

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Board Meeting

Saturday, August 6, 2022

26 Present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 10:00 am, Pledge of Allegiance – Shearer
- II. Roll Call of Board Members – Almose, Shaw, Shearer, Shoemaker, and Nichol all present.
- III. Adoption of Agenda – Motion to adopt agenda by Almose, supported by Shoemaker. Motion carried.
- IV. Call for Conflict – Shearer – Roll call, Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all stated no conflict of interest.
- V. Minutes of last meeting - Motion by Almose to approve the July 6, 2022 minutes adding time of entering closed session at 7:05 pm, supported by Shaw, motion carried. Motion by Almose to accept the closed session minutes, supported by Shoemaker, motion carried.
- VI. The Treasurer’s report was accepted. CD’s for Highway fund will be cashed in.
- VII. Clerks Report – Nichol
 1. Motion by Almose to pay the July 2022 expenditures in the amount of \$70,151.53 supported by Shaw. Roll Call: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.
- VIII. Correspondence and Guests
 1. Jennifer Lister – Community Officer – there were 10 incidents in the township for July.
 2. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner - not present
- IX. Public Input – If our community officer is unavailable what happens? The Sheriff’s department sends another deputy. How can we get better cell service? Two letters were sent (1 to T-Mobil, 1 to Verizon) relaying poor cell coverage in our area, no replies were received. Supervisor will send new letters/contact T-Mobil, Verizon, and AT&T requesting possible solutions to poor reception. Discussed Great Lakes Energy True Stream in our area (which we understand is being considered). It could be 1 – 2 years before True Steam is up and running here. Shearer will also touch base with ANR/TransCanada to see what advice they may be able to offer. In the past we inquired whether ANR/TransCanada would allow Blue Lake Township the use of their cell tower but our request was declined.
- X. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk’s office.
 1. Assessor’s Report – Sheneman –
 - a. For the months of June and July: 3 homesteads granted, 17 deeds, 8 transfers, 1 death certificate, 2 electrical easements GLE and 0 DTE easements, as well as on split application. There will be a 5% increase in taxable value for 2023 (or rate of inflation, whichever is less).
 - b. The BLT Assessor signs for the car are a good thing. Sheneman can get a photo ID for himself and his helper through Chief Brierley. It is a State recommendation for Assessor’s to walk the property. An audience member states he would not allow this and will give his information to Sheneman so he can record it. The consequence of not allowing access to the property is the Assessor must make an educated guess which may or may not be accurate thus affecting the amount of taxable value.
 2. Fire Department Report – Brierley
 - a. 8 runs for the month of July; 4 fire related, and 4 medical runs. We had 2 mutual aid calls for Coldsprings: 1 brush and 1 field fire. 1 mutual aid for Bear Lake: a boat

rescue that was cancelled.

- b. Old Business: The Pulsars app has been used a couple of times and appears to be working well. As we use it more, it will become more familiar and comfortable.
 - c. New Business: Wild Land gear from the DNR grant has been received and placed into service. Helmets from the TransCanada grant were received and ID shields will be shipped on 8/11/22. Once the shields arrive, the helmets will be placed into service. We have been selected by the State Fire Marshall division to participate in the PFAS State study. This was brought up in our fire fighter meeting and some have agreed to participate. MIDHHS will come to the station to do the blood draw to check levels of PFAS (if any) each person has in their system. This is voluntary only and each participant will find out their levels. PFAS comes from firefighting foam. We have not used this type of foam. Grayling has a large amount of PFAS in ground water and lakes due to Camp Grayling using this foam for training on aircraft fires. Quotes are coming for replacement of our ripped back up portable tank. Fire Catt will come test our fire hose as this has not been done in a long time. Our hose is getting older and testing will inform us if our hose is still in good condition. The DeWalt battery operated chain saw is in service. We are working with Michigan Rescue Solutions to conduct training on the Jaws of Life August 22. We are waiting to hear from 256 towing to see if we can get 3 cars to cut up. We participated in a parade of fire trucks with most departments from Kalkaska County, County Sheriff's Office, and ambulances to drive by a child's house on Crawford Lake as they returned home from the hospital after a very serious lawn mower accident. It was brought to my attention our insurance company doesn't allow non-firefighters to ride in trucks during parades. I spoke with Paul Olsen, our Insurance Agent who stated we are fine to have non-firefighters ride in fire trucks during parades. His only suggestion was that each non-firefighter should have their own seat belt. He stated that this is standard practice for fire departments. We will talk to firefighters about limiting this practice to parades only. Board Member Shaw does not agree with allowing non-firefighters to ride in the fire vehicles as it has been considered a liability. By not allowing non-firefighters to ride, it will keep disappointment from happening. Discussion ensued: it is community/relationship building; we should grow with the times and the clapping from overwhelming audience members show strong support. The insurance company will be sending out a policy for the fire department to look over. Shoemaker states the firefighter officers should decide. Shaw agrees. It will be left to them.
 - d. Training: Training for the month consisted of truck checks, pump operations with hose advancement, and tanker supply to engine running the pressure through the water.
 - e. Truck/Equipment maintenance: no truck maintenance.
3. Planning Board Report - Shaw
 - a. Notice of a hearing to take place on August 20th at 9:00 am for public comment of proposed zoning ordinance changes was mailed to taxpayers. Publishing did not make the time frame to count as a hearing, but the meeting will still take place with the planning board conducting this meeting as a public hearing. A new public hearing date will be scheduled in September and published in the paper. Audience questions: what is the problem with Planning Commission getting things accomplished? Too much on PC plate? Do they need outside help? People really do not show up for the planning meetings. There has been some change over in members serving and the committee took on a pretty hefty load for the year.
 4. Zoning Board of Appeals – Gruley - no meeting
 5. Zoning Administrator – Campbell

- a. 5 building permits and 2 permits for removal of dead trees issued for July.
 - b. One citation is in the works. Complaint about chickens: ZA made 4 attempts to locate chickens on property with no chickens found; complaint closed. The complaint from was sent to Almoose to have it uploaded to the website.
6. Hospital Report – Nichol
- a. KMHC board added “Moments of Excellence” to the agenda. Discussed “Great Place to Work” survey which is benchmarked against Munson and its community hospitals. KMHC scored higher than the aforementioned.
 - b. New Organizational Chart was handed out showing the succession plan with transitions. This allows for smoother transitions and time to find any new employees to fill gaps created by retiring and/or promoted employees.
 - c. CEO Kevin Rogals’ contract was extended for three additional years.
 - d. Conflict of Interest documents and Duties and Responsibilities of Board Member documents were handed out to be signed and returned. This is a yearly process and will take place at our organizational meeting. DeKorn passed out a copy of Roberts Rules: How to conduct a Meeting – Respect Amongst Board Members.
 - e. Munson sent a letter stating KMHC’s contract with them ending June 30, 2023 will not be renewed. We negotiate each year. Munson has started outsourcing and we believe this is one of the reasons for non-renewal. They may want KMHC to negotiate with vendors on their own. They also may wish to increase the amount paid per year for those services not outsourced. We have another year and 18 months (per contract) to come to a new contract.
 - f. Acute Care Pavilion groundbreaking takes place 7/28/22 at 2 pm. New signage and employees will help direct visitors/patients while construction proceeds. Med Staff Report: IT issues, lots of changes coming from Munson. More specialists on the system now for continuity of care. Talking points are available for all meetings (as provided) and are available in the Clerk’s office.
7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker
- a. Starvation Lake Rd was paved. Still waiting for snowmobile crossing to be paved with concrete. Nichol: no invoice yet received for stone shoulder work on our project. Almoose states we need to refuse payment until “Afton Stone” not being used issue has been resolved. Gas pipeline discussed. EGLE (Keenan) made a site visit to see if proper permitting to run pipe that close to a lake has/will be issued.

XI. Board Member Comments and Input

1. Nichol: great job election workers on the 8/2 primary vote! Lease buyout from Landmark Dividend discussed and board, again, does not want to sell. Ballot language for Trash approved by council and will be sent to County Clerk by 8/16 4pm for it to appear on the November ballot.
2. Shearer: Employee Handbook and board policies need to be looked over by attorney for updating. Speed limit: KCRC manager states our speed signs are not legal. Our attorney is looking into ways to have legal 25 mph signage and approach KCRC. AuSable Institute will write a letter attesting to the fact they are a year-round school along with petitions from residents requesting 25 MPH signage (Newberry will help with this) will be given to the attorney so he may proceed. Almoose: Attorney letters should all be in one place and then split out into categories for ease of access. Shearer will get them all together.
3. Almoose: Our attorney relayed: in a special meeting, a motion to add to the agenda does not need to be a 100% yea vote, just a majority to conduct lawful business. A motion did not get recorded in the meeting minutes for May. The original motion required the Chief to make up any days missed from the 17 days per month within 4 months which passed 3 to 2. A new motion must now be made and dully supported. Motion by Almoose to require the Fire Chief

make up any of his 17 days per month missed and they must be made up within 4 months, supported by Shoemaker. Discussion: lots of input from audience. Does the chief get sick/vacation/personal time? Shaw: he is part time. Audience: part time workers can get sick/vacation/personal. Chief: relatively new position and it is a work in progress. Shaw: yes, we can always look at amending the verbal contract. Roll Call: Almose, Shoemaker, Shaw all yeas; Shearer and Nichol both Nay. Motion carried.

4. Shoemaker: grateful for the turnout of this Saturday meeting. It shows the community is interested in what this board is doing and our community. I look forward to seeing next August's turnout. Audience: Newberry requests all June, July, and August meetings to be held on a Saturday. May: Can these meetings be held via Zoom. Higgins: Can the board come together and make a final decision on the chief so every board meeting isn't feeling like walking on egg shells, waiting for the next shoe to drop? Almose: MTA magazine has a lot of salary information and will most likely bring up more questions. Can we put MTA magazine salary discussion on September's agenda? Audience: Family issues should not be penalized. Banking of hours should be part of any days to be made up. Can we just get agreement for Chief together? Why doesn't the board just sit down with the Chief and work out the agreement. Board is wasting taxpayer dollars, "inefficiency at its best". Why is this an issue? You've had attorney input, just get it done. Shaw: yes, we could have written something up and send it to the attorney, just to make sure it is legal and that would have been done. Audience: you can still do that now. Shaw: yes, we've made the big tweaks, we can make the minor ones.
5. Almose: 4 Front Credit Union, Kim Johnson, asked her to consider 4 Front for our accounts. They will give us 500 common and 500 tax checks. Their CD's are now 2.5%. They will send a quote. We currently pay \$45/month service fee at Huntington. I'm exploring our options.

XII. New Business –

1. Dehumidifier failed; it lasted almost 8 years (purchased December 2014). A new one will be purchased.
2. Motion by Shearer to extend the township hall cleaning contract for 2 years, support by Shaw. Roll call: Shearer, Shaw, Almose, Shoemaker, and Nichol all yea, motion carried.
3. Discussion on adopting Attorney Schwartzes language for on-call. With the Chief approval of current language, no new language will be adopted.
4. Audience: Higgins: wants a letter of commendation to the chief for improvements in the department under his management and wants the taxpayers in the room to vote on it. The audience voted, all but two raised their hand for an accommodation. Audience: Dickens (the first words are talked over) 40 years a slap in the face. There's been some good things... Interrupted by Shaw: Never mind Randy. You don't need to do it here, wrong place, wrong time. This is a small amount of people and all the people in this room doesn't understand everything. There will have to be a time and place when everything can be brought out to the majority of the people. Let it go.
5. Audience: May: Boards tantamount challenge: there is a lack of accurate and consistent information. Anything this board can do to facilitate that with all the taxpayers. Use email, newsletter, constant contact, etc. The board needs to step up and take care of business. Everything we do should be communicated; other townships do it, others can't.

XIII. Old Business –

XIV. Adjournment – Next meeting September 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm

1. Motion to adjourn at 12:34 pm by Shoemaker, supported by Shaw, motion carried.