

**October 26, 2021
REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Ron Grunch called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Ron Grunch, Commissioners Hugh Conklin, Sally Page, and Dean Solomon

Absent: Mayor Tom Neidhamer

Staff: Michael Cain, Kevin Spate, Tim Faas, Scott McPherson, Cindy Grice, and Jessica Puroll

Others: There were 8 citizens in attendance.

MOTION

2021-10-136

Moved by Grunch

Second by Conklin

Approve the recommendation of Mayor Pro-Tem Ron Grunch for Commissioner Dean Solomon to conduct the October 26, 2021 City Commission meeting in compliance with the City Charter section 5.5.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

Motion carried

**CONSENT AGENDA
MOTION**

2021-10-137

Moved by Conklin

Second by Page

-Approve the October 12, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented.

-Approve the recommendation from the Director of Public Works Tim Faas to approve a purchase order contract with TK Elevator Corporation of Atlanta, GA in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,850.80, and authorize the City Manager to execute any necessary documents.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

Motion carried

**EXCUSED ABSENCE
MOTION**

2021-10-138

Moved by Solomon

Second by Conklin

Approve the absence of Mayor Neidhamer

Ayes: 4
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1
 Motion carried

CITIZENS COMMENTS

-Sandy Pritchard questioned why the Mayor Pro-Tem is not conducting the meeting today.
 -Steve Persons questioned if the bathroom contractor is going to fulfill his contract. Is there a plan C if the contractor takes too long and needs to fix work due to this.
 -John McCahan has been vocally in favor of the marina expansion. The conversation on Facebook has been civil until this past week when he received a threat that can only be interpreted as a physical threat. The incident has been reported to the Boyne City Police Department.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received and filed.
 -State of Michigan Before the Michigan Public Service Commission Notice of Hearing for the Customers of Consumers Energy Company Case NO. U-21131
 -Letter from Penny Hardy

City Manager Michael Cain informed the Commission that he has spoken to Penny Hardy. She had indicated that she would not be at the meeting today. In regards to the methods of presenting petitions which she brought up at an earlier meeting there is no requirement that they need to be brought to a City Commission meeting or acted on during a meeting. Traditionally they are brought to the City office and given to the Clerk. Our charter states what needs to be done when petitions are presented. She was told that if she wanted to bring them to a City Commission meeting she is welcome to do so, but that she would need to present them under citizen's comments, or she is welcome to bring them to City offices directly. If petitions are brought to the City office the Commission would be advised that petitions were brought in. In regards to the letter that is in the agenda packet Cain also answered and discussed with Penny the questions that she raised.

Has the application for the grant been completed by Abonmarche?
 Cain's answer, no this is still in the process.

Has it been submitted to the EDA? If so, on what date?
 Cain's answer, no it has not been.

If not submitted when do you expect to do so?
 Cain's answer, speaking with Barb Brooks it is anticipated to be about a month or a little longer.

Will the full grant application be included on the City website to be available to the public?

Cain's answer, we intend to make sure that the contents are available. The application is an online application. We are determining how to best present it.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

-After our last City Commission meeting where we amended our criteria for the removal of top soil at North Boyne to reduce our growing stockpile we were met with immediate and successful results. Below is a summary of the figures hauled out by the two companies that we approved to take material off-site for us following the October 12th City Commission meeting.

2,273 cubic yards (Volume of finished compost "black dirt" on-site as of Oct 1)

-350 cubic yards removed by R&B Excavating

-720 cubic yards removed by Olstrom's Excavating

1,203 cubic yards remaining on-site

This still leaves us with plenty of material for the residents. Based on this success the temporary practice authorized by the City Commission at the last meeting can now be rescinded.

Both contractors have thanked us for the material. One has offered to provide us with some sand or stone in exchange for the finished product and the other cleaned up the finished material area for us.

-Our Holiday Trees lights have been installed downtown and are ready for their official lighting later next month.

-110 COVID tests (combo rapid and PCR) were administered on Saturday, October 23, 2021 during the drive thru COVID testing at the Fire Hall. Of those, there were 8 positive results. Charlevoix County was reported to be at a 20% positivity rate last week.

-The shoppers dock was removed for the winter on October 26th. The Marina closed for the season on October 15th.

-The trusses for the new peaked room on the front portion of the River Mouth Pumphouse building are being erected on the morning of October 26th.

-All parks and seasonal rest rooms are now winterized except the Boat Launch which closes next week. The restrooms at the Airport Terminal for the Boyne Valley Trail Trailhead, Avalanche Mountain, the River Mouth, the Pavilion, and City Hall will remain open to the public daily during the winter months.

-Tree removals are completed. The contractor is working on trimming, stump removal, and restoration.

-Tree plantings are scheduled to begin later during the week of October 26th.

-The City is out for bids on cemetery grounds maintenance services, heating and air conditioning services, and erosion control

at Peninsula Beach/Tannery Park and the Lake Street Bridge. Those items will be coming to the City Commission for consideration at future meetings.

-Interviews with four candidates for the Director of Public Works position were held on Monday, October 25th. That hiring process as well as the one for the Main Street Executive Director continue to progress.

-City Hall will be open this Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the issuing and receipt of absentee ballots. On the ballot is the City Commission election and the County's tax Limitation proposal covering the County, the Townships, and the Intermediate School district. As of this morning 603 absentee ballots have been issued with 412 returned.

-Polls will be open here on Tuesday, November 2nd, Election Day, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Winners of the election will be sworn in at the first meeting of the new City Commission which will be held the following Tuesday, November 9th. That is a 7:00 p.m. regular City Commission meeting. At that time the Commission's selection of the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem will take place.

-Curbside leaf collection continues with pickups on Mondays and Fridays thru Friday, November 12th scheduled.

-Cain was informed earlier this morning that well-known Boyne City teacher and historian Robert Morgridge passed away today. He had taught many of our areas young people and others about Boyne City's history thru his book 'Settlers to Sidewalks in Boyne City'. He had also written a book about our town clock, its history, and the efforts to eventually bring it back to life. Which we did when we built this building.

**REPORTS OF
OFFICERS, BOARDS,
AND STANDING
COMMITTEES**

Received and filed.
-September 2021 Financial Statement

OLD BUSINESS

None

**NEW BUSINESS
CITY
CLERK/TREASURER
APPOINTMENT
MOTION**

2021-10-139
Moved by Conklin
Second by Grunch

Approve the recommendation from City Manager Michael Cain to confirm the appointment of Jessica Puroll as City Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Boyne City as presented.

City Manager Michael Cain discussed the recommendation to confirm appointment of Jessica Puroll as City Clerk/Treasurer. The position was posted internally and advertised on multiple occasions since the resignation of our previous Clerk/Treasurer. This is the position Puroll originally applied for prior to Cindy's retirement. Ultimately she was hired to fill the Deputy Clerk position, and is

doing an excellent job. As Deputy Clerk, she has handled elections, and has been handling all City Commission related functions on an extended basis. As part of our consideration of this promotion, Jessica and Cindy have been working on Treasurer related tasks. She has been effectively performing all duties of our City Clerk for several months now. We are planning that Cindy would continue to help train Jessica on a mutually agreeable schedule and duration. Background checks were conducted on Ms. Puroll before she was hired. All came through well.

Staff Comment:

Cindy Grice spoke. I have had the opportunity to work with Jessica for the past year. We have spent the past few weeks working on treasurer processes together and she is quickly picking up those processes. I do not have a degree in finance, and there are resources out there for Jessica. Rules are always changing on state and federal levels. This position requires continual learning. I will be here on a limited basis for the next several months.

City Manager Michael Cain spoke. We have a history in this organization at looking at people's skills when they come in and assigning them new and different tasks based on their skill set and their abilities. Just because someone has experience does not mean that they will be a good fit in regards to the organization. I am confident in regards to Jessica's abilities. If I am wrong, we will come back and make alternate arrangements. We work to make sure everyone succeeds here, but if it does not work out, we will make the necessary changes. I do not believe we will be coming back here to have that discussion. I think she has proven herself and deserves this opportunity.

Public Comment:

Sandy Pritchard is not sure why Caroline Kennedy did not work out. Looked at job descriptions and requirements from other communities. Not one had anything less than five years' experience. They requested bachelor's degree in accounting, and five to seven years of accounting finance in municipal experience. Concerned one years' experience does not qualify her. Supports an intern appointment. Does not believe Ms. Puroll is qualified for the position.

Cindy Banner questioned how long do you plan to keep Cindy on to train for the treasurer position.

Board Discussion: All agree with the recommendation.

Conklin questioned if there has been consideration to separate the Clerk and Treasurer position. Have you set any boundaries for Cindy to assist with training? I have enjoyed working with Jessica. I echo what Mike and Cindy have said. She is efficient, kind, and responsive. I look forward to her bringing the enthusiasm that she has.

Grunch supports the recommendation, and thinks Jessica has done an excellent job.

Page supports the recommendation 100%.

Solomon states as Commissioners our interactions with Jessica over the past year have been outstanding. She is fast to respond, and easy to work with.

Ayes: 4
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1
 Motion carried

**City Liability Insurance
 through the Michigan
 Township Participating
 Plan**

MOTION

2021-10-140
 Moved by Page
 Second by Conklin

Approve the recommendation form City Manager Michael Cain to authorize the City Manager and the City Clerk/Treasurer to take the steps necessary to renew the City's liability insurance through the Michigan Township Participating Plan at an estimated price of \$73,759 for 2021 – 2022.

City Manager Michael Cain discussed the recommendation to renew the City's liability insurance. In 2005 the City switched our property and liability insurance coverages from the Michigan Municipal League's Liability and Property pool to the Michigan Township Participating Plan. If this year's proposal is accepted, the savings from switching is estimated to be about \$601,536 over the past 17 years. We have been very happy with all the services provided by MTPP.

Staff Comment: None
 Public Comment: None
 Board Discussion: All agree with the recommendation.
 Conklin questioned why the Michigan Municipal Leagues charges so much for their service.
 Solomon asked if there are many choices for municipal insurance.

Ayes: 4
 Nays: 0
 Absent: 1
 Motion carried

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Boyne City Trick or Treat hours are from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 31, 2021
- City Hall Offices will be open on Saturday, October 30, 2021 and Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of issuing and receiving Absentee Ballots.
- The next regular City Commission meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Conklin, second by Commissioner Page to adjourn at 12:45 p.m.

 Dean Solomon
 Commissioner

 Jessica Puroll
 City Clerk/Treasurer