

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP MINUTES
January 3, 2023, 10 AM

The Township Board of Portage Township, Porter County, Indiana met on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Members present were Nikita Momola, Tiffany Gulley, and Jena-Rae Maldonado. Also present were Brendan Clancy, Trustee, Attorney Clay Patton, Rebecca Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Momola.

Mr. Clancy called the meeting to order, and Ms. Maldonado lead us with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Momola moved to approve the December 13, 2022, minutes as received, Ms. Gulley seconded.

Ms. Momola, Ms. Gulley, and Ms. Maldonado were all in favor, none opposed.

- Organization of Board in accordance with IC 36-6-6-7

Ms. Momola motioned to nominate Ms. Gulley as President of the Board. Ms. Gulley seconded.

Ms. Gulley motioned to nominate Ms. Momola Secretary of the Board. Ms. Momola seconded.

Ms. Gulley, Ms. Momola and Ms. Maldonado were all in favor, none opposed.

The Board members were appointed to their liaison positions as follows: Ms. Gulley to the Bonner Senior Center, Ms. Momola to the South Haven Fire Department and Ms. Maldonado to the Portage Township Parks Dept. and Cemetery.

Communications, correspondence, announcements from the Board Members

No Communication from the Board currently.

Communications, correspondence, announcements from the Trustee

Mr. Clancy went through a long list of items including current affairs of the Township office and facilities:

- Shared the Portage Township Parks 2022 Annual Report
- Discussed Ambulance collections and the amounts that are left unpaid after collections. Possibility of looking into another billing service that can more accurately bill services to patients.
- Discussed our current financial rating/bond rating. We received a S & P Global rating of AA-/Stable.
- Informed that there is a non-for profit, Friends of Portage Township Foundation, Inc that helps to solicit, collect, provide, and receive funds and/or property, and to receive gifts and bequests, for securing and maintaining facilities and programs for parks and recreation conducted by the Portage Township Department of Parks and Recreation Board.
- The new equipment is in at the Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams Park. The equipment is waiting on the final audit to open for the publics use. Our Portage Township Park Superintendent and Maintenance team are certified to inspect and maintain all equipment.

- Discussed that the USW 6787 Steelworkers for Kids donated ten thousand, five hundred dollars in Meijer gift cards to the Portage Township Community Foundation to help with families in need of food, non-perishables or gas.
- Explained the Fire Bond will need to be rolled over in the coming year to support the cost of new equipment for the fire station in 2024/2025. This would include new ambulances and or fire apparatuses. These necessities can cost over \$500,000 each.
- Informed us that the new South Haven Fire Fighters Professional Local #5221 recently signed a new 6 year contract. The Fire Department also carries an ISO rating of 3 which is very good.
- The Bonner Senior Center is very busy serving the seniors, They have a new and upcoming Snow Ball event that everyone is looking forward to.
- The project timeline is being reviewed for the Evergreen Park Project. It is currently in a reverse engineering process to find where we can save money as it came in over one million dollars. We are looking at removing the batting cages plan and replacing that with a possible dog park, toddler park, skate park, or outdoor fitness area.
- We are looking into doing a lighting retrofit at Haven Hollow Park that will cost over \$100,00
- The McCool Cemetery will be starting construction in the Spring of 2023 that will include a committal shelter, columbarium's, new plots and paving. They are also working on updating all their guidelines and rules for the new sections. We would also like to develop a Veteran's Marker program for the Township cemeteries.
- In 2023 we would like to see the completion of the sidewalks/trails within the Haven Hollow and Field of Dreams areas.
- Mr. Clancy discussed the TA-7 report that gives a summary of all recipients and services provided to the residents and non-residents of Portage Township. This report shows a significant increase from the services provided of 2021

New Business

- Ms. Momola moved to approve the 2023 Encumbered Appropriations. Ms. Gulley seconded the motion. Ms. Gulley, Ms. Momola, and Ms. Maldonado were all in favor, none opposed.
- Ms. Momola moved the acknowledgment and approval of the 2022 Investment Report. Ms. Gulley seconded the motion. Ms. Gulley, Ms. Momola and Ms. Maldonado were all in favor, none opposed.
- Ms. Gully, Ms. Momola and Ms. Maldonado all acknowledged Mr. Clancy's, Official Trustee Bond of 2023 in the amount of \$60,000.
- Ms. Gully, Ms. Momola and Ms. Maldonado all acknowledged the Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for Mr. Clancy.

- Ms. Gulley, Ms. Momola, Ms. Maldonado, and Mr. Clancy all acknowledged and signed the Affidavit of Compliance on Nepotism.
- The board member acknowledged and discussed the possibility of needing to form a partnership with other organizations in the community to help provide a Homeless Shelter Facilitator. All agreed to keep this open for discussion at the next meeting if necessary.
- Ms. Maldonado called the meeting Adjourned at 10:55 a.m. Ms. Momola seconded. Ms. Gulley, Ms. Momola and Ms. Maldonado were all in favor, none opposed

Next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2023, at 10 AM. Portage Township Trustee's Office. 3590 Willowcreek Rd. Suite B, Portage, IN.