

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City
MI 49686

www.peninsulatownship.com

Township Board Special Meeting

April 7, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Township Conference Room

Minutes

1.

2. **Call to Order** by Manigold at 3:02 p.m.

3. **Pledge**

4. **Roll Call**

Present: Sanger, Bickle, Manigold, Chown, Achorn, Wunsch

Excused Absence: Wahl

5. **Brief Citizen Comments (for agenda items only):**

Nancy Heller, 3091 Blue Water Road: referencing the closed session, has been attending the ag citizens' committee meetings, and there has been a lot of discussion about activities and events. Wants the township board to consider all people – residents, ag, and commercial, not just ag. Think in terms of health, safety, and welfare. What is the impact of an event? The wineries are all in different locations. Think of noise, traffic, parking, dark night sky, number of participants, garbage management, etc.

6. **Approve Agenda**

Wunsch moved to approve the agenda with a second by Bickle. Motion approved by consensus

7. **Conflict of Interest:** none

8. **Consent Agenda:** none

9. **Business:**

A. Resignation of township treasurer/trustee Brad Bickle (Bickle)

Bickle: tendered his resignation and will be stepping down as treasurer with his last day of service being Thursday, April 21, 2022. The primary factor for this decision is that [Bickle] has been a director of a merger & acquisition (M&A) firm since 2014, well before being elected as treasurer in 2016. His primary M&A business and firm is experiencing substantial growth that now will require 100% of his time going forward in his expanding role and responsibilities, so he must step aside from the township to focus on his main business.

Sanger moved to accept the resignation of township treasurer/trustee Brad Bickle with a second by Wunsch.

Roll call vote: passed unan

B. Replacement of township treasurer/trustee Brad Bickle (Manigold)

Manigold: with Brad resigning, would like to appoint Margaret Achorn to succeed him as treasurer and thinks the board is behind this.

Bickle: as most of you know, Marge is the brains of the organization and has done much heavy lifting with the accounting structure in the treasurer's office, where she has displayed exceptional financial acumen. Upon the board appointing Marge today, her tenure as treasurer will begin at 12:01 a.m. on April 22.

Manigold moved to appoint Margaret Achorn to fill out the remainder of his term as treasurer to begin at 12:01 a.m. on April 22, 2022, with a second by Sanger.

Wunsch: is Marge willing?

Achorn: I accept.

Roll call vote: Yes-Sanger, Manigold, Chown, Achorn, Wunsch, (Bickle abstained)

Board discussion on the need to set the treasurer's salary the same as the clerk's and supervisor's.

Sanger: we are establishing parity by setting Marge's salary the same as the clerk's and supervisor's.

Wunsch moved that we set the salary of the treasurer the same as the clerk and supervisor with the change to begin on April 22, 2022, with a second by Sanger.

Roll call vote: Yes-Sanger, Manigold, Chown, Achorn, Wunsch, (Bickle abstained)

Board discussion authorizing the clerk to advertise the position of trustee to be filled 30 days from the date of vacancy.

Jane Boursaw, Old Mission Gazette: for my readers, what is the conflict that is causing you to resign?

Bickle: there is no conflict...I will be glad to discuss with you after the meeting.

Achorn: this is a real positive for his career.

Wunsch: it's a professional appointment not related to any conflicts in Peninsula Township.

Armen Shanafelt: can you please clarify the process for appointing a new trustee?

Achorn: we will post the position and fill it within 30 days.

Wunsch: can we get it on the website and in the Gazette right away?

Manigold: yes. We will interview contenders at the township hall and vote on who to appoint.

C. Enter closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to discuss the winery lawsuit and updates (Meihn)

Sanger moved to enter closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to discuss the winery lawsuit and updates with a second by Chown.

Roll call vote: passed unan

Sanger moved to leave closed session and return to open session pursuant to MCL 15.261 with a second by Chown.

Roll call vote: passed unan

10. Citizen Comments

Curt Peterson, 1356 Buchan Drive: thanked Brad. Is sad to see him go. Hopes his successor follows in his footsteps.

Board discussion. Need to accept resignation of Marge Achorn as trustee at 12:01 a.m. on April 22, 2022.

Sanger moved to accept the resignation of Margaret Achorn as trustee effective 12:01 on April 22, 2022, with a second by Wunsch.

Roll call vote: passed unan

Bickle: clarified that the new treasurer will finish out the remainder of his term, which will end in November of 2024.

Sanger: same for the position of trustee. The new trustee will finish out Marge's term.

Achorn: regarding changing the signatories at the banks, the annual board resolutions simply state "treasurer," not an individual's name, so nothing needs to be done there.

11. Board Comments:

Achorn: I just want to say what a privilege it has been to serve with Brad these past six years and how honored I am to be appointed to fill out his position. I am going to miss him.

12. Adjournment

Bickle moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Wunsch. passed unan

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.