

**Homestead Township
Park and Rec Plan Public Hearing
And Regular Board Meeting
November 08, 2023**

PUBLIC HEARING – Park and Rec Plan

A Public Hearing held by the Homestead Township Board on the Park and Rec Plan was called to order at 5:37pm.

PRESENT BY ROLL CALL: Mike Mead, Tia Kurina- Cooley, Beverly Holbrook, Karen Mallon. Absent: Shannon Purchase.

The Township Clerk reported that Notice of the Public Hearing on the Park and Rec Plan had been given by publication in the Benzie County Record Patriot on November 1, 2023, and November 8, 2023. Affidavit of such publication has been requested and will be available in the records maintained by the Clerk and will be filed as part of the minutes of the meeting.

Discussion: The 2024-2029 Park and Rec Plan was discussed. Changes will be made to the adopted resolution. Platte River Park will be included in the plan and HARP, Honor Area Restoration Project, will be included as a partner on the application for requests for DNR and Passport grant funding.

State did not approve forms used in 2022-2023 as the template has been updated. Newest budget numbers will need to be updated in the 2024 grant application.

Public Comment: None

Motion by Mallon to leave the public comment portion of the Park and Rec Plan Public Hearing open until the next Regular Board meeting scheduled for December 13, 2023. Support: Cooley. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Cooley to close public hearing. Support: Holbrook. All ayes, motion carried. Public hearing closed.

A regular meeting of the Homestead Township Board was called to order at 6:02pm by Supervisor Tia Kurina-Cooley.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

PRESENT BY ROLL CALL: Mike Mead, Tia Kurina-Cooley, Karen Mallon, Shannon Purchase, Beverly Holbrook.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Cooley to approve agenda with the addition of Noise Ordinance discussion. Support: Mallon. All ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Motion by Cooley to approve the Consent Agenda. Support: Purchase. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

REPORTS:

Zoning Administrator: Written report submitted.

Assessor: PRE database is being corrected. Winter tax bill will be out. 2023 inspections are being finalized. There are 15 left to compete. Sales are seen with record high prices. Equalizing will begin in January 2024.

State requires residential assessment to be at 50%. Homestead Township residential is at 41%. There will be substantial assessment increases. Change notices will go out February 2024.

December 12th is Board of Review for poverty and veteran exemptions and factual mistakes only.

Parks:

Platte River Park – Fire department burned the brush pile. Shannon Purchase has removed the kayak launch, and it is being stored in the Township’s pole barn. Construction meeting next Wednesday. First coat of asphalt down. Pavement stripping will go down after all asphalt is down. This is slated for the Spring. Both gates will be done this year. The service road will be closed, and the gates will be locked. The park will be closed in the winter and a no trespassing sign will be up.

Homestead Township Park – Purchase reports that the stairs at the dugout are in need of repair. He will request concrete quotes. Mowers are in need of maintenance. Plowing is to happen past the gate.

Planning Commission: Mead reports that at the next PC meeting will be held on November 20, 2023. The commission will be reviewing the maps that were presented by Wade Trim that have significant errors.

County Commissioner: Townhall meeting on the Headlee Rollback was well attended and informative. Dispatch software was approved by the Board of Commissioners. Work continues on the new Dispatch Center located in the basement of the Sheriff’s Office.

Fire Department: Chief reports that to date this year there have been 278 runs. MR Consulting is working on looking at grants for the fire department for a new fire hall. Equipment replacements are happening with SCBAs, pagers, and radios. Michelle O’Kelly is a new applicant to the fire department – waiting for the results of her background check. There will be a fire school in Manistee with EMT classes scheduled. Two new EMTs will “graduate”.

Clerk reminds Fire Chief that the Fire Operating and Fire Equipment Replacement millages expire December 31, 2023, and that the general operations millage that the township receives amounts to approximately \$78,000.00 annually. This is an amount that cannot support a fire department. Fire chief states that the fire millage is being worked on.

Motion by Cooley to accept reports as presented. Support: Mead. All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

NEW/OLD BUSINES:

Engineer of Record: Discussion held on the need for the township to have an engineer of record. This need will help in matters of township projects current and future. Discussion only ZA to assist in reaching out to firms and posting RFPs for an EOR.

Headlee Rollback: Cooley provided information on the county’s townhall meeting. The county wants to put on the 2024 ballot a proposal to levy higher taxes. No resolution made. Discussion only.

Covey Road: Estimate for work on Covey Road came in at \$170,000.00 for approximately 1/8 of a mile work. The Clerk advised the Board that the Road Improvement account currently has \$174,000.00. Supervisor tables further discussion on this matter and will seek more information to present to the Board.

SNOWPLOW BIDS: Bids for snow removal/plowing were received. Motion by Purchase to accept bid presented by AJ’s Excavating. \$90.00 per plow at 3” inches. Support: Holbrook. Roll Call: Holbrook – yes; Purchase – yes; Mallon – yes; Mead – yes; Cooley – yes. Motion passed. Clerk to advise AJ’s of bid award.

Noise Ordinance: Motion by Purchase to allow Supervisor to contact legal regarding amending the noise ordinance that would include noise from animals. Support: Holbrook. Roll Call: Mallon – yes; Mead – yes; Cooley – yes; Holbrook – yes; Purchase – yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Margaret asks questions about how the noise ordinance will work once issued if it will be a citation or court hearing. She further thanks the Board for reviewing and agreeing to amend the ordinance.

Motion by Mallon to Adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 7:50 pm. Support: Holbrook. All ayes. Motion carried.

I hereby certify that the minutes contained herein are the draft minutes of the November 8, 2023, Regular Board meeting. Signed herein by the Homestead Township Clerk, Karen Mallon on this the 12th day of November 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:


_____, Karen Mallon, Clerk

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