MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF JULY 10, 2017

Mayor Strazdas called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following members of City Council were present via the conference phone line: Councilmembers Jim Pearson, Patricia M. Randall, Claudette Reid, Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and Mayor Peter Strazdas. Councilmembers Richard Ford and Terry Urban were absent with notice and excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Larry Shaffer, Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis and City Clerk James Hudson.

Councilmember Randall asked if there will be a person to do an invocation and City Clerk James Hudson replied that he is still looking for one.

Under Item J.1, 2017 Community Survey, Councilmember Pearson suggested a question regarding receipt of the *Portager* via e-mail. He pointed out that on Student Mayor and Council for the Day, the students consistently reveal that they do not read the *Portager*. He asked for a question on the Survey addressing this, and gave the example of the receipt of the Portage District Library Newsletter via e-mail which he reads, then discards. Councilmember Reid pointed to Question #26 of the Survey: "What is your preferred method of obtaining information about what is going on in Portage city government? (Check all that apply.)" She agreed that the options are different from e-mail. Councilmember Pearson concurred and inferred it needs to be on the survey in some way. Councilmember Reid agreed this is a good idea, but said there was no need for a question on the Survey and offered that the City could start giving the option of getting it by e-mail for a year and see how it goes because the Post Office has to deliver to all households currently. Mayor Strazdas indicated that this option was looked at some months ago, and if a citizen wants the electronic version instead of the paper version, this would require that the U.S. Mail alter the database and this became an issue. City Manager Larry Shaffer offered to research the matter.

Councilmember Randall referred to Question #7 of the Survey, recognized the deficit, but expressed her preference that a dollar amount be included, and Councilmember Pearson concurred and offered the suggestion of a percentage option. Councilmember Reid concurred saying the user fees only cover 30% of the cost to operate the ice rink, for example, and Mr. Shafer indicated that he would put a number to this.

With regard to 9-1-1 emergency dispatch services in Portage, Councilmember Randall contrasted the question, "Have you ever used 9-1-1?" with the Marijuana questions which ask, "Do you want this or that?" Councilmember Reid responded that the decision to consolidate has already been made, so the 9-1-1 question becomes a funding question, not a survey question of whether 9-1-1 is either wanted or not.

Mayor Strazdas congratulated the Survey Committee on the fine job they did covering all of the issues that arose over the past year and thanked them for their work.

Councilmember Pearson asked about the low number of applicants for the Special Meeting and why there was so much time allotted to each vacancy. Mr. Hudson responded that at the time the communication was generated, there was hope that more applicants would respond to the Tom Haroldson article, but to no avail.

Councilmember Randall indicated that Dr. Richard Dirrenberger expressed an interest in the Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority Citizen Ad Hoc Committee, had read all of the materials regarding Consolidated 9-1-1 and had a great interest in its success, probably due to his profession as a physician. Mayor Strazdas moved the Special Meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and asked that everyone be contacted.

ADJOURN: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 8:17 a.m.

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James Hudson, City Clerk