



PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City MI 49686

www.peninsulatownship.com

**Township Board Special Meeting
Township Conference Room
September 25, 2019, 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** by Supervisor Manigold at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call:** Manigold, Bickle, Achorn, Sanger, Wunsch, and Chown
Absent: Wahl
4. **Brief Citizen Comments (for agenda items only):** None
5. **Approve Agenda**
Moved by Bickle to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Wunsch.
Pass unam
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. Invoices (recommend approval)
 2. Request to add John Baker to the Peninsula Township Fire Department's part-time staff
Moved by Wunsch to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Bickle.
Roll call:
Pass unam
8. **Business:** None
9. **Citizen Comments**

Nancy Heller, 3091 Blue Water Rd.: When will Networks Northwest meet next with the blight/junk committee?

Mielnik: They met with Randy Hall, Christina, and myself to get a contract agreement signed. Thought the contract would be submitted to him but he has not yet received it. Went over the scope of the work to be performed so that we are all in agreement. The two meetings were outlined in the scope of work, and we met Jonathan, who has experience elsewhere.

Heller: Will the committee get a copy of the scope that you have?

Mielnik: They already did as they were all sent one early in the process.

Heller: It hasn't changed from that original scope that was distributed?

Mielnik: That proposal was back in July.
10. **Board Comments:**

Sanger: Would like to have a further discussion on all the items the board has going on and would be interested in seeing a timetable for a six- to nine-month schedule of these issues, including the master plan and zoning ordinance. Would like to have guidelines so these items stay on track. The blight ordinance and fireworks ordinances are out of sync with state laws along with issues in the park ordinance and in the employee handbook.

Manigold: That is what these comments are for, to address these issues. Greg [Meihn] has informed us that he has spent at least 70 hours on the zoning ordinance because the state it was in was not enforceable. He thought he would have all of this addressed in the next week or so.

Mielnik: We have been emailing and he does want to get together to go over this, which would include some of the winery matters as well.

Manigold: Along with the park.

Mielnik: It is not just the zoning rewrite; it is also the other zoning issues that have come up with the winery ordinance.

Manigold: He has a team of four who work with him, and we had to put the brakes on the winery issues because the laws have changed so much that we have unenforceable and legal issues; he is completing a legal review to make sure we are in compliance. I believe he is done with the handbook but is waiting to have a meeting with the committee members.

Achorn: He did contact me and ask me about Thursday, but he never responded back.

Sanger: I was just thinking of doing something more for the public in that we state, for example, that our target date for completion is February. This would just be a way to stay focused as we can get derailed. We do know that we have some issues with the ordinances such as the Right to Farm.

Manigold: A lot of these issues have been brought to life, and then when he reviewed the ordinance, he found problems with it.

Mielnik: Specifically with the wineries.

Manigold: We sent out a questionnaire to the wineries and then their attorney responded and then Greg responded back to what we received.

Mielnik: There are at least a dozen issues that need to be resolved.

Manigold: This is just another step, like the short-term rentals, where Lansing is taking over local control.

Bickle: I like what you are saying, to have an overview of our different projects and where we are with these items. Who would develop it and who would maintain it and who would keep it published? That will be the key.

Sanger: It would be helpful to the board and public to help them understand why sometimes we are unable to go as fast on projects as they feel we should be going. Christina and I have had a number of issues on blight and these complaints are coming from the citizens who are impacted near it. So if the citizens are aware that this is on our horizon and we can tell them this will be completed at a date certain, then that would be sufficient.

Achorn: Asked if Mielnik has a program that could be used to drop these items into a list.

Mielnik: Yes, and would share the data.

Bickle: We do have residents who ask where we are and perhaps they are not aware of all the different projects we are juggling at one time.

Manigold: We may want to consider getting back to holding a study session one day a month where no decisions are made but we discuss topics. I am going to propose doing this for our project with the fire station. We all have a vision of what will happen with that new station.

Mielnik: It is not uncommon to have a work session.

Bickle: I felt that they were useful when we were doing them, so if Rob wants to establish this with the clerk, then we will comply as there are a lot of things that are pertinent.

Sanger: Not for making decisions but only for discussion; we do need to be careful not to micromanage as that is not the intent.

Chown: Would you be willing to write up a list?

Sanger: Yes, in the zoning and planning areas. Not up to speed in the treasury and clerk's office; we could all add to the list.

Board mutually agreed to create a list of topics to be addressed and resolved with an outline of priorities and dates.

Mielnik The survey is ready and phone calls will start as early as next week.

Ahorn: Questioned if the board is responsible for approving the content [of the survey] before the calls begin.

Mielnik The board can have that approval if desired; an email went out asking for comments.

Manigold: Let's get moving on it.

Mielnik Does not believe there is a statutory requirement that the survey be approved by the board prior to execution of the calls.

Bickle: As a board, we already approved the whole project along with the budget, but understands Marge's concerns about this being procedural.

Manigold: Committee members stated that they have a date on the handbook and would like this to happen within the next couple of weeks.

Ahorn: The three members have not met to discuss the benefits portion of the handbook.

Sanger: We are still waiting for the legal final draft.

Ahorn: We got started on the first few pages but that was it.

Sanger: We have not gotten a final from Greg as of yet.

Ahorn: He gave us his working draft. We have to do our part, but he doesn't know about certain things such as vacation days and holidays; he's only done the legal part.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Wunsch to adjourn, seconded by Bickle.

Pass unam

Adjournment: 9:19 a.m.