



PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City
MI 49686

www.peninsulatownship.com

**Township Board Special Meeting
September 27, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

Township Hall Minutes

1. **Call to Order** by Wunsch at 10:09
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call**

Present: Wunsch, Achorn, Sanger, Chown
Excused absence: Wahl, Rudolph, Shanafelt

4. **Citizen Comments:** none

5. **Approve Agenda**

Sanger moved to approve agenda with a second by Chown. **Motion approved by consensus**

6. **Conflict of Interest:** none

7. **Consent Agenda:** none

8. **Business**

A. Approval of the L-4029 (not 4027; corrected by Achorn) millage rates (Achorn)

Achorn: This is the 2022 millage rate we submit to the county for general operations. The December 1 levy will be .6151. The PDR millage rate per the August 2, 2022 election will be 2.00 mills. This millage will expire on Dec. 2041. The fire millage will be 2.6 and was approved in March with the budget.

Sanger: I'd like to ask a couple of questions. One mill was adopted in 1974. The Headlee Amendment reduces the collection from one mill to .6151 mills. Does the township have options to not approve this reduction that has been taking place each year? It looks to be about a two percent reduction for this year?

Achorn: not that I've been told except for perhaps increasing it back to the one mill. We've lost almost half the millage.

Board discussion.

Wunsch: we are in position to capture more assessed value when properties transact due to a change in ownership. Personnel costs are increasing more than the value of inflation right now. We're seeing this in the fire department today. The complexity of the township is changing. The .6151 millage is probably inadequate for us to do what we need to do.

Sanger: the idea 30 years ago was to keep taxes down, but it's ironic that we're supposed to get by each year with less and less. It isn't enough to cover the essential services we

need to provide in an ever more complex township.

Chown: such as the growing needs at our parks.

Sanger: exactly. We struggle to find money to improve our parks. We're supposed to get by each year with less and less. It doesn't work.

Achorn: it's why we're considering possibly changing the form of township to a charter township.

Sanger: we are hindered in providing good services to our citizens.

Achorn: it is a major problem.

Board discussion.

Achorn: we must quickly study the possibility of changing our form of government.

Chown: yes, and we will need to have many conversations about this so that our residents understand why changing to a different form of township government would be beneficial.

Sanger: it would be good in my view to get the planning commission and legal counsel thinking about this. I agree; this cannot be a surprise to the voters and citizens. We need to let them know why this is attractive to the township.

Achorn moved to request approval of the L-4029 millage rates and to place them on the tax rolls for the winter tax collection with support from Sanger.

Roll call vote: Yes – Achorn, Sanger, Chown, Wunsch

Passed unan

9. Citizen Comments: none

10. Board Comments

Chown: we are cancelling the November 8, 2022, regular township board meeting. Both Susan and I missed the fact that we have an election that day when we put together the meeting dates for the year. We will reschedule that meeting for November 1, 2022.

11. Adjournment

Sanger moved to adjourn with a second by Achorn. Motion approved by consensus

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.