

**Chesaning Township  
Board of Trustees  
Approved Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
February 2, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Regular Meeting:** Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge was led by the Board of Trustees.

**Members Present:** Supervisor Joe Ruthig, Treasurer Cathy Gross; Trustees: Peter Hemgesberg, Kevin Carlton, Ken Hornak, and Bill Hedrich.

**Members Absent:** Clerk Julie Paulson

**Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was presented for approval.  
Motion by Hedrich, support by Hemgesberg, to approve the agenda, as presented.  
Vote: All yeas. Motion Passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 5, 2023 were presented for approval.  
Motion by Hedrich, support by Hemgesberg to approve the January 5, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.  
Vote: All yeas. Motion Passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of January 23, 2023 were presented for approval.  
Motion by Hedrich, support by Hemgesberg to approve the January 23, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes.  
Vote: All yeas. Motion Passed.

**Presentations:** Tom Tithof spoke about the girl's summer travel ball tournaments. The proposed travel ball dates are now fully booked, however the diamond at the high school will not be available on one of the dates and Tom is looking for use of a nearby ball diamond. Tom reported the program is going great and he looks forward to thousands of people coming to Chesaning during the ball tournaments.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comments:** None

**Committee/Board Reports:**

County Commissioner – No one present to report.

County Road Commission – No one present to report

SCTOA – No meeting.

Cemetery – Trustee Hemgesberg commented the cemetery books of our Cemetery Sexton need to be updated to match those at the township office. Trustee Hemgesberg will mention this to the Cemetery Sexton, Jeremy McAllister. Supervisor Ruthig told the Board Jeremy is aware that the records need to be gone over.

Building Official – No report

Ordinance Enforcement Officer – No report. The new ordinance enforcement officer, Dan Kuhn, is getting oriented to the township and Dan told the Board he will have a report next month.

Rehmann Health Center – Treasurer Gross reported the Mobile Dental Clinic scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> was completely booked. The next mobile dental clinic is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>. WIC continues to operate remotely. The Chesaning Area United Appeal Campaign is underway and to date approximately \$15,500 has been collected. Gross attended the Chesaning Chamber Dinner on January 21, 2023. Mary VanLoon, Co-Chair of Chesaning Area United Appeal and a Volunteer at Rehmann Health Center, was awarded Chesaning's "Volunteer of the Year Award" for all her time and service to the community.

Fire Board – The last meeting was held on January 11, 2023. 193 fire calls were made in 2022. 6 calls have been made so far in 2023. New gear from the County grant money is slowly coming in. The fire department received

a \$4,000 50/50 matching grant from the MDNR for a porta-tank replacement. 26 hours were spent aiding the Anderson's Hemlock grain fire. Over 360,000 gallons of water was hauled, over 980,000 gallons of water was pumped and the department traveled over 980 miles to assist. Thomas Township and the Village of Merrill supplied over 7.5 million gallons of water to aid in putting out the fire. Over 80 fire departments were involved. Saginaw County Road Commission and C & J Bark supplied fuel for the trucks. Plans are started to host the second annual Chesaning Brady Fire Department Golf Outing on May 13, 2023 at Twin Brooks Golf Course. Trustee Carlton mentioned a grant is being sought for new air packs. Years ago the cost was about \$3,000 but that cost has now tripled.

MMWA – Trustee Hornak presented the Board with a copy of the MMWA Audit. Auditors found MMWA in good standing.

Task Force – Task Force met on January 24, 2023. Scott from CannaBee Extracts, a medical marijuana business in town, spoke to Task Force about the current state of the marijuana industry. Scott foresees the small marijuana businesses being pushed out by the big companies such as Philip Morris, etc. The State of Michigan is working hard to eliminate the “black market” product from the industry.

Tom Tithof spoke to the group about the upcoming travel ball tournaments this summer. Grant money was received by Chesaning Union Schools to purchase seven electric school buses. Seven diesel buses will be decommissioned. They are working with Consumers Power to bring in three phase power to the bus garage for charging stations. The ice rink in front of the Chesaning Village Office has been constructed but due to warm weather ice is not present. Next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2023.

Parks and Rec – The 5 year plan still needs to be finalized and printed. Supervisor Ruthig inquired about it at the Village Office. Troy Feldman will look into what is holding things up.

### **Board Officials Reports:**

Supervisor: Supervisor Ruthig reported the Planning Commission met February 1, 2023. Dates for future meetings were set for May 3, 2023, August 2, 2023, November 1, 2023, and February 1, 2024. A Special Meeting in March 2023 may be held to continue work on the Master Plan. Some census data can be updated in house but land use maps and other items may need to be done by Rowe Engineering.

Chesaning Township hosted the Saginaw County Road Commission (SCRC) District 3 meeting on January 31, 2023. The Road Commission purchased land next to Trinity United Methodist Church on M-57 and plans to move their operation out there. Chip and seal will be done on primary roads in District 3 this year with hopes of doing 100 miles in our district. With new equipment purchased, SCRC can now do a 24 foot wide road in one pass. Guard rail spraying to be done June of 2023 and Cattail and Phragmite spraying will be done July 2023. New equipment has also been purchased by SCRC to remove high road shoulders. Snow plow locator software has been installed at SCRC's website and residents can track current positions of plow trucks and history that identifies which roads have been plowed.

Chesaning Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner was held January 21, 2023. Many local businesses were recognized. Marty Maier received Business Man of the Year Award, Ben Schroeder received Employee of the Year Award, and Mary VanLoon received Volunteer of the Year Award.

Supervisor Ruthig attended the Saginaw Area GIS Authority meeting on January 23, 2023. GIS received their Audit Report with no issues noted. A discussion on legislation to lessen the burden of publishing Public Body Announcements in the Newspaper. Posting could be done on Web Sites, be posted at Township Offices or other predetermined locations in the community. Next GIS meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2023.

Clerk: Clerk Paulson was absent and is still on medical leave. A post-election audit is scheduled for February 3, 2023 at the township office. Deputy Clerk, Char Mozader, will meet with the Saginaw County Deputy Clerk and staff he is bringing to conduct the audit.

Treasurer: The 2022 property tax season continues. Summer taxes being collected at 6% interest. All taxes, summer and winter are due on February 28, 2023. Work continues to convert the current Microsoft Money program over to QuickBooks.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**a. Consider Painting Entrance to Township Hall**

Supervisor Ruthig commented the entranceway in the township hall looks rough and a new coat of paint would be a good idea. Ruthig offered to paint it. He would donate his labor and the township would purchase the paint. The consensus of the Board was for Supervisor Ruthig to paint the entranceway in the township hall. The township will pay for the paint.

**b. Consider Hiring Adam Flory as Chesaning Township Attorney**

Supervisor Ruthig addressed the need for a new Township Attorney as Otto Brandt resigned due to a large project he is handling for Thomas Township. The law firm of Smith Bovill was recommended to us by other municipalities who have worked with Smith Bovill. Adam Flory, an attorney at Smith Bovill sent Supervisor Ruthig a proposal. Mr. Flory represents 32 other municipalities and there are 11 attorneys in total at Smith Bovill. A copy of the Letter of Engagement was presented to the Board along with other information submitted to the township from Smith Bovill. Trustees Carlton and Hornak said Mr. Flory seemed to be a good fit for our township based on information provided. Trustee Hedrich asked if a Retainer Fee was required by Mr. Flory up front. Gross and Ruthig said the law firm had not required a Retainer Fee but noted Mr. Flory charges \$175 per hour. Motion by Hornak, support by Carlton to retain Attorney Adam Flory of the law firm of Smith Bovill as Chesaning Township Attorney.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Hemgesberg, Hornak, Gross, Hedrich, Carlton, and Ruthig. Nays: None  
6 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Passed.

**c. Consider Adoption of Resolution of Poverty Exemption**

Resolution No. 2023-001, a resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test was presented in the Board Packet which is based on Federal Poverty Guidelines for Income Level considered for exempting a resident from having to pay property taxes. Motion by Hedrich, support by Hemgesberg to approve Chesaning Township, Saginaw County Resolution No. 2023-001, A Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Hemgesberg, Gross, Hedrich, Hornak, Carlton, and Ruthig. Nays: None  
6 yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Passed.

**Extended Public Comments:** Began at 7:38 p.m. Comments were heard from several members of the public in attendance regarding the Solar Farm project. Comments ended at 7:40 p.m.

**Township Board Comments:** None

**Approval of Bills:** Treasurer Gross noted the total amount of bills paid in January was \$128,488.95; however, \$93,593.70 of that total was property tax money that belongs to Chesaning Brady Fire Department and was disbursed to them. Motion by Hemgesberg, support by Hedrich, to pay the bills as presented. Bills totalled \$128,488.95 Roll Call Vote – Yeas: Hemgesberg, Hornak, Gross, Hedrich, Carlton and Ruthig. Nays: None.  
6 Yeas, 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Carlton, support by Hemgesberg, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Motion Passed

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathy Gross, Treasurer – Acting Secretary  
Chesaning Township**

Supervisor Approval – Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Change Requests \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Joe Ruthig \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_