

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Township Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
15 Present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 pm by Shearer
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Shearer
- III. Roll Call of Officers - Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all present. Almost absent.
- IV. Call for Conflict – Roll call, Shearer, Nichol, Shaw, and Shoemaker all stated no conflict of interest.
- V. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** by Shaw to adopt the agenda, supported by Nichol. Motion carried.
- VI. Minutes of last meeting – **Motion** by Shaw to accept the September 6, 2023 minutes (change next meeting day to Wednesday – not Saturday – date was correct), support by Shoemaker, motion carried.
- VII. The Treasurer's report was accepted.
- VIII. Clerks Report – Nichol
 1. **Motion** by Shaw to pay the September 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$32,169.05 supported by Shearer. Roll Call: Shaw, Shearer, Shoemaker, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.
 2. Corrected financials will be handed out at next meeting, Clerk and Treasurer slightly off.
- IX. Correspondence and Guests
 1. Community Officer, Ray Farrier –. An email received from the Sheriff's Office showing 12 incidents in the township including 2 liquor inspections and 1 DNR violation for the month of September.
 2. KMHC, Connie Farrier – Kim Babcock, VP of HR retired after 50 years of service. She began working for KMHC at age 16. Sandy Dilly is her replacement. The new Acute Care Center and ED (emergency Department) will have from 4 – 6 beds and from 6 – 11 respectively. An open house is scheduled for November 12, 2023 from Noon until 4 pm. Come and get a tour! Renderings for LTC are underway. LTC needs more private rooms with their own bathrooms. Memory care needs more room.
 3. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner – not present
 4. Kalkaska County Road Commission, John Rogers – The KCRC is asking voters for a \$23 million bond over 30 years on November 7, 2023. Consulted with Architectural, Electrical, and Structural engineers. It costs ¾ of a million dollars to hire a company like this. KCRC was told no useful life in the 1957 building. Spence Brothers put a price per square foot and it was \$23 million total. Fire suppression must be in a new building. A 40-year bond with USDA and payback with general funds was not an option. When asked if there were grants, Rogers stated no grants were available. The USDA bond is a two-year process. Asked: at what rate? Is the rate fixed or variable? Any information on return/cost savings? How much money does the County give to KCRC. The County is a pass through to the KCRC. KCRC has \$500,000 in an escrow account. They have 16 plows and two spares, 3 semi tractors with two being used, and two cold patch trucks. Plows are kept outside as no room to keep them on trucks inside current garage. Anyone is welcome to come tour current facilities. Rogers handed out a 13 page document including conceptual drawing from Spence Brothers.
- X. Public Input – Mr. Shook of Puffer Rd in Garfield township is picketing to get people together and speak with State Legislators regarding the need for road repair. He has been in the news.
- XI. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk's office.

1. Assessor's Report – Sheneman –
 - a. For the month of September: 8 deeds, 1 transfer, 0 death certificates, and 0 Great Lakes Energy and GLE easements were processed. Continuing the 20% annual inspections and hope to finish within the next two weeks (including a review of existing building permits).
2. Fire Department Report – Brierley
 - a. 5 runs for the month of September; 3 fire related, and 2 medical runs. Mutual Aid: Station 6: large illegal burn and a wire down on border of Blue Lake Township.
 - b. Old Business: No update on Bear Lake move to Kalkaska EMS. Airpack grant is about a 6-month process, orders should be placed this month. Still in the running for State of Michigan grant for new thermal imaging camera. The State extended grant through December 31, 2023.
 - c. New Business: Looking at options for a new rescue truck. Heading in a new direction and will update the board at our next meeting. Snow plowing contract is up. No bids. The Chief would like to continue with Dickens. **Motion** by Nichol to renew Dickens snowplow contract with same terms, supported by Shearer. Roll call: Nichol, Shearer, Shaw, and Shoemaker all yeas. Motion carried.
 - d. Training: Training for the month consisted Medical. Mandatory International Trauma Life Support certification per Med Control.
 - e. Truck/Equipment maintenance: New airline has been installed on the engine. The Engines air horns are not working: waiting on CSI to give a date for repair.
3. Planning Board Report – Shaw: next meeting is in January 2024.
 - a. Fletemeir: January meeting documents/information from PB will be forwarded to the attorney.
4. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore: No Meeting
5. Zoning Administrator's Report – Schuhart
 - a. For the month of September: 4 building permits were issued and 3 complaints from the same person received. The owner of the dogs has sent a letter describing what they have done to rectify the barking situation. One violation being handled.
6. Hospital Report – Nichol – See KMHC Connie Farrier above under Correspondence and Guests. The Talking Points are available in the Clerk's office.
7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker – next meeting November 8, 2023 at 9:00 am.

XII. Board Member Comments and Input –

1. Garbage bin will be disposed of. New Fee Schedule handed out showing additions from recent Zoning Ordinances passed.

XIII. New Business –

1. Replacement for Beech Tree: **Motion** by Nichol to approve the Barker Creek estimate for a new October Glory Maple tree, 12 – 15', landscape labor and material in the amount of \$521.97, supported by Shearer. Roll Call: Nichol, Shearer, and Shoemaker yea, Shaw no. Motion carried.
2. K Campbell letter – discussion around paying Campbell to continue to work with Schuhart at an hourly rate. Other Zoning Administrators had months of working one on one with new ZA's as they were hired as deputies. This board failed to hire a new ZA in a timely manner after Cambell turned in her letter stating she would be retiring as of December 31, 2022. Schuhart was not hired until February of 2023. Campbell has been taking calls, coming into the office to help including site visitation. There is no budget as that process happens in May of each year. The board was unreceptive to paying and stated if ZA needs additional assistance, she should request it.

XIV. Old Business –

1. ARPA – nothing new to report
2. Kitchen – still no bid specifications. Final drawings received for kitchen cupboards and

island.

3. Beech Tree Removal: **Motion** by Nichol to accept the bids in the amount of \$2,500 to remove the Beech with stump grinding, 2 pine trees with stump grinding, cut dead limbs from Oak trees, and clean up around the utility shed and \$500 to remove the diseased pine in front of the utility shed, supported by Shearer. Roll call: Nichol, Shearer, Shaw, and Shoemaker all yeas. Motion carried.
4. Pension Update: still researching for \$2,000 not put into proper recipient account. Brighthouse has not been giving all participants quarterly's. I ordered 3 years worth of back statements. Manor Group is involved and has been calling and being told they are still researching.

XV. Adjournment – Next meeting Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 7:00 pm

1. **Motion** to adjourn at 9.02 pm by Shearer, supported by Shaw, motion carried.