in the public sector.

Manigold—one of the first questions I always ask a potential board or commission candidate is whether they will be around for 12 months/year. Arouca said he plans to do that due to family ties.

Bickle—What are your top observations that surround your understanding of the Park Commissions and the Park System? He did not have a lot of time to prepare for this meeting, but he felt that having a good master plan

Westphal noted that the candidate had extensive experience serving of various business and professional boards that require both long and short term planning. If selected, she wanted to know what would be a short term goal and a long term goal of the candidate in terms of the operation of the Park Commission and/or the park system. He thought that “access” was going to be a top priority surrounding the parks. Westphal asked if that was a long range or short range goal. Arouca said probably both.

Wunsch—Wanted to know how his work would differ in the public versus private sector experience that he comes from. The metrics are different in both sectors. What would success look like in the public

sector. He said that success will be determined by the goals and standards set by the Parks Commission and whether the goals and objectives are being achieved.

Achorn—noted how active he is on several boards. She wanted to know if he will be overextended if he joined this board. She noted that the Park Commission may meet more than once per month. Arouca stated that he thought he could, and has plans to prioritize the parks as one of the boards he will dedicate time to.

Sanders—shared her experience with working with the Michigan DNR when she joined the Parks Commission. She thought knowledge about the DNR and its resource personnel were very important to utilize the resources that the parks encompass. How do you feel about working with state agencies when serving on the Parks Commission? He said that this offers even more opportunity to provide excellent park resources for the residents, especially through grants.

Manigold—asked if Dennis would consider serving on the Township's Purchase of Development citizen committee is not selected for the Parks Commission. Arouca said that he would.

b. Review second round candidates for Fire Chief and select finalists for interview.

Manigold asked Brent Strom, the union representative for Peninsula Fire Department to present a report on the Fire Department. Brent Strom presented a summary of the annual calls for the Fire Department. It showed that nearly 2/3 of the calls are for EMS services (services that have a patient involved) and the remainder addressed fire related incidences—structure, brush, boat, electric lines down, car crashes with gasoline leakage, etc. On the bottom of the form, it summarizes the individual types of service. 92 runs were missing information on the type of calls.

Manigold—at our last meeting we selected six candidates for the second round with the understanding that a Board member could introduce another candidate if they felt warranted to do so. Does anyone wish to add another candidate? If so, please present your case.

Sanders—offered her view that candidate #20 should be added due to his 20 year experience as an EMS provider. He is out of state, however. **Wahl**—I had him as well. **Westphal**—his CV said he has a paramedic license. Other Board members agreed to have him added to the list going to the second round.

Manigold—are there any other candidates we wish to move to Round 2? None were offered. He asked the Board to entertain a motion to schedule interviews with the seven candidates. **Bickle**—said that these candidates receive a written letter indicated that the candidate has been moved to the 2nd round; that no travel or household moving costs would be offered; that interviews will be held in early August; that a background check including references and drug testing is likely; and a deadline date for indicating their interest in the participating in the interview be stated in the letter. Motion by **Sanders**, with a second by **Wunsch** to move forward and contact the 7 candidates.

Manigold asked for a vote.

PASSED UNAN

c. Interview Park Commission candidates; appoint candidate for position (second candidate)

Don Atkinson, 18403 Heritage Circle, the second candidate for Park Commission, gave a brief overview of his tenure and philosophy towards the land and parks on the Old Mission Peninsula. His degrees are in Agriculture, Physical Education, and Leadership Education. Has lots of experience in leadership, relating to education, parks, and natural resources. He has served on the School Board in Granville, MI; has worked on a number of landscaping and resource management; has worked on the Bower's Harbor Expansion effort; and has attended most of the monthly Park Commission meetings. He feels he is objective, and he believes that he has a lifetime of making tough decisions relating to schools, natural resources, and management decisions.

Manigold—are you a year-round resident? Atkinson said yes.

Westphal-asked what he thought would be the highest recreation need of the Peninsula over the next few years facing the Park Commission. He said he is most familiar with Haserot Beach because he lives so close to the park. He sees safety and conflict of interest among the various users being the greatest challenge, followed closely by carrying capacity issues at that park. He is less familiar with the other parks, but he is confident that having a clear decision-making process and a template for making decisions will help the Park Commission and Town Board. This will allow all the parks to flourish and be safe for users. According to Don, "Old Mission is on the map", so tourism on the Peninsula will continue to grow and with it will come more issues relating to traffic, use, and safety. Balanced use of the resources is extremely important between the various uses, and between the users and natural resources so the resources don't become decimated.

Wunsch—asked for examples of how to better utilize resources so there is more balanced use. He provided several examples of specific changes that could be made at Haserot and Bower's Harbor Park. He talked about adding a pollinator program in Bower's Harbor Park to enhance the natural resource base of the park—an example of balance and good stewardship of the land resource.

Wahl—asked about his role on the School Board experience at Granville and how the parks of that community were integrated into the science studies at the schools and other needs of other constituents of the community, like senior citizens.

Bickle—asked about his experience with budgets in park management. Don reported that his work as a high school principle and leader at the alternative high school exposed him to lots of issues surrounding budgets, policies, and staff resources. Priorities in spending are always a consideration in any organization.

Sanders—asked the candidate about the small store, and other issues surrounding the management and maintenance needs of the lighthouse.

Achorn—stated that she saw him from the start at the Bower's Harbor Expansion, and was happy to see that he was engaged in the effort.

Manigold—asked the candidate if he was not selected for the Park Commission, would he (the candidate) be interested in serving on the PDR Committee. Don said he would. Manigold thanked Don Atkinson for applying for the Commission and stated that he would get back to him shortly relating to the selection.

Manigold—addressed the Town Board and asked them to make a decision on the candidate of choice for the Park Commission. **Achorn** believes that Don could hit the ground running if he was the candidate selected. **Wunsch** stated that it will be important to have an individual on the PDR committee that has excellent financial skills; Dennis would have the experience to round out the committee in terms of financial skills. **Westphal**—Don has the practical knowledge and philosophical approach to good park management. His science background, coupled with education and leadership, would make him an excellent addition to the Park Commission. **Wahl** thought that Dennis would be the likely candidate for the park's position, based on an objective approach; however, Don's experience and sensitivity to the users make him the best candidate. **Sanders** added that both candidates were well-qualified. On a personal note, knowing how the Park Commission operates, Don would fit in very well because of his past experience and knowledge of park systems. **Bickle** stated that at first he thought Dennis was the most qualified, but Don's response to his question on budgetary matters, convinced Bickle that Don knows how to navigate the thorny environment of finance.

Manigold—asked to entertain a motion to fill the position. Sanders made the motion to select Don Atkinson to the Park Commission AND TO ASSIGN Dennis Arouca to the PDR Citizen Committee; Westphal seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

PASSED UNAN

- d. Interview and appoint Purchase of Development Rights citizen committee members. Five individuals applied to serve on the committee by the deadline according to **Westphal**. Two vacancies remain. **Manigold** invited the first applicant up.
 1. Dave Edmondson, 12414 Center Road, gave a brief profile of his experience on, and with, the PDR program. He is a 4th generation farmer; his family has six properties that are currently in the program; he believes it has been a great asset to his family and other landowners on the Peninsula who have entered it. He would like to continue supporting the program by serving on the committee because he feels that he can provide some practical insight to how the program works for the landowner under consideration.
 2. Ginny Coulter, 16550 Center Road, talked about her role as Planning Commission member and chairperson when the Purchase of Development Rights program was put in place. She is a member of one of the oldest families on the Peninsula. Her husband, sister, brother and their families all have farms although Ginny worked for the Traverse City Housing Authority until her recent retirement. She identified a potential conflict of interest if any of her or her brother's property were to enter the PDR program, which is not likely since the current round is only on its first 2-3 prioritized properties.
 3. Susan Tarczon, 15763 Smokey Hollow Road, is a resident of 27 years. She and her husband bought their home out on the Peninsula, in part, due to the PDR program. She is a commercial banker, who has supported and campaigned for the first two PDR rounds. She has worked on loan programs that helped fund parts of the PDR effort in the past. She has a genuine interest in seeing the program continue and states she has no conflict of interest in doing so.

Westphal provided an overview of the next two applicants who had conflicts in attending the Special Meeting of the Town Board.

4. Mary Manner, 1302 Meier Drive, was unable to come to the meeting due to a previous commitment. Her background from the CV shows that she is a resident of 20 years. She has been active in environmental education and land stewardship. She considers herself a "scientist",

who loves teaching elementary school students about the outdoors. She appreciates the natural world and its contribution to personal wellness.

5. Karen Cline, 14826 Center Road, has owned property on the Old Mission Peninsula for 17 years. She purchased a residence surrounded by PDR land. She is familiar with the pioneering work of the Township in its PDR program. As a participant in local land conservation efforts and fundraising for the Dougherty House, she has a deep appreciation of the Peninsula's unique natural and cultural heritage. She expressed a strong commitment to seeing the PDR program expanded.

Manigold suggested that the Board consider appointing Dennis Arouca to one of the two vacancies on the PDR committee, since he indicated his willingness to do so during the earlier interview. Made the motion to appoint Dennis to the PDR committee;

Manigold—recognized a member of the audience, who inquired how one could apply for the PDR committee. He asked if the individual was attending because of her interest in PDR, Parks, or the Fire Department. She replied the Park Commission. He asked if she was interested in applying for one of the two remaining seats on the PDR citizen committee. The person who indicated an interest in the PDR was Penni Pease-Shafer, 2707 Old Mission.

Westphal asked Manigold if he wanted to have a motion to appoint the seven individuals who expressed an interest in the PDR. He replied yes. Westphal-so moved; Wunsch seconded.

PASSED UNAM

8. **Citizen Comments** None
9. **Board Comments** None

10. **Adjournment** Maanigold requested a motion to adjourn. Sanders moved; Wahl seconded.

PASSED UNAM

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Westphal, Clerk