

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes (with changes)

Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

20 Present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Shearer
- III. Roll Call of Board Members – Almose, Shaw, Shearer, Shoemaker, and Nichol all present.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** to adopt agenda by Nichol, supported by Shaw. Motion carried.
- V. Call for Conflict – Shearer – Roll call, Almose, Nichol, Shaw, Shoemaker, and Shearer all stated no conflict of interest.
- VI. Minutes of last meeting - **Motion** by Shearer to approve the September 7, 2022 minutes supported by Shoemaker, motion carried.
- VII. The Treasurer's report was accepted. Information from 4 Front regarding switching accounts has been received. Treasurer asked board to look over the information for discussion in the November board meeting. Handout: Huntington securities paper.
- VIII. Clerks Report – Nichol
 1. **Motion** by Shaw to pay the September 2022 expenditures in the amount of \$35,647.92 supported by Shoemaker. Roll Call: Shaw, Shoemaker, Almose, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.
- IX. Correspondence and Guests
 1. Camp Grayling Expansion – Colonel Meyers and Tom Barnes, DNR
 - a. Col. Meyers gave a talk encompassing the background of Camp Grayling, the current lease and his knowledge of the expansion with the proposed lease. He touched on multi-Domain strategy (Land, Air, Ground, Sea, Cyber/Space). Looking for space that allows for both summer and winter training. The lease does not allow for the building of even temporary structures. Mr. Barnes stated the military would not allow restriction to public activities. The agreement reached in 1985 was renewed 2018 and will be up for renewal in 2038. The military must follow new impact zones (ie: Flora/Fauna like Kirkland warbler and plant life that may be endangered) and the military will not be allowed in/on those zones. Military to stay 1,500 ft away from water and private property. Mr. Barns will put together a document of comments to his Director (Dan Eichenger). The NEPA process, if passed, will then go back out for another round of public comment. These comments will be put into a document and sent to the Director
 2. Jennifer Lister – Community Officer – there were 13 incidents in the township for September with 1 DNR, 34 hours ORV patrol as well.
 3. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner - Not present
- X. Public Input – Both Col. Meyers and Mr. Barns fielding questions from the audience. Fletemeir asked if some lands will be closed at times but open for hunting seasons. Barns: the 1,500 ft rule could change but states they won't go below that. Creation of new roads? Col. Meyers: cannot create new roads, have to use what is available. How will military keep foreign troops in line with respecting nature. Col. Meyers: Danes, Ausies and other foreign troops being trained have stricter rules in their respective nations and they want to be capable partners. PFAS in lake Margarethe, yes, they believe due to fire training at the airfield. EAGLE states Camp Grayling responsible but it can't be proven. There is an advisory board for PFA's to contain it authorized by Major General Rogers in late Jan/Feb of 2022. Where do complaints get lodged? DNR/Military? Barns: probably

both. Col Meyers: it depends. Why Michigan? Col Meyers: Michigan owns more land than any other state. Alaska is super expensive to get to. Mrs. Brozovich: Private contractors? Col Meyers: DOD industry partners are allowed. Most are only interested in urban areas. Military has zero authority to sublease. Almost always, "industry partners" stay within the current Camp Grayling Complex. Higgins: Management changes, how do we know what is stated will not change? All agreements are in writing so even if management changes, they would have to abide by current document. Public: with all the forestry, currently no deer but tons of bear. Soldiers will make it worse. Barns: Not so much. They will come back. Fletemeir: any Camp Grayling land purchased with Pitman Roberts funds? Barns: yes, we have to look. Shaw: will you be using snowmobile trails? Col Meyers: no, for winter strikes we are connecting with DNR to expand trails. Nichol: what about the photos on the web of miscellaneous military trash strewn and left on trails/land? Col. Meyers: it may take up to 2 weeks to get training sites cleaned up depending on how large the training is.

XI. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk's office.

1. Assessor's Report – Sheneman –
 - a. For the months of September: 1 homestead granted, 2 denials, 7 deeds, 2 transfers, 1 death certificate, 3 GLE electrical easements and 0 DTE easements.
 - b. State of Michigan completed an Audit for Kalkaska County. Their findings: 44 PRE denials with 4 in Blue Lake Township.
2. Zoning Administrator – Campbell
 - a. 1 dead tree permit issued for September.
3. Fire Department Report – Brierley
 - a. 9 runs for the month of September; 4 fire related, and 5 medical runs. We had 1 mutual aid call for Coldsprings: House fire.
 - b. Old Business: Annual fall BBQ went very well. All had a good time and the food was outstanding. Top Notch will be installing and handle natural gas conversion on October 18th. False alarms at 7269 have stopped. Kalkaska Fire Chiefs are putting together information to have a federal grant written for Scott Air Packs for all County Fire Departments. Nichol: this will have an effect on the County ARPA dollars requested. Chief will keep us updated as to the status. Northern Power estimate for LED for all buildings \$10,175. Grant application to TransCanada for 4 ice suites and GLE for LED lighting. The quote for 10 bottles with valves came in at \$1250. We are looking into another company for bottles without valves at \$700 each. We can put valves in the new bottles from the current bottles in service. Safety First will make the change and fill the bottles for about \$10.00 each.
 - c. New Business: New water drop tank has been put into service on the tanker with the old one stored in the upper building in case it is needed. Two new portable radios have been received and placed into service (from last years budget). We are getting ready to write 2 new grants this week. Officers are discussing possible uses.
 - d. Policies/Guidelines: officers have gone over 5 policies to be changed into guidelines: Application Release form, Leave of Absence, Discipline, Drug and Alcohol Testing, and Carrying and Securing Concealed Pistol. Shoemaker felt some of these should remain policies. The Chief will take all 5 back and discuss again with the officers. Nichol asked Dickens to copy the original paperwork. He stated he had it in his vehicle and would get it to her.
 - e. Training: Training for the month consisted of medical airway and ventilations, as well as a walk-through tour of the AuSable Institute.
 - f. Truck/Equipment maintenance: None.
 - g. **Motion** by Shearer to extend Dickens' snowplow contract for 2022/2023 at \$6,000/year with a diesel fuel surcharge of \$250, supported by Shaw. Roll call: Shearer, Shaw, Almose, Shoemaker, and Nichol all yea. Motion carried.

- h. For the second meeting in a row, the Chief was questioned by Almose and Shaw about his choice to sell Blue Lake Township Fire Department and Cancer Awareness T-shirts on the Blue Lake Township Fire Department Facebook Page. Almose told him to stop. There was a long discussion about the Chief choosing not to proceed to form a Fire Fighters Association before selling T-shirts. He was given handouts from MTA at the September meeting about proper process. Greg stated he would stop pursuing the formation of a FF Association.
 - i. The Chief was questioned about attempting to sell the lights and sirens from his personal vehicle on his personal Facebook page for \$2,000. He was told by Shaw it is illegal to sell township property without Board approval. Greg originally paid \$2,000 and the township paid \$3,936.80 of the bill (\$5,936.80 total) for the lights and sirens to be purchased and installed in his personal vehicle in February of 2021.
- 4. Planning Board Report - Shaw
 - a. Public Hearing took place on Tuesday, September 27th at 7:00 pm for public comment of proposed zoning ordinance changes. Board was emailed the changes. Nichol requested the overall stats of for/against.
- 5. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore - no meeting
- 6. Hospital Report – Nichol
 - a. KMHC Board meeting conflicted with PB Public Hearing. As a Zoom Mtg was not arranged for this meeting, Nichol posted a zoom meeting and stayed to run it. KMHC's CEO and Board Chair were notified of Nichol's absence. CEO agreed to meet with Nichol and give an update. Talking points available in the Clerk's office.
- 7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker
 - a. Phases 1 & 2 on CR 571 are complete.
 - b. KCRC is hosting an employee luncheon on the 12th.
 - c. Shoemaker plans to discuss snowmobile crossings in BLT with KSAS to see if they can pay for upgrades. Almose to give Shoemaker Chuck Popes phone number.
 - d. Peterson has resigned, Mike Clark agreed to be on the committee and looking for one more member (preferably off lake).

XII. Board Member Comments and Input

- 1. Townhall Remodel, ~~emergency shelter~~: Hire licensed General Contractor (need bid specs to place bid in paper). Hire Architect for detailed specs? Shearer to handle bid specs. Nichol discussed purchasing Stove, hood, dishwasher as these specs are necessary for cabinet placement. Shaw: AV upgrade to be done by professional. **Waiting for Machin Engineering report on structural integrity of hall before proceeding.**

XIII. Old Business –

- 1. Verizon to inspect township's 2 towers.
- 2. GFL contract. Shearer to send bid specs to Waste Management and GFL. 8.3% inflation paired with ever increasing diesel costs will most likely have an impact on bids.
- 3. Fire Chief Contract – no handouts by any Board Members. Nichol gave out newest Fire Chief job description from MTA. Almose stated we have a job description. Nichol stated we do but should be looking at the updated version to see if it is a better fit. Nichol reiterated the current verbal contract understanding and asked to start from there. Almose stated she thought we need to rethink the whole position. Shaw stated there were other matters. Nichol inquired about what type of matters and was told she had a list, but the list was not available at the meeting, nor did she offer any details. The hour was very late so Shaw requested a special meeting. Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2022 at 10:00 am.
- 4. Resolution re: Camp Grayling. Tabled until the special meeting on 10/20/22.
- 5. June, July Saturday board meetings? Tabled until December's Board Meeting
- 6. Shearer: Recommendation from Attorney: BLT Code of Ethics and TB Rules,

policies/procedures. Tabled until November's board meeting.

7. KCRC check. **Motion** by Nichol to send check # 4840 in the amount of \$51,926.48 to KCRC, supported by Shaw. Roll Call: Nichol, Shaw, Almose, Shoemaker, and Shearer, all yeas. Motion carried.
8. ARPA – Nichol: Kalkaska County requests due by December 31, 2022. Due to late hour, tabled until next meeting.

XIV. New Business – Shoemaker requested 2022/2023 KCRC road request be put on Special Meeting agenda.

- XV.** Adjournment – Next meeting November 2, 2022 at 7:00 pm (Special Mtg: 10/20/22 at 10 am)
1. **Motion** to adjourn at 11:04 pm by Shoemaker, supported by Shearer, motion carried.