



Beaver Island
Michigan

Supervisor's Lens

Notes to Township Board Members from Supervisor Kathleen McNamara

SEPTEMBER 2021

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 7

SJTGC = St James
Township
Governmental
Center
SJTH = St James
Township Hall
PTH = Peaine
Township Hall



Tuesday
September 7 @
6:00PM @ SJTH

**Planning
Commission
Meeting**



Wednesday
September 1@
5:30PM @ SJTH
**Regular Board
Meeting**

**St James
Township
Board**

THE JULY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

Finance

*I will send the monthly finance report early next week as we have rescheduled our finance committee meeting to August 31. The clerk will send the monthly **Standard Budget Report** which shows adopted budget revenue and expenditure categories compared to what has been received and spent each month. She will also forward a copy of the bills for payment – please contact her if you have questions about the bills. I am reviewing the GF budget and will have some suggestions for amendment to share with the board on September 1st. Also, the audit is completed, so that will likely be shared with the entire board in the upcoming weeks.*

Public Works Committee

Solar Energy Committee heard from long-time summer visitor Dan VandenHeede, a municipal solar development consultant. He spoke about a few options that would be available to the island if the community was interested in implementing a solar energy project. He was provided with information about a recent PHD Paper: Beaver Island and a Renewable Energy Future; the paper (executive summary attached) was prepared by MSU student Sara Millies-Luckeh on behalf of the Beaver Island Sustainability Fair (BISF). The paper lays out a Clean Energy Plan for the Island.

Road safety This item was directed to the committee by the board. The idea was initiate a road safety/efficiency study for the township, primarily the harbor village area. McNamara reached out to Bobbi Welke (island resident & former MDOT employee) for input and Bobbi found some MDOT programs that would be valuable: (https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9615_11261_45212---,00.html) McNamara reached out to the program director and to the County Road Commission to discuss which program(s) would be best suited for the township. Consensus of the Committee is to begin with a Local Safety Initiative which may lead to a Road Safety Audit and finally a Road Safety Plan. McNamara to follow up with MDOT to initiate process and also to see if we can get someone to take some drone footage of the traffic around the harbor yet this summer.

Harborview Park Update McNamara presented the Quote Tabulation for the Harborview Park Restroom Upgrade including a water conditioner, water heater, slogs, slob sink and new drinking fountain. There was just one quote received and the recommendation (confirmed by committee JM motion, PC 2nd, all in favor) is to accept the bid of \$11,925.00 from Robert's John Service. Funding from the County Parks Millage and the general fund will be used on this project. Work is scheduled

Wednesday
September 8 @
5:30PM @ SJTH
Public Hearing
Font Lake No
Wake



Tuesday
September 14 @
Noon @ BITA **BI**
Transportation
Authority Meeting



Wednesday
September 15 @
11:00AM @ SJTGC
Public Works
Committee

PWC

Thursday
September 16 @
4:30PM @ BI
Community Center
Telecommunications
Committee



to begin after Labor Day 2021 and to be completed no later than October 31, 2021 or facility winter shutdown whichever comes first.

Campground Improvement Project McNamara reported that work is finally getting underway at the campground and is expected to be completed by the end of September 2021. McDonough Construction is the contractor on the project.

Township Storage Space Consensus of the committee is that they like the idea of using the space in the newly acquired pole barn at the north marina for storage – possibly for storage for non-profit organizations on the island as well as for township storage. More discussion is needed to consider all aspects of potential use and access to the building.

BIHS and Possible Fishing Pier The Beaver Island Historical Society is working on a plan to reinforce, by use of a seawall, the harbor land on which the Marine Museum sits. The plan, with some modest improvements could include a location for a shoreline, or small dock, fishing area. Consensus of the committee is to work with BIHS to see if it is feasible and/or desirable for the township to partner with BIHS in this endeavor. Access to a shoreline fishing location on the harbor has long been identified as a community need.

Beaver Island Telecommunications Committee

The **Pools of Service Project** is underway with all anchor institutions (no county involvement) signing their respective contracts. BICS is acting as the fiscal agent for this project and they will bill the member organizations for their portions of the funding. It is expected this will be completed within the next two months.

The **NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program** grant application has been submitted on behalf of both townships and our partner Great Lakes Energy/Trustream: “This grant request asks for \$13,983,165 from the NTIA to bring broadband to the two Townships that comprise Beaver Island in Lake Michigan.” I have attached the full Executive Summary to your board packet email and it is also posted on the township’s website. It should be understood that no match was ‘required’ for this grant application, but having a match is seen as a bonus in the application process. GLE will contribute \$1,523,685.00 of the match if the grant is successful,. If the grant is successful, the townships will contribute \$30,000.00 in exchange for which they will own a new microwave tower on the Island.

TDS has initiated a project to make microwave and backhaul improvements to the Island. I will keep you informed as I hear more about this project.

Beaver Island Transportation Authority

The terms of two members of the Transportation Authority are expiring in October and both wish to be reappointed: Maura Turner and Mark Englesman. I recommend that we reappoint both. Other members of the Authority are Larry Hanz, Kevin G McDonough and Bob Tidmore.

Monday
September 20 @
1:00PM @ SJGC

**Finance
Committee
Meeting**



Tuesday
September 28 @
1:00PM @ PTH

**Waste
Management
Committee
Meeting**



Beaver Island Airport Commission

The Airport Commission is still grappling with the land acquisition process that will provide necessary land at the east end of the main runway at the airport which is owned by both townships and funded primarily through State of Michigan Aeronautics. The land is necessary to maintain and reestablish certain flight path angles for different types of landings. This basically means that trees need to be removed when they grow to certain heights that inhibit the flight path for the safest possible landing approaches. Tree removal is essential and should be completed during the winter of 2022 and there are state and federal dollars to accomplish the clearing. A problem is that the acquisition of the land on which the clearing needs to happen is still not complete and, as you know, the process of condemnation of said property through a legal Declaration of Taking is underway. A subcommittee of the Airport Commission is meeting early next week to further study the tree removal needs and strategy. A joint townships' meeting may be called in September to address these items.

Public Hearing on Font Lake No-Wake Proposal

Please see the attached notice for a public hearing on Wednesday, September 8 at 5:30pm. We originally thought we did not need a public hearing prior to the MDNR holding one later in the process. It turns out, we need to hold a public hearing prior to submission to the MDNR. Peaine Township will also be hosting a public hearing later on the same day. Peaine Township is also requesting a no-wake designation for Fox Lake.

