

**MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP**

*William Seppanen, Supervisor*  
*Neil Hanson, Clerk*  
*Nicole Haskett, Treasurer*

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*Julia Anderson-Leake, Trustee*  
*Donald DeRoche, Trustee*

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**SPECIAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**JANUARY 26, 2021**

**Immediately Following the Public Hearing held at 5:00 PM**

**VIA ZOOM – Meeting ID 571 416 4947**

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: On site: William Seppanen, Donald DeRoche

Via Zoom Off-site: Nicole Haskett, Julia Anderson-Leake

Via phone Off-site: Neil Hanson

Public: Debbie Kinnunen, Ruth Starr, Robert Saxwold, Beth Koenig, Irene DeRoche, Janice Anderson, Lisa Sarvello, Rhonda and Scott Gravedoni, John and Rose McBride, Robert DellAngelo, Jean Howe, Roberta Frisk, Kay Frisk, Larry Frisk, Rhonda Boshears, Whitney Saunders, Jerry Roach

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Seppanen called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm.
- II. ROLL CALL - Seppanen, DeRoche, Anderson-Leake, Haskett, and Hanson are in attendance. There is a quorum.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Recited
- IV. AGENDA – Anderson-Leake moved to approve the agenda with Haskett seconding. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. Agenda approved.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) – Public comments were provided by Roberta Frisk, Rhonda Gravedoni, Irene DeRoche, Whitney Saunders, Larry Frisk, Jean Howe, William Seppanen read Jean Howe and Roberta Frisk letter, Roberta Frisk, and Kay Frisk.
- VI. BOARD COMMENT – Anderson-Leake sometimes a new Board must deal with issues that were not handled in a legal fashion previously. She added that the 2019 Recreation Plan was a draft that was not finished. The last Recreation Plan was completed in June 2015 and that Plan is the one that is being updated currently. DeRoche stated that the little piece of property is used by the Township residents and should be added to the Recreation Plan even if it is a road right of way. Seppanen stated some of the history of the land use. Haskett thanked the Board members and others that helped her understand the background of current issues expressed and those that are helping learn her new role.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS:
  - 1. DISCUSSION AND DECISION OF MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP 5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN 2021-2026 – Seppanen stated that the Township now uses porta potties since the vault toilets are obsolete (listed on page 7) at the beach and wondered if that should be noted in the Plan. Seppanen asked Jan Anderson to comment on this question. Jan Anderson stated that unless the porta potties are going to be the long-term plan maybe leave it as stated. Anderson- Leake stated that the DDA is working with the Township on signage and a lot of the items listed in the Recreation Plan are already in the talking stage with the Township Board, Planning Commission and DDA. She called the Marquette County Road Commission (MCRC) to clarify that the MCRC agreed to be listed on the Recreation Plan as the requested amendment stated in Mrs. Irene DeRoche’s letter. She spoke to Mr. Iwanicki who stated that the MCRC never agreed to this request and doesn’t know why the people would think that they supported that. The MCRC’s attorney letter stated that the Township should move the Gazebo since it is located on the road right of way. Anderson-Leake was concerned about the legality of adding a MCRC property to the Plan perhaps making the Plan not acceptable by the State of Michigan. She added she thought it best to leave it off the Plan at this time to expedite the Plan being uploaded on the State’s site by the February 1 deadline. DeRoche asked why we are down to the last minute on the Recreation Plan when the

Township knew when this was due. Robert DellAngelo stated reasons why the completion of Recreation Plan was delayed, including the COVID-19 restrictions impacting planning meetings. He asked the State if the deadline could be moved back due to the COVID-19 restrictions and the State declined that request. He added if the Recreation Plan is delayed, the Township would not be able to apply for grants for another year. DeRoche stated that he thinks the Township should delay approval for another year. Haskett stated that as the Treasurer concern for funds coming into the Township is part of her role and the Township should not delay the possibility of receiving grants for another year when the matter of approving the completed Plan can be accomplished tonight. She added that this small piece of property would not make a difference in the overall Recreation Plan as far as possible grant approval.

2. RESOLUTION – R-2021-01-26-#1 - Seppanen read the resolution and moved to adopt the Michigamme Township Recreation Plan as presented with Haskett seconding the motion. Roll call: Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Hanson, Aye, Seppanen, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Resolution adopted.
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) – Public comments were provided by Jean Howe, Whitney Saunders, Irene DeRoche, Rose McBride, and Kay Frisk.
- IX. BOARD COMMENT – DeRoche stated that he hopes the community can come together and that the Township can receive grants. He feels the Township needs to be more transparent. Anderson-Leake stated that by speaking about the past she didn't mean the past people but the past decisions, her family has been on the same property in the Township for 105 years. She feels that the people that lived here longer and new residents all matter and can work together to make the community better. The sesquicentennial is approaching this year and the Township will need the great volunteers it already has to provide a celebration. Seppanen stated he moved back to the Township because he loves it here. He ran for a second term because the Township spent resources to train him and to give back that knowledge to the Township. Seppanen stated that the budget workshops will be held the first three Wednesdays in February at 9:00 am and the scoring meeting for the Capital Improvement Plan with the Planning Commission and the Board will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Input from the public is welcome. The meetings will be via Zoom subject to change depending on COVID restrictions. The Township must abide by the COVID restrictions imposed at that time.
- X. ADJOURNMENT – Seppanen moved to adjourn the meeting with DeRoche seconding. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.