

# Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

## Minutes

Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

13 present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Shaw
- III. Roll Call of Board Members – Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all present.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** to adopt agenda by Almose, supported by Nichol. Motion carried.
- V. Conflict of Interest – Roll call vote: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all no.
- VI. Minutes of last meeting – **Motion** by Almose to accept the January 3, 2024 minutes, supported by Shoemaker. Motion carried.
- VII. The Treasurer's report was accepted.
  1. 2-page handout showing PPT losses between 2022 and 2023 due to business reclassifications and the second page depicting what is expected to be received by the additional Essential Services Reimbursement. The result still leaves BLT at a loss of revenue from that received in 2022.
  2. The Highway CD from First National Bank will be cashed on 2/12 then will be transferred into the newer ICS accounts.
- VIII. Clerks Report –
  1. **Motion** by Shoemaker to pay the January expenditures in the amount of \$45,676.95, supported by Shearer. Roll Call: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.
  2. **Motion** by Shearer to accept the 2024 Board of Trustees meeting dates, supported by Nichol. Motion carried.
- IX. Correspondence and Guests
  1. Deputy Farrier reviewed his monthly report and answered questions. He stated KCSO is still outsourcing for the jail this year. Lansing has new laws that change the population. **Motion** by Shaw to sign the new agreement for law enforcement services, supported by Almose. Roll Call: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.
  2. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner not present
- X. Public Input – None
- XI. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk's office.
  1. Assessor's Report – Sheneman
    - a. For the month of January: 6 deeds, 1 death, and 1 survey for 2024 tax year split.
    - b. TransCanada and Blue Lake Gas Storage is putting \$6.1 million dollars back on the tax roll for pipeline and wells for the 2024 Tax year. We are recouping some of the \$38 million we lost in 2023. Sheneman was told we should expect something similar with ANR and ANR Storage for 2024. Adjustments in the way we file in 2025 will be based on the judge's decision in the Tax Tribunal (expected in May of 2024). We know we will experience loss of funding through LCSA.
    - c. Assessment change notices will be going out forthwith after the March 13<sup>th</sup> BOR.
    - d. BOR: Organizational: Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. Meeting dates: Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 9-12, 1-4 and Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 1-4, 6-9.
  2. Zoning Administrator – An advertisement will be sent to the Kalkaska paper for the open position of ZA.
  3. Fire Department Report – Brierley – Brozovich presenting

- a. 9 runs for the month of January; 4 fire related, and 5 medical runs. We had 1 mutual aid from Kalkaska and Coldsprings townships for an auto aid which was canceled by Blue Lake FD.
- b. Old Business: Nothing currently to discuss looking at new Fire truck for the township. The officers will continue to meet. MABAS was presented last month. The officers would like the board to enter into the agreement by signing at this meeting. Motion was not made as Almose, Shaw and Shoemaker indicated they will not sign until the Command staff meets and decides on guidelines which will indicate how BLT FD will respond to calls from MABAS. Brozovich acknowledges we most likely will not respond to MABAS with equipment as the MABAS contract states we cannot take above 20%. The three board members still want to know what procedure will be in place for making sure we have enough "qualified" volunteers in the township. Tabled until next month. A three person check for runs and payroll is in place. The volunteers stated they still want to be paid twice per year. Boyer will be contacted by Nichol to find out whether he wants to be paid immediately the sum he is owed for payroll error of approximately \$30 or he will wait until June when payroll for such work performed is normally paid. Nichol will make sure his wishes regarding this are followed.
- c. New Business: The new Scott SCBA received from the Regional Grant are in service as training has been accomplished. We ask the board to OK the Chief looking into donating or selling our old packs. These packs were originally donated to us. We also have eight new bottles which do not work for our new packs (wrong PSI). We would like to sell these. **Motion** by Nichol to donate the air packs donated to us and to sell or donate the 8 bottles, support by Shearer. Roll Call: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried. The Department has written a grant to Great Lakes Energy for \$5,000. If awarded, this grant would be used to get the new side x side into service.
- d. Training: Training for the month consisted of truck checks, reading smoke, and new SCBA training for service.
- e. Truck/Equipment maintenance: Tanker #4 air leak is fixed. Tanker was found to be low on oil. As Fick and Sons did the PM in December, they were contacted to come back and check out the tanker and add oil.
4. Planning Board Report - Shaw –
  - a. STR – per attorney it is a major concern. #1 Restricted covenants = does not apply. #2 unpublished case = does not apply. PB closed the issue. Is STR residential or commercial? Once clarified by our attorney, PB will send it to the full board. Next PB meeting is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Revisited: Void changes to well and septic. This matter has been closed.
5. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore - no meeting
6. Hospital Report – Nichol – Bob Barr presenting
  - 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.
  - b. Barr attended one of the above open forums for KMHC. He was taken aback by many of the attendees who were surprised to hear of the due diligence pursued by KMHC board looking into the pros/cons of Act 47 v Not for Profit: ie: Act 47 only allows for vendor relationships v Not for Profit which allows partnering and joint ventures. Questions were welcomed and those that could be, were answered. Those that could not, will be addressed through the process and more information will be forthcoming as the board continues on its path of due diligence. Once the KMHC board of trustees feel their endeavors have reached a conclusion, the

citizens will be notified. If the conclusion is stay an Act 47, no changes need to be made. If change to a Not 4 profit, the type being as closely matched to what we have in place now (member board), the question will be placed on a ballot for the citizenry to vote yes or no on the change. No change can be made by just the board but, a vote of the populus. There will be more forums/meetings and/or the like planned in the future to keep people up to date. The meeting Barr attended was informative and he believes as the process moves forward, the citizenry will be well informed.

7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker

- a. Shoemaker informed the KCRC that at the January township board meeting a motion was passed to have all shoulder work be 23A Afton Stone type material and what projects the board voted on.
- b. Handouts given to BLT board members: 1. BLT road matrix 2. 2024 meeting dates/times 3. KCRC 2024 goals and objectives.

**XII.** Board Member Comments and Input - none

**XIII.** Old Business

1. No updates for kitchen remodel.
2. Pension: Brighthouse has released a couple of checks to the TPA (Mannor Group). Brighthouse took out State tax in error. They are to send checks making up those amounts taken in error. The board decided we should accept the checks given and keep track of the many still outstanding as well as the dollars outstanding for tax taken in error.

**XIV.** New Business

1. Taken care of under Zoning: posting for the ZA position.

**XV.** Adjournment – Next meeting March 6, at 7:00 pm

1. **Motion** to adjourn at 9:04 pm by Shoemaker, supported by Shearer, motion carried.