

# Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

## Minutes

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

14 present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Shaw
- III. Moment of Silence – Mr. Al Brown, a dedicated member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. His absence will be felt by all. Deepest condolences to his loving family.
- IV. Roll Call of Board Members – Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all present.
- V. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** to adopt agenda by Shoemaker, supported by Almose. Motion carried.
- VI. Conflict of Interest – Roll call vote: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all no.
- VII. Minutes of last meeting – **Motion** by Shoemaker to accept the February 7, 2024 minutes, supported by Almose. Motion carried.
- VIII. The Treasurer's report was accepted.
  1. Working on County Tax Settlement. Books were closed today. Unpaid: 30 summer parcels and 20 winter parcels. Record number of credit card payments (51 carrying a 3% convenience fee charged by Point N Pay) as well as 21 E-Checks (\$3 fee each).
- IX. Clerks Report –
  1. **Motion** by Shaw to pay the February expenditures in the amount of \$30,240.33, supported by Shoemaker. Roll Call: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.
  2. Nichol thanked the Primary Election workers for their dedication, resourcefulness, patience, and perseverance as Michigan made their way through the new process of 9 days of early voting. Time was spent wisely by creating exacting documentation of processes, exchanging duties so all became familiar with the different duties/equipment. Well done!
- X. Correspondence and Guests
  1. Deputy Farrier reviewed his monthly report and answered questions. The emphasis was on ORV patrol. The COA will host a fraud class put on by KCSO. Please check both the Facebook page and Association page for further information. Both Bear Lake and Blue Lake are interested in hosting the same class. Blue Lake wishes to wait until the "snowbirds" return, have it on a Saturday so interested parties may attend the approximate 1 hr class.
  2. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner not present
- XI. Public Input – Questions raised about how to go about widening the boat launch on N Blue. The DNR does NOT recognize it. The Lake Association of property owners will look into, they will also be doing some spring maintenance on the bridge as discussed in earlier at Blue Lake Township meeting(s). A Representative from Kalamazoo (D-Julie Rogers) presented Wake Boat legislation to minimize harmful impact, still in process. The DNR regulates boat launches (10') then the Sheriff's office takes over. Loon problems: call RAP and they come out (**800-292-7800**).
- XII. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk's office.
  1. Assessor's Report – Sheneman
    - a. For the month of February: 7 deeds, 1 death, 1 transfer, 0 easements, and 2 surveys.
    - b. Assessment change notices will be going out forthwith after the March 13<sup>th</sup> BOR.
    - c. BOR Meeting dates: Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 9-12, 1-4 and Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 1-4, 6-9.

## 2. Fire Department Report –

- a. 10 runs for the month of February; 3 fire related, and 7 medical runs. We had 1 mutual aid to Kalkaska for a house fire and 1 to Coldsprings Township for an auto accident.
- b. Old Business: Nothing currently to discuss looking at new Fire truck for the township. Prices are continuing to rise at approximately \$30,000/yr (or 6%) at this time and for the foreseeable future. The officers will continue to meet. MABAS was presented to the board in January. **Motion** by Shearer to accept the MABAS Guideline 57-1 and sign the MABAS agreement, supported by Shoemaker. Roll call vote: Shearer, Shoemaker, Nichol, Almose, and Shaw all yeas. Motion carried. Old SCBA packs and 10 bottles have been donated to Boardman FD. They are deciding whether or not they will purchase the additional 8 bottles we would like to sell for \$300 each. If Boardman FD decides not to purchase, we would like to sell them with the use of Facebook to get the word out they are for sale. Side X Side update: we received a \$2,000 donation to go toward equipment for SXS. We ordered the medical slide in box leaving emergency lights, siren, and radio. With a TransCanada grant we would investigate possible purchasing tracks for winter use and any other equipment needed. **Motion** by Nichol to purchase emergency lighting for the side X side not to exceed \$1,000, supported by Shearer. Roll call vote: Nichol, Shearer, Shoemaker, Shaw, and Almose all yea. Motion carried. Chief states any future grant dollars available will be earmarked for the lights so as not to deduct from budgeted dollars. The sale of Argo dollars may also be used to recoup budgeted dollars spent as well. The Argo needs to get repaired and the Argo dealer was contacted and parts were purchased for the repair. Our side X side is covered under our current insurance at no additional charge per my conversation with Paul Olsen.
- c. New Business: **Motion** by Almose to pass Blue Lake Township Board Resolution #362024 approving Blue Lake Township Fire & Rescue Departments application to the Michigan Township Participating Risk Reduction Grant or the purpose of purchase of rear and forward mounted cameras to be installed on the rescue truck providing thermal imaging for night vision, turning night into day to help improve visibility and recording on-scene actions to aid in safety and training. Supported by Nichol. Roll call vote: Almose, Nichol, Shaw, Shoemaker, and Shearer all yeas. Motion carried. Par Plan grants are for a maximum of \$5,000 and the bid came in at just under \$6,000. The Chief wants us to know that the difference will be our responsibility and will come from this year's budget. The Department along with 7 others have written a regional grant to the federal government for \$1 million for radios. Blue Lake will receive 20 radios, each with 2 batteries, a charger, a remote mic, a belt clip and State programming. Each radio cost is \$6,500 for a total of \$130,000. BL FD is responsible for 5% or \$6,500 which needs to be budgeted in the 2024/2025 budget as we will not know until the end of 2024 if the grant receives approval. BL FD will also apply for a TransCanada grant in the amount of \$10,000 with the dollars used for equipment and any other needed equipment for the new side X side.
- d. Training: Training for the month consisted of truck checks, ice rescue classroom, wild land fire with DNR and Bear Lake FD, and med control policy review (mandated by med control).
- e. Truck/Equipment maintenance: none for February.

## 3. Planning Board Report - Shaw –

- a. Next PB meeting is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

## 4. Zoning Administrator – Shearer

- a. Shearer received a call from a man at the Federal Department for Wildlife. He asked if BL gave a permit to cut down a tree which had an Eagles nest in it. Shearer checked into it and found there was no permit was issued. It is BL zoning that requires a permit for taking out trees in the green belt. The gentleman from the Wildlife Dept. called back to say he also checked further into it and was told the owner got permission to cut down the tree with the Eagle nest in it by an agency out of Wyoming. The Eagles have begun to build a new nest in a tree located a few trees away from the one cut down and these trees are on someone else's property. It will take time for the nest to be completed but the 4 Eagles have been observed. They survived the cutting down of the tree that housed their initial nest.
  - b. No formal replies yet for the open position of ZA. Shearer has fielded some calls.
- 5. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore - no meeting
- 6. Hospital Report – Nichol
  - a. Long meeting last month. Things are going well for KMHC but an issue did arise that the board had to explore and take action. 4 board members (one has since resigned) met on October 9, 2023 for their stated purpose of filling out individual surveys. They met at the County Building in the Commissioners office which had video and audio recording. Another board member received an email invitation to this meeting. The email stated not to let others know as they only wanted certain board members to attend. This member notified the administration as it was felt this type of email was not proper. Another member of the board sent the County a FOIA for the video which was properly requested. After the KMHC Board of Trustees had a chance to listen the video and discuss with each other and our attorneys, it was decided there was a breach of the open meetings act. A letter with a resolution was sent to the 4 townships who appointed the 4 members who met on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The resolution asked the townships to consider appointing different people to the KMHC board. There has been chatter in the county that reflects poorly on KMHC. It is important to remember that if the Board of Trustees found a breach of the OMA, it is our duty to respond as the hospital becomes at risk as well as the CEO and board members. Act 47 law does not allow the board of trustees to remove a board member. It is up to the individual townships now.
- 7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker
  - a. State of Kalkaska County Roads 2024 was given to Shearer and anyone who is interested in reviewing the report may see him.
  - b. BLT will be responsible for shoulder work costs, the KCRC will chip seal from Starvation Lake to Twin Lake Rd at their cost. KCRC gave Shoemaker a 2024 Chipseal with both Blue Lake and Starvation Lk roads but the "Notes" column states crackseal. Shoemaker is looking forward to receiving KCRC's schedule.

**XIII.** Board Member Comments and Input – Almose asked about the paperwork necessary to run for office (August 6, 2024). Paperwork is available through the Clerk or County Clerk. It is best to talk with Clerk to get proper instructions. KCRC election billing by the clerk.

**XIV.** Old Business

- 1. Kitchen remodel: Nichol and the board agreed upon Bid Specs. The discussion is now around having someone come out to bid and use that bid to develop bid specifications. Shearer learned no fire suppression is required.
- 2. Pension: Brighthouse sent checks to the wrong address (somewhere in Saginaw).

**XV.** New Business

- 1. Fire Chief asked if anyone is interested in taking a hands only CPR class (TBD).

**XVI.** Adjournment – Next meeting April 3, at 7:00 pm

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