

**PUTNAM TOWNSHIP**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**PUTNAM TOWNSHIP HALL, 3280 W. M-36, PINCKNEY, MI**  
**MAY 18, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM with Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Rau.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Rau, Guyon, McCloskey, Chambers, Klein and Dobis

Absent: Carney

Others Present: Fire Chief Greg Amburgey; Tom Lewis, Zoning Administrator; Damien Wetzel, Township Engineering Consultant; Carrie Humble, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Opened at 7:02 PM.

Two people expressed concerns with the proposed Draft Budget.

Closed at 7:04 PM.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Klein and supported by Dobis to approve the agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Dobis and supported by Klein to approve the consent agenda with the following item removed for discussion and/or approval. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**

1. Police Report: Trustee Dobis questioned the police presence at township meetings. Officer Ryan Vorhies introduced himself as the township officer and stated he attends for a short period of time to gain information on community issues. Sergeant Michael Danski also introduced himself as a representative for the Sherriff's Department who attends township meetings at the request of the Sherriff at no charge for several communities.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Village Cemetery Committee: Linda VanBLaircum presented an overview of how the Village Cemetery is currently operated as self funding with reduced burials resulting in reduced funding for maintenance. Presented statistics on burials showing that 45% of grave site sales for the past 5 years were to or for township residents. Proposing that a one time township and village wide millage of .5 mills be brought to the voters to fund future perpetual care for both the Village and Township cemeteries.

2. Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS): John Waugh representative for MERS presented an overview of the company; costs and options associated with a proposed defined contribution plan and answered board questions.

**COMMITTEES**

1. Lakeland Trail Committee: Trustee Klein- 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge West of Cedar Lake Rd needs repairs. Gave an update on the delay of construction due to historical preservation issues, stated that current grant can't be carried over until spring and applying for additional grant is not possible so are now in the process of reapplying for both grants as one grant with the assurance that the federal grant monies will still be available. Feels this will provide a better product at possibly less expense.

2. Township Square Maintenance Committee: Report given at 6PM Workshop meeting.
3. Fire hall Construction Committee: Awaiting contracts for signing; moved 24 trees; ground breaking 5/24/11 at 6PM; open house will be held upon completion of construction.

PUBLIC HEARING: HOME BASED BUSINESS APPLICATION FOR LAKE FRONT SERVICES, LLC, OWNER DAVID MORTENSEN

**A motion was made by Rau and supported by Dobis to Open the Public Hearing at 8:01 PM. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**

Diane Solecki, 1887 E. M-36 spoke in support of business, felt signs were tasteful and questioned how many boats would be stored there in the future as recently nine were stored there.

**A motion was made by Rau and supported by Chambers to Close the Public Hearing at 8:02 PM. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**

**A motion was made by Rau and supported by Chambers to allow approval of the Home Based Business permit while recognizing the property does not meet the lot size exemption requirements for Lake Front Services, LLC, 1844 East M-36, #4714-24-400-030, owned by David Mortensen, expiring 5/18/12. MOTION CARRIED, 5-1.**

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2010-2011 Amendment to General Fund Budget: **A motion was made by Rau and supported by Klein to approve amending the 2010-2011 General Fund budget as presented. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Rau, Guyon, Dobis, Chambers, Klein and McCloskey. Nays: None. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**
2. Charter Cable Legal Opinion: Township Attorney reviewed the contract between the Township and Charter Cable and concluded that under the Michigan Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act, MCL 484.3301, Sec. 3 (8) the Township cannot require Charter to build-out to provide cable service to every household in the township. Additionally the attorney noted that Public Act 188 of 1954, MCL 41.721 *et seq.*, which authorizes townships to defray the costs of certain types of improvements through special assessments, does not list cable service as a recognized "improvement" that would allow for a special assessment. MCL 41.722. The attorney is not aware of any statute that would authorize the Township to impose a special assessment to fund a cable service build-out.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Run thru Hell Outdoor Assembly: **A motion was made by Dobis and supported by Chambers to approve the Run thru Hell on 8/13/11 at Hell Creek Ranch. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**
2. Run Woodstock Outdoor Assembly: **A motion was made by Klein and supported by Dobis to approve Run Woodstock from 9/9-9/11/11 at Hell Creek Ranch. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**
3. Signs for Sprout & Gilkes Cemeteries: **A motion was made by Chambers and supported by Guyon to approve purchasing 2 signs from Signs by Tomorrow in the amount of \$2,938 from the Capital Improvement Fund, to be installed by the Township at Sprout & Gilkes cemeteries. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Rau, Guyon, Dobis, Chambers, Klein and McCloskey. Nays: None. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**
4. Wetland Review Appointment: **A motion was made by Rau and supported by Klein to re-appoint Patti Nicholson to the Wetland Review Board for an additional term, expiring 4/2013. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**
5. Submittal of New Job Description for Senior Director to Township Board Designee: **A motion was made by McCloskey and supported by Klein to approve the new job description for the Senior Director as presented. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**

6. Township Board Meeting Brochure: An informational Township Board Meeting brochure was presented to the Board Members for viewing and input.
7. MTA Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Fund: Ryan Timiney presented information about the company and fund. **A motion was made by Guyon and supported by McCloskey to contract with MTA Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Fund and to pay the 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly premium in the amount of \$2,409.57 and to cancel the current policy with Accident Fund. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Rau, Guyon, Dobis, Chambers, Klein and McCloskey. Nays: None. MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**
8. Tornado Siren Update: Chief Amburgey informed the Board that the Fire Department is in the process of renewing their radio license.

#### SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Jerry Balk spoke of his frustration with the Board regarding the consideration of raises and pensions and the Home Based Business approval. He resigned from the Planning Commission effective 5/18/11.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.**

Carrie Humble  
Deputy Clerk  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:  
Sally D. Guyon, CMC  
Putnam Township Clerk