

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

13 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 Shearer with additions (IX add #3 KMHC, Connie Farrier) supported by Nichol. 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 Shoemaker to accept February 1, 2023 minutes as amended, support by Nichol, motion carried.
- VII. The Treasurer’s report was accepted.
 1. If parcels will be going to ESA (Essential Services Assessment), Blue Lake Township may see a tax loss of \$39,840,100.
 2. Tax payors are utilizing the BS&A credit card payment feature much more than past years.
- VIII. Clerks Report – Nichol
 1. **Motion** by Almose to pay the February 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$27,638.08 supported by Shearer. Roll Call: Almose, Shearer, Shoemaker, Shaw, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.
- IX. Correspondence and Guests
 1. Jennifer Lister – Community Officer – unable to attend.
 2. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner – not present
 3. KMHC – Connie Farrier
 - a. With lots of construction at the hospital, the new Acute Care Pavilion is on time and under budget. It will house 7 to 11 beds. KMHC qualifies for the new on-site MRI machine. Paperwork from the State is expected in early June. The KMHC Board approved letting the purchase contract with the contingency upon receiving the SOM approval letter. After construction to house the MRI, it is expected MRI capability will begin in late September of 2023. KMHC has experienced a loss of CENA’s through the COVID period. This limits the Long-Term Care availability. KMHC is working hard to recruit new CENA’s.
- X. Public Input – None
- XI. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk’s office.
 1. Assessor’s Report – Sheneman –
 - a. Sheneman notified the Board ESA’s were requested. There is an estimated tax loss of \$39,840,100. Nichol: Is there reimbursement from the State for this?
 - b. For the month of January (through February 18th): 6 Deeds; no transfers, death certificates, and electrical easements.
 - c. Board of Review Organizational Meeting will be held March 7th at 4:00pm
 - d. Board of Review meeting dates are as follows: March 14th from 9 am until 12 pm and 1 pm until 4 pm and March 16th from 1 pm until 4 pm and 6 pm until 9 pm
 2. Fire Department Report – Brierley
 - a. 5 runs for the month of February; 4 fire related, and 1 medical run. We had 1 mutual aid call for Coldsprings: PIC 612 & Sunset Trail, 1 mutual aid for Bear Lake: traffic

- control on M72, and 1 mutual aid to Kalkaska: PIC person trapped in car on M131.
- b. Old Business: South Branch Fire Chief will be asked to talk to board about MABAS. Chief will try to schedule him in for April. Shaw questioned why he needed to come when the program is cost prohibitive. Nichol stated she would like to hear the information and learn what the system is about, and how it can benefit the FD. Almose wants a copy of the contract MABAS would require us to agree to. The contract is on the MABAS web site and can be printed out. Bob Barr's coffee hour was well attended. We had a great time. FEMA grant update: the regional grant was turned in timely for \$875,000. Included with the grant was a letter of support by Senator Gary Peters.
 - c. New Business: PAR Plan grant was awarded for a partial amount for the purchase of a portable generator and 2 portable tri pod lights. We have received the equipment and placed them into service. Thank you to Randy Dickens, Assistant Fire Chief, for taking care of the grant and getting the equipment. We applied for a grant through TransCanada in the amount of \$25,000 for a Polaris Ranger 1000cc side by side. This will replace our 8-wheeled Argo. It will take about 6 to 8 weeks to hear back on the grant. We would like to sell the ARGO once a replacement is ready to be put into service using the dollars received to finish outfitting the new SxS. If any partial funding is approved, Chief would like funds to be placed in a restricted account for purchase of side by side only. If the funds will not be used for this specific purpose, the funds will be returned. The period has not been determined but will be more than one year. Multiple pairs of old, unused rubber boots; we would like to give them to any firefighter who wants a pair or donate them. Donations are acceptable to the board but there has to be a cost (by statute) and we may not give them away. Request anyone interested pay \$1. A few pairs will be kept as backups. Would like to donate the old positive pressure fan and ice rescue suits to FD's in need. The board agrees. Officers would like to fill the captain's position with staff who have both Fire and EMS. Board agrees. FF Alex Porter is taking an EMT class at Frederick FD. As the class is grant funded, there is no class expense for BLFD.
 - d. Training: Training for the month consisted of Med Control policies, park to protect/traffic control, CEU training (pediatric emergencies), and fire scene accountability/new equipment.
 - e. Truck/Equipment maintenance: None for February.
 - f. Shoemaker wants the board to ferret out the board responsibilities for the FD by April. Nichol: the information provided by Shoemaker was extremely lengthy and does not want to make any decisions until we hear from the township attorney. The board is in agreement we need to hear from the attorney before decisions are made. Lights and sirens are to be stored on site at the FD, Chief will make sure they are.
3. Planning Board Report - Shaw
 - a. The PB reviewed and approved a noise ordinance and one for shipping containers. Still working on Short Term Rentals (license cost and renewal fee) and the 5-Year Plan (1 section left). Once the ordinances are updated, they will be sent to the printer for 25 copies (14 needed just for Board and PB). **Motion** by Shaw to pay Todd Fletemier \$25/hour for 80 hours of update the Zoning Ordinance, supported by Almose. Roll Call: Shaw, Almose, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all yes. Motion carried.
 4. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore - no meeting
 5. Zoning Administrator – Shearer
 - a. One tree removal permit for February.

- b. Nichol: purchase a laptop for ZA, move desktop to Treasurers department.
- 6. Hospital Report – Nichol – see Correspondence and Guests: Connie Farrier
- 7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker
 - a. 2 new board members; Amos Mave, Dave Simpson. 2023 committee members elected. Meeting schedules were decided upon and posted.

XII. Board Member Comments and Input - None

XIII. Old Business –

- 1. Spark Grant: Almose gave a handout for the round one DNR Spark Grant for recreational purposes. Round two dates have yet to be posted. Is there support from board members to pursue it? Nichol: would like to discuss with KCSAS what information they have obtained regarding the business plan/model from others who have same/similar buildings as KCSAS would like to construct. As the SPARK Grant would have the building/grounds become a recreational area, Nichol believes it is prudent to see what others have by way of expense (current/projected) and wisdom as to what works, obstacles encountered and any other pertinent information they can share. Our attorney stated we could inquire to the DNR regarding specific questions, asking for responses in writing (ie: can we lease the building, can we hire a managing party, hours of required manned operations, etc). Almose, Shoemaker and Nichol wish to pursue the building and possible use of the Spark Grant. Shaw and Shearer do not.

XIV. New Business – None

XV. Adjournment – Next meeting April 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm

- 1. **Motion** to adjourn at 9:06 pm by Shoemaker, supported by Shearer, motion carried.