

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

February 1, 2018

The Municipal Council of the City of Alpena met in special session upon the call of the City Clerk, at the Maple Ridge Township Hall on the above date and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Mayor.

Present: Mayor Waligora, Councilmembers Hess, Johnson, Nielsen, and Nowak.

Absent: None.

The Municipal Council met in a special workshop session with the Alpena County Board of Commissioners and Alpena County Township Supervisors to present updates and exchange information on current activities in the community. The facilitators for the meeting were Ann Diamond, Carlene Przykucki, and Tim Kuehnlein.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Fairchild, represents People for Social Justice, she is part of the Environmental Committee, and is requesting that the local governmental agencies re-enact the Air & Water Quality Committee, due to the fact that environmental regulations are being pulled back and removed at the state and national levels. Janet believes that there is a resurgence of interest and activity on the part of citizens in their communities to take direct action on their environmental concerns, and she would like the local governmental entities to support their group, and would like to see more public participation.

MINUTES

Minutes were reviewed for the October 5, 2017, Intergovernmental Council Meeting, no changes were needed.

GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY REPORTS

Mayor Waligora reported on the cost and time that the City of Alpena spends on secretarial duties for the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) minutes. The City has taken on the responsibility of these minutes for the past three years. The minutes are very time consuming, the preparation for the minutes and printing is expensive, and due to the fact that the City's Charter requires that the minutes be published this expense falls on the City. The IG minutes normally include quite a bit of detail, he would like to see the minutes shortened to mirror the City's regular Council minutes. He would also like to encourage the other entities to participate in these duties. Tim Kuehnlein suggested that a standard form could be created to assist in the record keeping, this way the hosting entity could just record a summary of each government entity that gives a report.

Moved by Commissioner Habermehl, seconded by Alpena Township Representative Kroll, to have a standard form for minute taking be created, and to require the hosting governmental agency to record the minutes for the Intergovernmental Meetings.

Carried by unanimous vote.

PRESENTATION GIVEN BY OSOCDA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

ON PERFLUOROALKYL ACID (PFA'S)

Aaron Weed, Oscoda Township Supervisor, reported on the township's interaction with the Airforce and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), on the contamination of the ground water surrounding the Oscoda area. The contamination comes from the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base and the Perfluoroaklyl Acid (PFA's) and Polyfluoroalkyl Acid (PFO's) that are industrial chemicals used in firefighting foams throughout the years on the base. Oscoda has formed an activist group, established an advisory board, and has contacted many journalists to bring awareness to their ground water situation. They have encountered a few problems, with lack of communication from the Air Force and the MDEQ, although the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has received state funding to assist in the paying for alternative means of water for the affected areas.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

PLANNING SESSION

The topic for the next Intergovernmental Meeting will be a discussion of recycling in the Northern Michigan area presented by Ken Lobert.

The Alpena Intergovernmental Council will meet again on June 7, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., hosted by Ossineke Township.

On motion of Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, the Council adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

MATTHEW J. WALIGORA
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Anna Soik
City Clerk