**Presque Isle Community Men’s Club**

Meeting minutes September 5th, 2024

Opening: Meeting called to order by President Mike Bugenske at 9:00am with 12 members.

Opening song: Dennis Fay

Pledge of Allegiance: Mike Bugenske

Prayer: Mike Bugenske

Introduction of Guest Speaker: Mike Bugenske

* . Tom Guyer, member Township Planning Commission

Tom presented updates on the Septic & Green Energy Ordinances that are getting drafted by the Township.

Green Energy:

There is a great concern that has been brought to the attention of the Township by the Fire Department. It takes 30,000 gallons of water to extinguish a Tesla car battery fire. Our Fire Department does not have this capability to extinguish a Commercial Battery Storge facility in the event there would be a fire. Tom was uncertain if the Little Trout Solar farm will contain a Battery Storage facility. The reason the Township is wanting to put a local Green Energy Ordinance on the books is due to Public Act 233 which ceded the control to the State. As of right now, if an Energy company goes through the local government body it is normally a 6-month process. If they by-pass and go the State route they can expect a minimum of a 1-year process. There is some efforts to rescind Public Act 233, but it would be a partisan issue and there is not sufficient support in the existing legislature at this time. The Township is working with NEMCOG to draft the ordinance. No one has submitted any plans to the PI Township at this time. Most of the ordinance will address requiring buffer zones between the solar farms and noise limits for wind farms. Some statistics on the Little Trout Solar farm: 343,000 solar panels covering 800 acres.

Septic:

Torch Lake recently passed an Ordinance and the Township is using this Ordinance to model from, it is a Time of Transfer Ordinance. There have been numerous studies done that show most Michigan lakes contain some trace of human fecal matter. There have been 10 meetings to-date on this Ordinance, most of the push-back is from local realtors who oppose an additional requirement on the sale of a home. There was discussion to also look into older unpermitted septic systems, but neither the Township nor the Health Department have the staff to do the research and the inspections. The Township has reached out to Alpena Township, they did not offer to join forces. The Township reached out to Krakow Township and the response was “crickets”. The Township understands this will be hard to enforce, that is the reason they are going down the “Time of Transfer” as Title companies will not be able to issue Title Insurance if the inspection and any remediation has not been completed or funds set aside to address. Michigan is the only state in the US that does not have a comprehensive Septic regulation and inspection law. There is some discussion on this at the State level, but it is still in the Committee.

Break and 50/50 Drawing:

* $9.00 won by Larry Fields

Officer and Committee Reports:

* Minutes: Mike Grochola
  + August’s minutes were submitted, Motion by Les Fissette to approve the minutes, 2nd by Bart Hellmuth, All Ayes, motion passed
* Financial reports: Mike Grochola
  + Submitted August 2024 report. Motion by Tim Lutes to approve the report, 2nd by Larry Fields, All Ayes, motion passed
  + Paid expense of $15.00 for donuts (paid cash to Mike Bugenske)
* Project Evaluation Committee: Mike Bugenske
  + A motion was made by Dennis Fay to contribute $500 to the Besser Museum and $250 for the eradication of Phragmites in Lotus Pond and 2nd by Chuck Austin. During discussion, it was agreed to split this into 2 motions. The 1st amended motion of $500 for Besser Museum, which is the minimum contribution to get the PICMS name on the wall, was 11 Ayes and 1 Nay (Mike Grochola). The 2nd amended motion of $500 for the eradication of Phragmites in Lotus Pond was 11 Ayes and 1 Nay (Les Fissette). Larry Fields made the 1st motion on the Amended motions and 2nd by Mike Bugenske. There was agreement that no checks will be issued until the requesters complete the Grant form and turn them into the Project Evaluation Committee
* Health and Family Committee: Bob Beres
  + Nothing new to report
* Scholarship Committee: Bart Hellmuth / Tim Lutes / Russ Kauffman
  + A new submission was received this month, it will be reviewed by the committee as the cut-off for this year has passed
  + Due to Tim Lutes ongoing health challenges, looking for a permanent replacement
* Next meeting set-up:
  + Less Fissette and Larry Fields volunteered

Old Business:

* None

New Business:

* The Men’s Club Website – discussed Mike Grochola will send the minutes to Mark Kinney so they can be put in the Minutes folder on the website.

Announcements:

* Wednesday 9/18/24 at 9 am Breakfast at the Route 65 Diner
* MDOT highway pick-up is Tuesday September 24th starting at 9:00am at the Chapel
* Thursday 10/3/24 Monthly meeting at 9:00 am at the PIHA clubhouse. Marsha Grulke will speak about the history of the Petersville settlement, half of the town was a ghost town and the other houses were moved to Rogers City
* Wednesday 10/16/24 at 9 am Breakfast at the Route 65 Diner
* There are Presque Isle Community Men’s Club coffee mugs available for sale – see Mike Bugenske to get these limited edition mugs
* Chuck is working on a tour of the Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw for some time this fall, but no one is answering the phone at the Coast Guard station
* Check will be contacting someone from Huron Pines to see if we can get a presentation on Phragmites sometime in the future

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am by President Mike Bugenske