

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

12 present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Shaw
- III. Roll Call of Board Members – Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, and Nichol all present. Shearer absent.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** to adopt agenda by Shoemaker, supported by Nichol. Motion carried.
- V. Minutes of last meeting – **Motion** by Almose to accept the December 3, 2023 minutes, supported by Shoemaker. Motion passed. **Motion** by Almose to accept the November 1, 2023 minutes, supported by Shaw. Motion carried.
- VI. The Treasurer's report was accepted.
- VII. Clerks Report –
 1. **Motion** by Almose to pay the November expenditures with the exception ck# 5525 payable to the Chief, supported by Shaw. Roll Call: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, all yeas. Nichol, no. Motion carried. Per Almose, mileage for Chief Brierley will not include mileage to and from Chief's meetings as his salary is all inclusive. Nichol objected stating mileage is a payable expense and those going out of the township are paid mileage for meetings and meeting pay. The Chief doesn't get paid for his meetings. Shoemaker, Almose, and Shaw agree that mileage is part of the all-inclusive salary. The mileage from the Chief that is not a part of Chief's meeting is payable and that check can be reissued and paid. Discuss salary inclusive and what that means without Pension tabled until next meeting.
- VIII. Correspondence and Guests
 1. Deputy Farrier reviewed his monthly report and answered questions. New Sheriff's Deputy McCormick was introduced and Deputy Farrier. Each spoke a bit on his background. The Board welcomed the new Deputy.
 2. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner not present
- IX. Public Input – None
- X. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk's office.
 1. Assessor's Report – Sheneman
 - a. For the month of December: 4 deeds and one PRE denial. 361 parcels visited (field work) which is over 20%. Most will require a new re-draw which takes significant time.
 - b. New office hours are 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 9 am to 11 am. Pre-scheduled appointments still available upon request.
 2. Zoning Administrator – **Motion** by Shoemaker to accept Schuhart's resignation, supported by Almose. Motion carried.
 3. Fire Department Report – Brierley
 - a. 8 runs for the month of December; 4 fire related, and 4 medical runs. We had 1 mutual aid to Kalkaska for a house fire. The chief reviewed the new AFG Summary sheet.
 - b. Old Business: Due to a death in Chief's family, the officers have not met to discuss looking into a new fire truck. 2 Bids for the 4-wheeler were opened. **Motion** by Nichol to accept bid #2 from Brozovich for \$3,567, supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Nichol, Shoemaker, Almose and Shaw all yeas. Motion carried.

- c. New Business: Chief requested to hire new member of the Fire Department, Jeff Greer. He has a hazardous material background. He has attended 2 meetings and will receive gear after attending his fourth meeting. **Motion** by Shoemaker to formally hire Jeff Greer as new firefighter, supported by Almoose. Motion carried. Chief asks the board to approve membership in MABS. As discussed in a prior board meeting, it has only positive attributes for Blue Lake. Board members want to look over the pro's/con's of membership contract and will give an answer at the next board meeting. Chief states the contract states we cannot deplete our resources by 20%. Officers talked over how they will decide if there are enough people in the township to fight fires. Also, tanker cannot be used out of township due to our commitment to mutual aid (ex: Coldsprings). Frederick requested mutual aid from BLT FD for the Gaylord tornado, not MABS. Discussion ensued over how not only BLT FD has sent the tanker (with 2 personnel) out but others send their tanker to us. Each incident is unique. Shaw states she would like to know more of the detail but would support whatever the officers decision(s) are. Would like to see, in writing what the decisions are. Chief asked what specifically the board wants to see. Almoose: wants guarantees we have certified people on hand. Chief: that is what I've always done. Payroll mistake was caught and taken care of, Nichol was informed and the issue was discussed. A new protocol was discussed with the board with payroll will being corrected on the next payroll. Payroll discussed at thier last meeting and staff (fire fighters) like the way it is want to keep it (payroll) twice per year. Can write a regional and department grant for radios. Also checked into new fire truck grants and detailed what he learned.
- d. Training: Training for the month consisted of truck checks, extrication discussion with operating our tools, and reports/report entry into computer.
- e. Truck/Equipment maintenance: Tanker has an air leak. CFI has been contracted and will fix the tanker this month. The tanker remains in service.
- 4. Planning Board Report - Shaw – next meeting 1/30 at 7 pm – Webinar on 1/17 for Wind. Upcoming: 40% recycling requirement. O'Tracys is advertising, may be able to take on our township now.
- 5. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore - no meeting
- 6. Hospital Report – Nichol absent
 - a. KMHC having open forums for the Board: 1/7 12pm, 2/7 10am, 2/15 5 pm. Nichol requested all board members attend one of these meetings regarding ACT 47 vs not for profit due diligence.
- 7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker
Need new Afton type stone requirement in all correspondence to KCRC Rogers.
Motion by Shoemaker using the road matrix: 2024 all 5 to include 21, 24, 215, 4: shoulder reclaim, 2 Gedman Rds, asphalt overlay, supported by Almoose. Roll call: Shoemaker, Almoose, Shaw, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried. Shoemaker: Shearer must send this to KCRC, John Rogers, so he can get bis for us on it. Rogers completed road rating report.

XI. Board Member Comments and Input

- 1. Nichol: Audit complete, no findings. Confirmed by Treasurer in email she received.
- 2. Almoose: Disposing of property including those received by gift/donation/grant. MTA suggests bid open to public and minimum post on the door. Must receive reasonable value. Shaw: email Shearer to remind him we need clarification from the attorney and inform the board of his findings.

XII. Old Business

- 1. Sheriff's 2024 contract: per email received by Sheriff: still no contract. Surmised a \$2 increase/hour and we will be back billed.
- 2. No updates for kitchen remodel.

3. Brighthouse pay outs: all paperwork but 2 received (and those 2 were informed), after audit found another issue. I was assured we will get our interest until processing is complete. Nichol contacted FNRA but they will not take up a complaint without me speaking with Brighthouse Compliance Department. Even after discussing with Mannor group, I have no way of contacting as no one has a phone number or address or email for that department.

XIII. New Business

1. none

XIV. Adjournment – Next meeting February, at 7:00 pm

1. **Motion** to adjourn at 9:10 pm by Nichol, supported by Shoemaker, motion carried.