

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City
MI 49686

www.peninsulatownship.com

Township Board Special Meeting

May 9, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Township Hall

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** by Manigold at 2:00 p.m.

2. **Pledge**

3. **Roll Call**

Present: Manigold, Achorn, Sanger, Wunsch, Chown

Absent: Wahl

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

Louis Santucci, 12602 Center Road: it might be too late, but since this person will be in office without the citizens' vote, it would be nice if the public can submit questions to the candidates who are applying to fill the open trustee position.

Manigold: replacing a person after a certain time in office is done according to statute. The town board is allowed to appoint a trustee to fill an open slot if there are fewer than two years remaining in the term, which is the case here. Otherwise, we have to hold a special election. Usually we have two or three candidates. Today we have eight. Later this afternoon we will make a selection, and then the person will be sworn in to fill the term. All the resumes are available on the website.

5. **Approve Agenda**

Sanger moved to approve the agenda with a second by Achorn. Motion approved by consensus

6. **Conflict of Interest:** none

7. **Consent Agenda:** none

8. **Business:**

1. Interview candidates for open trustee position

Manigold: invited Kelly Clark to introduce himself and explain his interest in the position.

Chown: please speak into the microphone so you can be heard when we broadcast.

Kelly Clark, 9882 Center Road: introduced himself and explained his qualifications and interest in serving in the role of trustee.

Manigold: asked Chown to go over the role.

Chown: are you generally pretty flexible in terms of your work schedule?

Clark: yes, being in real estate, my schedule is pretty easy to work around.

Chown: qualifications for trustee are to be 18 or older and an elector of the township. There is quite a bit of homework with large packets to read and absorb. As of late, we have many special meetings that tend to occur during the day.

Wunsch: trustees are subject to FOIA and Open Meetings Act requirements. Coming into this position from a number of private sector rolls, I found you have to roll in and ask what's going on

because if it's not in the packet, you don't really know about it. There is limited ability to prepare outside the meetings. We can't talk as a group outside the meetings because of the laws that protect the transparency of decision making for the residents.

Achorn: have you attended any of the town board or other meetings?

Clark: no.

Sanger: it's common for each of the part-time trustees to serve on other committees in the township. For example, Wunsch is a member of the planning commission. Marge and I have other roles in the township. When Marge was a trustee, she worked in the treasurer's office. I work in the zoning department with the ordinance enforcement activities.

Clark: has served on many boards, including TCAPS, so is familiar with how this works.

Manigold: we're one of 14 townships in Grand Traverse County and probably have the second richest tax base. We are a member/owner of Grand Traverse County Board of Public Works with Garfield, East Bay, Acme, Elmwood, and Peninsula. We own the sewer and water. Have about 17 union employees and a facility in Traverse City. We buy municipal water from the city about out to Wilson Road and are also involved in the sewer and water and septage treatment plant. I usually deal with all that stuff. Many people want to live here and protect it, and it's always a balance. There will be times when you have a friend on each side. We usually meet once a month. We're worth over a billion dollars out here. There's a lot of budgeting and bookkeeping to do.

Wunsch: within the township, what do you think is going well and what do you think needs improvement?

Clark: looking at climate change, this is the place to be over the next 100 years. We're home to 20% of the world's fresh water. Being custodian of that and taking responsibility for that, I'd like to see more in place to protect this resource such as bringing sewer out further. I like the preservation of the green spaces we have so far.

Manigold: invited John Dolton to introduce himself and explain his interest in the position.

John Dolton, 10862 Eagles Landing Drive: introduced himself and explained his qualifications and interest in serving in the role of trustee.

Wunsch: what do you think is going well and what needs improvement?

Dolton: what's going well is that I see a true focus on wanting to understand the needs of the township. For example, updating the master plan and sending out a survey to solicit input from residents. In terms of what could be better, perhaps some process improvements. The zoning ordinance rewrite took eight to ten years. At times I think some of those things could be improved. But the township has a commitment to doing things well, and that takes time.

Sanger: is pleased that Dolton stepped forward. Has known him for a long time and supported his appointment to the ZBA.

Achorn: are you available during the day?

Dolton: yes. I enjoy serving on boards for the township and I have the time.

Chown: thank you for serving on the ZBA.

Manigold: invited Christopher John Pozios to introduce himself and explain his interest in the position.

Christopher John Pozios, 9421 Center Road: introduced himself and explained his qualifications and interest in serving in the role of trustee.

Chown: have you attended of our township board meetings or committee meetings? You've lived here how long?

Pozios: no. Moved here in December.

Achorn: how flexible are you?

Pozios: I'm very available.

Achorn: are you still operating in Naples?

Pozios: Yes, but I no longer travel for work or make trips to Florida.

Manigold: invited Armen Shanafelt to introduce himself and explain his interest in the position.

Armen Shanafelt, 7402 East Shore Road: introduced himself and explained his qualifications and interest in serving in the role of trustee.

Chown: serves on the parks committee with Armen and sees him at virtually every meeting. He has done his homework and knows what's going on in the township across these many different boards.

Shanafelt: I kind of know but from the outside. Some themes do emerge.

Chown: can you speak to your interest in analyzing the kind of government that we serve under and where you think that could lead?

Shanafelt: we're in a period of chaos that's probably been growing for a decade and that is perhaps culminating. Not sure the simple township structure we have is suitable for the complexity we face. Would like to dig a little deeper into what form of government would be appropriate to serve the township and community as a whole. How do we as a township access part of the tax base we collect? What we collect now is not enough to run the township so I'd like us to get out of that system. As a member of a parks committee, we are pulling our hair out to find double digit dollars to do things. There's got to be a better way. Traverse City gets a lot of things done. How are they able to do that? Want to dive in, sort it all out, and do it strategically.

Sanger: this is a two-year assignment and you hope to engage the community. What would your plan be for the next two years to carry out some of these ideas?

Shanafelt: minimally, before an issue becomes too large to deal with, establish means of communication to address questions and problems. Treasurer Bickle, before he left, commented that no one ever calls. Perhaps we could hold open office hours. Let the community know and be proactive about that outreach.

Manigold: many impressive people signed a note on your behalf. Invited Mike Skurski to introduce himself and explain his interest in the position.

Chown: called Skurski on the phone as he is out sick.

Mike Skurski (over the phone): introduced himself and explained his qualifications and interest in serving in the role of trustee.

Wunsch: what do you think is going well in the township and what needs improvement?

Skurski: what's going well is that there's a structure in place for receiving input from the community. For example, look at the letters coming in on Bluff Road and the old 81 [Peninsula Shores] development. Look at the open meetings we had on WOMP. The open houses and input on the parks. This is a big positive. Could improve clarity on the township's financial situation. How is the tax base growing, what money is coming in for various programs, and so on. The Tower Fund, for example. More clarity would help us make a lot of decisions.

Achorn: how flexible are you on timing for special meetings, and do you go away for long periods?

Skurski: do not have a winter home but do go away for a month or so in the winter. Once you know the schedule, you can plan around it.

Achorn: are you still actively working or could you come to meetings during the day?

Skurski: does some consulting but is generally available.

Sanger: this is a two-year commitment. What do you hope to accomplish in that time?

Skurski: trying to fully understand the issues before the board such as WOMP. Would like to see standardization in decision making between the town board and planning commission, for

example. We don't currently have a stringent and transparent process that we utilize for making decisions.

Manigold: invited John Snow to introduce himself and explain his interest in the position.

John Snow: introduced himself and explained his qualifications and interest in serving in the role of trustee. What are we doing right? The planning that the board has done in trying to retain the agricultural feel and open ambience here on the peninsula. It's a delicate balance, and the board has done a very good job with that. Is quite familiar with the park commission. Our parks are enviable. Problem we've had with grants is that they look at how prosperous the community is. State grants go to communities with no money, so we don't score well. Our geography is also a problem – we aren't adjacent to other communities. Pursuing money through private funding rather than grant applications might be more productive. Has attended more township board meetings than he can remember.

Manigold: invited Jeremiah Warren to introduce himself and explain his interest in the position.

Jeremiah Warren: introduced himself and explained his qualifications and interest in serving in the role of trustee. Likes how the emergency services are going but feels everything else could use improvement.

Chown: how flexible is your schedule?

Warren: pretty flexible, like Wunsch and Manigold. Would like the opportunity to represent the ag community on the board.

Manigold: commended him, a young farmer, for stepping up.

Warren: would like to make things better for the ag community out here so his kids see ag as a viable profession and stay on the peninsula to farm as the sixth generation.

Manigold: invited John Washburn to introduce himself and explain his interest in the position.

John Washburn: introduced himself and explained his qualifications and interest in serving in the role of trustee.

Wunsch: what do you think is going well and what needs improvement?

Washburn: many things have gone well but have gone too slow in many cases. Feels Christina, zoning director, needs more help than she's getting. There is lots of paperwork and permits and lots of violations that need to be corrected, especially roadside signs all over the place. The process takes too much time. Thinks it could be standardized a bit better.

Achorn: how flexible are you?

Washburn: very flexible. I'm in charge of my time.

Chown: and you're here year round?

Washburn: yes.

Manigold: we have a really good group of people here today. Hopes everyone stays committed. We can only select one at this time. In two years, if you wish to run, that's an option. Seems we always need people for the planning commission or ZBA, so if you aren't selected today, please keep trying. The supervisor makes a selection, and if there's a second, a roll call vote will occur. If there is no second, it goes back to the board. Selects John Dolton for the position of trustee. Is there support? There is no support so the matter goes back to the board.

Achorn moved to appoint Armen Shanafelt to the position of trustee with a second by Sanger.

Roll call vote: Yes – Achorn, Sanger, Wunsch, Chown, Manigold passed unan

Manigold: thanked everyone again and urged them to stay active and involved.

Chown: clarified that she is a huge supporter of John Dolton.

Achorn: seconded that and commended his work on the ZBA, where he is greatly needed.

Chown: positions will be open down the road as things evolve. Please apply again.

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Becky Chown, Recording Secretary

Wunsch: you didn't make it easy for us.

Sanger: complimented everyone for the quality of their submissions.

Achorn: I do have an open door. If you have questions, please come in. Please don't give up and do continue to participate in this peninsula.

9. Citizen Comments:

Louis Santucci, 12602 Center Road: asked the township board to address the ramifications if the township loses the WOMP lawsuit and has to pay 200 million dollars to the plaintiffs. Will the residents have to pay if the township can't?

10. Board Comments:

Manigold: thanked everyone again for applying and urged them to come in.

11. Adjournment

**Wunsch moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Sanger. Motion approved
by consensus.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Jordan Valdimanis
16330 Peninsula Drive

Jerimiah Waveren → Trustee

Lots of qualified candidates with a wide range of backgrounds, but feel as though Jerimiah truly represents the best interest of the township as a whole rather than any specific agenda

Involved in a positive way throughout the community through Omps and the Library

Experienced & adjusted to changes and growth of the township over decades ~~when ~~was ~~not~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~community~~~~~~ in not only farming but the community as a whole