

# PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City MI 49686

[www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com)

**Township Board Special Meeting Minutes**

**Township Conference Room**

**May 16, 2019, 4:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** at 4:00 p.m. by Supervisor Manigold
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call:** Manigold, Sanger, Achorn, Bickle, Chown  
**Absent:** Wunsch and Wahl
4. **Brief Citizen Comments:**

**David Taft, 952 Neahtawanta Rd.:** commended the board for turning the re-write of the outdated junk ordinance over to a volunteer committee. Reminded the board that a completely new board was elected in 2016 for better governance and transparency. Spoke about the meeting that occurred on May 14 and the number of items that were referenced by Mr. Meihn including approving the resolution regarding the best practices for minutes. The policy conforms to the Open Meetings Act and follows the compliance of MCL 25,261 which states that the recording secretary needs to only transcribe the actions taken with few exceptions. PC and ZBA minutes do outline more details that are helpful to non-attendees and helpful when FOIA information is requested. If patrons are reminded that they are being recorded prior to a meeting, this could be helpful in limiting emotional outbursts. Overall, suggested the board be more transparent, allowing for more detailed minutes, and the re-activation of StreamSpot, as under the attorney's guidance believes the board is becoming less transparent. Noted that he is not elected but board members are. Minutes are so brief now that residents do not get the tone of the meeting. Many residents rely on these minutes and it would be good to keep them as a historical record.

Open dialogue regarding StreamSpot and the technical difficulties the township is having with the system.

**Harold David Edmondson, 12414 Center Rd.:** concurred with Mr. Taft. Wanted clarification on item number one of the consent agenda regarding the contract with Gordon Hayward and the special projects he will undertake as defined by the supervisor. Wants to know what the special projects are.

**Manigold:** whatever comes up. Right now he is going through the documents on the 81 development. We have boxes and boxes of duplicate information. He will condense these in the file. He will not be working eight hours every week; he will work on an on-call basis. There is a development coming up on the old Kroupa property and he will assist in organizing that information. This document it states he can work up to eight hours; in the event that we have

another lawsuit and we need him more, then we would extend this time after board approval. Not more than thirty hours in the year is anticipated at this time.

**Edmondson:** would appreciate having the whole board involved in this decision as what is talked about in the document is vague.

**5. Approve Agenda**

**Moved by Bickle to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Chown.**

**Passed unan**

**6. Conflict of Interest:** none

**7. Consent Agenda:** any member of the board, staff, or the public may ask that any item on the consent agenda be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion.

1. Contract with Gordon Hayward for part-time work on special projects as defined by the township supervisor

2. Authorize supervisor to negotiate with DTE for natural gas on township properties (recommend approval)

**Manigold:** they will be running a line to Center Rd. and down to Old Mission and Bluff. For one fee we could have both of the buildings. Then we would want the fire station and Dougherty House.

**Nancy R. Heller, 3901 Blue Water Rd.:** attended the public meeting on DTE. If you signed up at that time it was a free hookup, so you may want to ask them why they are charging the township.

**Moved by Bickle to approve as presented, seconded by Sanger.**

**Roll call:**

**Passed unan**

**8. Business**

**1. Receipt of investigative report and discussion (action to be taken)**

**Manigold:** this is no longer an agenda item as it has come to our attention that Monnie Peters has submitted her resignation just a few minutes prior to this meeting as chair of the planning commission. Thanked Monnie for all of her work on the planning commission, zoning re-write, and her support to the township government.

**Moved by Bickle to accept Monnie Peters' resignation, seconded by Chown.**

**Roll call:**

**Passed unan**

**2. Status of steering committee (action to be taken)**

**Manigold:** would like to authorize the planner to conduct a re-vote of the township board and planning commission members as there was a glitch in the original vote. Would like votes to be re-submitted by Monday, May 20, 2019. The top seven individuals will serve on the committee unless there is a tie vote, and then we will increase this to an eight-member committee. Then they can begin reviewing the master plan and survey.

**Moved by Bickle to authorize the planner to conduct a re-vote of township board and planning commission members as there was a glitch in the original vote. Would like for votes to be re-submitted by Monday, May 20, 2019. The top seven individuals will serve on the committee unless there is a tie vote, and then we will increase this to an eight-member committee so they can begin reviewing the master plan and survey, seconded by Sanger.**

**Passed unan**

**9. Citizen Comments:**

**Mary Swift, 13956 Peninsula Dr.:** would like clarification on what was just said. If the planner is authorized to conduct a re-vote by both the planning commission members and town board members, she requests to remove her name removed from consideration of the steering committee.

**Manigold:** your name will be removed.

**Swift:** stated that the information provided in the FOIA request in regards to the planning commission chair does not warrant the planning commission members voting as she feels this is a flawed process. If the planning commission members are afforded the ability to vote the steering committee members, the outcome will remain flawed.

**Nancy R. Heller, 3901 Blue Water Rd.:** requested that the planner notify all applicants of the results of the votes.

**Curt Peterson, 1356 Buchan Dr.:** stated that Monnie Peters was one of the best planning commissioners to serve in a long time and that he feels saddened by her resignation. Regardless of whether he was one of the people who was talked about as not receiving votes, he would not have pursued anything against her.

**Rick Shaffer, 999 Beautiful Shores:** wanted to know what led to Monnie's resignation and the circumstances of the investigation.

**Meihn:** informed the board that the question should be directed to Monnie.

**Harold David Edmondson, 12414 Center Rd.:** concurred with the statements made regarding losing a valuable person who has dedicated a lot of time to the re-write. Has heard comments and does not want to put anyone on the spot but feels it is unfortunate as we are losing another valuable person who has been loyal and objective to both sides and we don't have that commitment from all the people on the boards. Said this is a special person and it appears that she is getting pushed out.

**Cindy Ruzak, 1994 Carol Rd.:** said there are many aspects to what was discovered about an hour ago but she is unaware of what has been going on in regard to the investigation. Said Monnie cared a lot but that she (Ruzak) herself has been the recipient of back dealings and that Monnie referred issues to committees and that might be part of the issue of things never getting done. Stated that she understands that a voting process needs to be done but that voting by itself does become a popularity-biased process. Questioned if there was a different process by which a

selection could be made. Said that people like her who are involved in the community are slanted against being selected through a voting process. Conducting the survey might provide the board with information but it does not make the decisions; that could become a delay in the process of getting matters accomplished.

**10. Board Comments:**

**Manigold:** said we will all miss Monnie but that he disagrees with the way this was voted on. The new votes might not even change but involving both the planning commission and township board is the correct way to continue. Encouraged everyone to attend the steering committee meetings as this is a working committee and the audience participants will have just as much say as the committee members.

**11. Adjournment:**

**Moved by Sanger to adjourn, seconded by Achorn.**

**Passed unan**

Final adjournment: 4:21 p.m.