Blue Lake Township

DRAFT

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Board Meeting

May 7, 2025

9 Present

1. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 pm by Fletemier
2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call of Board Members –Brozovich, Shoemaker, Fletemier, and Nichol present, Almose absent.
4. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** to adopt agenda as revised by Nichol, supported by Shoemaker. Motion carried.
5. Conflict of Interest – Roll call vote: Brozovich, Shoemaker, and Nichol all no. Fletemier states he has a conflict about voting on the Acting ZA wage. **Motion** by Shoemaker to recuse Fletemier from voting on the Acting ZA wage, supported by Brozovich. Roll call: Shoemaker, Brozovich, Nichol, and Almose yes. Motion carried.
6. Minutes of last meeting –
	1. **Motion** by Almose to accept April 2, 2025 minutes with two corrections, supported by Fletemier. Motion carried.
	2. **Motion** by Almose to accept April 30, 2025 minutes with 2 spelling errors, supported by Shoemaker. Motion carried.
7. Treasurer’s report - Almose
	1. **Motion** by Fletemier to accept the Treasurers report, supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Fletemier, Shoemaker, Brozovich, Almose, and Nichol all yes. Motion carried.
8. Clerks Report – Nichol
	1. **Motion** by Almose to pay the April expenditures in the amount of $59,783.79 supported by Fletemier. Roll Call: Shoemaker, Brozovich, Fletemier, and Nichol all yes. Motion carried.
	2. Revenue and Expenditure report review. Budget amendment for GF category 101 will be needed for the next board meeting.
9. Correspondence and Guests
	1. Community Officer - Ray Farrier –The monthly report contained 9 incidents which includes the 2 liquor inspections. Notable: Threat against Zoning, OWI on Sunset, Fraud through Facebook Marketplace-Hacked account: Bitcoin vending machines are Fraud/Fake.
	2. Kohn Fisher - County Commissioner, not present.
	3. Connie Farrier – KMHC – Farrier met with the new CEO and he stated he would like to join her in attending a meeting (date to be determined). A new CFO was hired and will begin on June 1st. KMHC has a Wound care specialist. Only 1 in 150,000 are wound care specialists and we are very lucky to have one on staff. Lab parking complaints have been received, working on a design for Lab Techs to meet patients. TC Eye and Walk-in Clinic will have new signage with the Walk-in Clinic having an open/closed designation. There is a huge need for the Walk-in Clinic and we are working on a second provider to begin in August. Our OR is expanding, seeing 500% growth since 2008. Working on getting a DaVinci robot in the future. To get ahold of Connie, her cell phone is the best way. She left cards for us. Speed bumps were set up but will be taken out of the ER. The next construction job is expanding the Pharmacy. Bids have been received at $200,000 below budget. The Pharmacy will be done in 3 phases, will be in the same location, have expanded services, and a 2nd Pharmacist has been hired.
10. Public Input – None
11. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk’s office.
	1. Assessor’s Report – Sheneman - Fletemier gave report
		1. For the month of April: 15 deeds, 1 death certificate, 0 surveys, 0 electrical easements, and 2 PRE requests, 1 PRE denial, and 2 PTAs. Weekly field inspections have begun.
		2. The State Tax Commission approved the ANR Storage form 154 petition and Chris has been working with Lance Brown from ANR to get the tax bills out.
		3. **Motion** by Fletemier to deny the request from ANR to delay or restructure the payment terms dependent upon Coldsprings Township payment terms resulting from the State Tax Commission Docket Number 154-24-0297 and 154-24-0298, supported by Brozovich. Motion carried.
	2. Fire Department - Brierley
		1. 10 runs: 1 medical and 9 fire related. 1 auto mutual aid to Coldsprings (rollover), 2 auto mutual aid runs to Bear Lake (structure fire, possible building fire cancelled), 1 mutual aid to Kalkaska (possible house fire). March MABAS activation update: The State is trying to get the Federal Government to declare a disaster as they did.
		2. Jeff and Jack are now certified Firefighter I and II with Haz mat. Rick Marcinkus passed the test is also certified Firefighter I and II with Haz mat. Congratulations to all for their hard work and dedication to the department.
		3. Grants: 1) AFG grant was turned in for 131-800 MHz portable radios (Blue Lake will receive 20) nothing new to report. 2) Michigan DNR matching grant: Wildland gear, boots ordered, and fire hose ordered. Flashlights have arrived and were distributed. Timelines: Grant expires August 1, 2025. Invoices and payment verification is due on September 1, 2025. TransCanada grant for $10,000 was completed. Nothing new to report.
		4. House fire on Seminole Trail: a quick response and attack from our department knocked the fire down. With the arrival of personnel and equipment from mutual aid companies, roof operations were able to begin right away limiting the damage to the structure. Job well done by all.
		5. Training: Truck checks, pump operations, and SCBA.
		6. Truck/Equipment maintenance: none for the month
		7. The radio tower shed needs repair. Chief will get a couple of bids. Is it possible to use tower rent funds to fund the repairs?
		8. Working on bids to replace all equipment. New engines will be getting more expensive by $80,000. Right now, Fouts has 120 trucks with current engines selling for about $699,000. Fouts believes all 120 will be sold by years end.
	3. Planning Commission – Brozovich – no meeting
	4. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore – no meeting
		1. Open ZBA seat status – still open, must be registered voter in the township.
	5. Zoning Administrator – Fletemier
		1. Open/Active: 30 open or active. All prior holds have been cleared. 4 new permits issued.
		2. STR’s: 22 licenses issued, 1 open at customer’s request. 15 stopped.
		3. Complaints: greenbelt, barking dogs, and blight.
		4. Asked PC to review method to measure greenbelt and lake setbacks when a bluff exists. Historically it has been up and over but need documentation.
		5. **Motion** by Nichol to pay ZA salary to Acting ZA, supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Nichol, Shoemaker, Almose, and Brozovich all yes. Motion carried
		6. Old Business: Modernizing permits forms and system. How to guide for permit process.
	6. Hospital Report – Nichol: see Connie Farrier under Correspondence and Guests
	7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker
		1. Chip seal should be done by June 1st. Waiting on information from Rogers about snowmobile crossing.
12. Board Member Comments and Input –
13. Old Business
	1. Lawn Bid Review: 2 bids received. Board approves Great Northern Lawn for mowing, spring and fall clean up. Use True Green for fertilizer (3 times) and Barker Creek for pruning. No lawn service for Fire Barn. Fletemier will contact the three providers above.
	2. Attorney Change to Bauckham Thall
		1. General Attorney – Fletemier will arrange a meeting (virtual or otherwise) Buckman Thall after the budget.
		2. DAR Law – Nichol to see where we are now on the handbook.
	3. Kitchen – Drop ceiling, lighting combo cans/what we have. Countertops: no decision. No upper cabinets, stove, or dishwasher. Island: no decision
	4. Budget – Timing and Updates
		1. Budget Workshop 1 April 30th complete
		2. Budget Workshop 2 May 12th complete
		3. Budget Public Hearing June 4th, as part of regular meeting
	5. Michigan Earned Sick Time Law (ESTA) update – no updates
	6. IT Support Anavon Update: Looking to possibly purchase on our own. MI Deal looks good to go. Motion by Almose authorize up to $17,000 funded by Township Improvement for computers (desk and laptops). Supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Almose, Shoemaker, Fletemier, Brozovich, and Nichol. Motion carried.
	7. Brighthouse – nothing new
14. New Business
	1. **Motion** by Fletemier to adopt the Ethics Policy Resolution 05072025-1. Supported by Almose. Roll call: Brozovich, Nichol, Almose, Fletemier, and Shoemaker all yes. Motion carried.
		1. Township Board Rules of Procedure – Hold for future meeting
15. Adjournment – Next meeting June 4th at 7:00 pm
	1. **Motion** to adjourn at 9:56 pm by Nichol, supported by Almose. Motion carried.