



PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City MI 49686

www.peninsulatownship.com

Township Board Regular Meeting

February 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Township Hall

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** by Manigold at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Present: Sanger, Wahl, Bickle, Manigold, Chown, Achorn, Wunsch
Also present: Deeren, director of zoning, and Meihn, township attorney, via teleconference.
4. **Brief Citizen Comments (for agenda items only)**
Nancy R. Heller, 3091 Blue Water Road: asked attorney Meihn if public hearing could be held this evening as notices did not go out to the residents within 300 feet of the triathlon event location as required in zoning ordinance No. 52 from 2014.
Meihn: Michigan law states it is acceptable to hold this public hearing at this time even without those notices having been sent out.
5. **Approve Agenda: Wahl moved to approve the minutes with a second by Bickle. passed unan**
6. **Conflict of Interest:** none
7. **Consent Agenda:**
 - A. Invoices (recommend approval)
 - B. Reports
 1. Grand Traverse Sheriff's Office Citation, Accident & Arrest Statistics for January 2022
 2. Peninsula Township Ordinance Enforcement Officer for January 2022
 3. Peninsula Township Fire Department for January 2022
 - C. Minutes from January 6, 2022, Township Board Special Meeting
 - D. Correspondence
 - A. Rob Manigold
 - B. Steve Trippe
 - C. Michele Zebell
 - D. Rex and Bonnie Hite
 - E. Katie Grier and Paul Goudreault
 - F. Dawn Asava
 - G. Jason Delo
 - H. Dawn Hemming
 - I. Mary Swift
 - J. Deb and Russ Larimer
 - K. Mike Skurski and Danielle Ruiz

- L. Dawn Hemming
- M. Eric Dreier
- N. Sam Augusta
- O. Charles Kotz
- P. Chris Roggen
- Q. Jennifer Campbell
- R. Trish Thane
- S. Alissa O'Hagan
- T. Tom O'Hagan
- U. Susan Townsend
- V. George Townsend
- W. Scott Belanger
- X. Laura Miller
- Y. Katie LaCommare
- Z. Mark Ware
- A.a. Adam Francis
- B.b. Tracy Raz
- C.c. Kelli Felmeden
- D.d. Eric Smith
- E.d. Annie Grove
- F.f. Deanna Grove
- G.g. Jeff Houser
- H.h. Patrick Ryan
- I.i. CJ Wierenga
- J.j. Douglas Endicott
- K.k. Doug Verellen
- L.l. Whitney Waara
- M.m. Colleen Rocker
- N.n. Arielle Salomon Polzin
- O.o. Ryan Griessmeyer and Mike Skurski
- P.p. Curt Peterson
- Q.q. Maureen McCarthy
- R.r. Ryan Griessmeyer, Becky Chown, and Eric Dreier
- S.s. Douglas Yings

Chown: please add the Meranda Lambert and Julia MacLachlan letters to the consent agenda [attached at end of minutes].

Wunsch moved to approve the consent agenda with a second by Bickle. passed unan

8. Business:

A. Resolution 02-08-22 #1, Update to Peninsula Township's Group Pension Plan (Achorn)

Achorn: an employee is eligible to join the township pension plan on the 91st day of employment. However, enrollment in the contract is only open on April 1 of each year. The proposed resolution states, "The Peninsula Township Personnel Committee proposes to amend the existing 401 (a) plan contract to change

the eligibility to 90 days of employment and the entry date to immediate” on day 91. The clerk is to sign the modification to the contract.

Achorn moved to amend the township’s pension plan contract to begin on the 91st day of employment with no date restriction with a second by Bickle.

Roll call vote: Yes-Wunsch, Achorn, Chown, Manigold, Bickle, Wahl, Sanger passed unan

B. Resolution 02-08-22 #2, In Support of Proposed Pickleball Courts at Bowers Harbor Park (Manigold)

Manigold: the board was approached by a group fundraising to build up to 8 pickleball courts in Bowers Harbor Park. One of the potential grants requires a resolution by the board. Resolution 22-02-08 #2 reads, “Resolved, that the Peninsula Township agrees that up to an eight-court pickleball facility may be located and constructed within Bowers Harbor Park as proposed by Dawn Hemmings and the Traverse Area Pickleball Association, subject to final site plan approval by the township board and securing project financing.” The township or its parks committee shall commit to maintain and/or repair the pickleball court facility once constructed.

Wunsch moved to approve the resolution with a second by Wahl.

Wunsch: asked the assessor to give a dollar value to the parcel of land; this can show the grantor the amount of real estate the township is contributing to the project.

Roll call vote: Yes-Sanger, Wahl, Bickle, Manigold, Chown, Achorn, Wunsch passed unan

C. Public hearing on proposed 2022 Traverse City Triathlon (Deeren)

Deeren: this is for large permit number 202201. This is a new application. The triathlon is under new ownership. Last year, deadlines were missed and there was no race. They have come in early this year for the triathlon to be held August 21, 2022. They will use Bowers Harbor Park and the DNR boat launch. This is a swim, run, bike event. Ryan Griessmeyer of Race Day Events is here to answer any questions.

Ryan Griessmeyer: thanked the board. Believes the event can be held in a safe and fun manner. Race Day Events took over from the former owner, who did four events per year. Race Day does 29 per year and works with more than 300 other events. The company is based in Madison, Wisconsin, and is licensed to do business in Michigan. It has a Michigan address and pays taxes in Michigan. This will be a carbon copy of what residents have seen since the race began in 2014.

Deeren: Race Day did miss the deadline for notifying residents within 300 feet of the event about this meeting and they are willing to postpone this public meeting until next month to make sure everything is done properly.

Griessmeyer: I thought the postcards went out after approval; this is an error on my part. I will come back next month if required.

Manigold: we have three events in the township. We have a pre-meeting with fire, safety, and the event coordinator and then we have a post meeting. If there are any complaints after the event, these are noted. I cannot remember any complaints over the last five years. The resident letters are coming from people who live around the park. Moving the parking to off of Devils Dive helps. Apparently, most of the people who run in this race are in the area.

Manigold closed the town board meeting and opened the public hearing on the TC Triathlon.

Nancy R. Heller, 3091 Bluewater Road: I think this race should be given a chance provided all the requirements of ordinance 52 of 2014 are met. If the event proves not to be favorable, then the township can avoid working with them in the future. The process states the postcards should have been sent to residents 300 feet from the event. The procedures in the ordinance need to be followed.

Eric Drier, 12434 Peninsula Drive: the scale of this event is too large. Approximately 200 people used to do this event and this application is for 900 people. I am recommending a local event, with participants coming from the seven or eight counties in northwest Michigan. I ask you to think how you would feel in making this decision in July instead of today when many of the residents are gone. In July, summer fatigue is at its height and this decision might look different. This event could be held in other places; it does not need to be held in our township. There are places to swim with far less traffic than we have in the month of August. This event comes in one of the last premiere weekends in the summer for those who are not full-time residents and our summer residents, many of whom go back generations and have summer guests themselves. We do not need to have an event with 900 people, which is what the application is asking for. An event smaller in scale puts less strain on our infrastructure, less demand on the parks, and creates far less inconvenience for the people who pay taxes here. Liability is a major concern; the one million dollar insurance policy may not be enough.

Monnie Peters, 1425 Neahtawanta Rd.: this is a great event and it comes right by my house. I have participated in several races along with members of my family. The Bayshore Marathon is a much larger event. This event is held on a Sunday and is over by noon. I do receive the postcards before the event. I am a big supporter.

Curt Peterson, 1356 Buchan: I am a supporter of this sports event and have worked in the past as a volunteer. This is an event not tied to wine, beer, or alcohol. The event is over by noon. I urge your support.

Manigold: closed the public portion of the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and brought the matter back to the board.

Deeren: the application states there will be food; what type of food?

Griessmeyer: snacks that refuel such as bananas, energy bars, water, energy gel.

Sanger: please tell us the number of people you are expecting, your safety protocols, and insurance.

Griessmeyer: in 2019, there were 412 registered participants and 350 actually raced. Our break-even point is 350. We have upfront emergency planning. The liability insurance policy is one million dollars per occurrence up to two million dollars. We have an additional umbrella policy for one million dollars. Your ordinance calls for a one-million-dollar policy.

Chown: Peninsula Township has a one-million-dollar-per-occurrence general liability insurance policy with a five-million-dollar umbrella. We would have to be proven legally liable and found guilty for any of this to kick in.

Manigold: the boat launch is owned by the state of Michigan. The DNR actually encourages these types of events. Much of the money that bought the parks out here is from state and federal funding. The only reason we obtained this money is so everyone can use the parks. Bowers Harbor Park is a high-use park for Little League, soccer, tennis, and pickleball.

Wahl: this is a small event compared to so many others.

Meihn: you have a park [the DNR boat launch at Bowers Harbor] not owned by the township. You have governmental immunity that prevents lawsuits of this nature from generally being brought against the township. Insurance is less of an issue than other concerns raised such as number of people, traffic, infrastructure wear, and noise.

Griessmeyer: each participant pays for some insurance from the USA triathlon governing body.

Board members: discussed toilets, signs at the boat launch, and working with fire and safety in advance.

Chown: the applicant has been very willing to work with the township. For example, the application originally asked to reserve the pavilion at Bowers Harbor Park for two days. Day one was for packet pickup.

Now the packets are going to be picked up in town, so the pavilion will only be needed for the day of the race, and all the traffic that would have come out two days in a row will be reduced to a single day.

Deeren: we will hold a post-race meeting to go over any complaints. There were no complaints in 2019. I plan on being here on race day to help this race be successful.

Wahl moved to approve the large event application by Race Day Events with a second by Wunsch.

Sanger amended the motion to limit the event to 350.

Roll call: Yes-Sanger, Wahl, Bickle, Manigold, Chown, Achorn, Wunsch passed unan

9. Citizen Comments: none

10. Board Comments

Deeren: the township was challenged in court by Acme Pen, LLC over a ZBA variance denial in April 2020. Meihn was in circuit court yesterday and the court upheld the ZBA's decision.

Bickle: February 14, 2022, is the last day to pay winter taxes. The township has 4,513 parcels, and approximately 1,000 parcels remain unpaid. There are some late summer taxes as well. The township keeps the files until the end of February and then the files go to the county, where there may be extra charges.

Chown: thanked all the residents who took the time to call and write about the triathlon, either in support of it or to voice concerns.

11. Adjournment: Sanger moved to adjourn with a second by Wunsch. passed unan

Adjourned 8:02 p.m.