

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

12 present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Shaw
- III. Roll Call of Board Members – Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all present.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** to adopt agenda by Almose, supported by Shoemaker. Motion carried.
- V. Conflict of Interest – Roll call vote: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, and Nichol all no. Shearer cites he is a Mason and one of the applicants for Zoning Administrator is also a Mason. He will abstain from voting on this position, should it arise.
- VI. Minutes of last meeting – **Motion** by Shoemaker to accept the March 6, 2024 minutes, supported by Shearer. Motion carried.
- VII. The Treasurer’s report was accepted.
 1. Handouts for Summer and Winter 2023 Tax were reported on.
- VIII. Clerks Report –
 1. **Motion** by Almose to pay the March expenditures in the amount of \$59,235.75, supported by Shoemaker. Roll Call: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.
 2. Budget Workshop/Hearing was scheduled for May 21, 2024 at 10:00 am here at the township hall. Budget worksheets are due in by April 30, 2024. Anyone needing help or having questions, please get in touch with the Clerk.
- IX. Correspondence and Guests
 1. Deputy Farrier reviewed his monthly report containing four incidents and answered questions. The large, controlled brush fire on Gedman Rd was ok. Deputy Farrier will attend the Michigan Department of State’s Election: Threats of Violence Towards Officials in Traverse City. ORV Safety Cert Training will be on May 24th and will also schedule one in June (date to be determined but, will be after schools end their year).
 2. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner not present
- X. Public Input – None
- XI. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk’s office.
 1. Assessor’s Report – Sheneman
 - a. For the month of March: processed just a few deeds. The Board of Review went smoothly with just 6 petitions. 2024 field inspection notices have been sent and the inspection process has begun.
 - b. During my State mandated inspections, I noticed the DNR stocking fish in Starvation Lake. DNR stated 3,100 Brown and Rainbow trout were introduced. Someone from the audience stated Big Twin had 6,000 trout (believed it was Rainbow) introduced by the DNR.
 2. Fire Department Report –
 - a. 11 runs for the month of March; 6 fire related, and 5 medical runs. We had 3 mutual aid runs to Coldsprings: 1 car fire, 1 garage fire, and 1 tree down.
 - b. Old Business: The new Side X Side was placed into service and the Argo has been taken out of service. Boardman FD will purchase our additional 8 SCBA bottles for \$2,400. Motion by Nichol to accept Todd’s Welding bid of \$1,800 to extend the

utility vehicle's bed 10" in order for the SXS to fit, supported by Shaw. Roll call: Almose, Shoemaker, Shaw, Nichol, and Shearer all yea. Motion carried. Chief applied for the Trans Canada grant and we should be hearing if we will receive it in 6-8 weeks.

- c. New Business: If the Board believes they have a need that a grant could fulfill, the Chief will write it for us. Perhaps communication equipment? No decision was made. Speakers, microphone, Owl system, tv, tables, (remembering anything needing storage must be considered) were discussed. No decision was made. The grant may be available until year end but, submission of grant should be sooner rather than later.
 - d. Training: Training for the month consisted of truck checks, pump operations, EMS scenario with Side X Side, and search and rescue.
 - e. Truck/Equipment maintenance: none for March. Chief, however, did test the Hall's AED unit last month, all was working well.
3. Planning Board Report - Shaw – report given by Fletemier
 - a. STR (Short Term Rental) and legal cases of STR being commercial operations was discussed. They reviewed several legal cases and legal opinions and concluded that STR's are a commercial operation. They have questions for the attorney on how to move forward. Hoping to have a public meeting in August. Fletemier spoke with Attorney Wendling about a referendum: asking if people wanted all STR anywhere and how that affects zoning ordinance and board decisions.
 - b. Discussion regarding Allen's and Bond's expired terms. Shearer stated we have new people who wish to be on the planning board. **Motion to appoint Karen Brozovich to the Planning Board, no second. Motion by Almose to reappoint Bond, supported by Shoemaker, motion carried. Motion by Shoemaker to reappoint Allen, supported by Shaw, motion carried.**
 4. Zoning Administrator – Shearer
 - a. One permit issued for March.
 5. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore - no meeting
 6. Hospital Report – Nichol
 - a. Opened the meeting with Doctors speaking to Act 47 vs Not for Profit. Each individual chose Not for Profit stating points of best way to help ensure longevity as we have greater options (ie: opportunities to joint venture where each have a stake in the success of the venture as opposed to KMHC having only a vendor relationship). Also, how many doctors wish to work for forward thinking KMHC.
 - b. Kevin Rogals, CEO announced his retirement in about 1 year. He wishes to remain until a decision is made by the Board on whether to remain an ACT 47 or make a change to Not for Profit. This could extend his timeline for retirement.
 - c. An additional three forums have been added in April to discuss the future of KMHC. Nichol encouraged all who have not attended one to go an upcoming session.
 - d. An ongoing presence of people thinking 1: Munson owns KMHC- which they do not and 2: We are for sale – which we are not. Matter of fact: the board, again, made a motion stating we wish to remain an independent hospital, not owned by another entity as we believe our greatness comes from the independence of remaining our own entity where decisions continue to meet our mission: **To improve the health and quality of life for our communities:** By providing high quality healthcare services, close to home. By engaging our communities to identify ongoing healthcare priorities. By passionately advocating for the patients and residents entrusted to our care.
 7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker
 - a. Bids to be let out in May; Aggregate; Bituminous Material, Liquid Emulsions, traffic

control signs; trucking, and dust control. 2024 grant applications: A. Raise Grant for CR612 Village limits to Crawford Lk Rd and B: Safety grant CR571 Meyers Rd to CR612. No calls on call log for Blue Lake.

XII. Board Member Comments and Input – Almore concerned about Nichol working Primary Election as an Inspector. Felt the correct process was not followed. Nichol stated the State of Michigan reimburses the cost for each election inspector, election inspector is not a statutory duty of the Clerk, Election Committee minutes included her as an election inspector, the Board of Blue Lake Township may not approve election inspectors, it is a function of the Election Committee. Almore stated no problem in paying but due to the MTA article, it caused questions as to how she was paid. After much discussion, the Board decided to have Shearer get in touch with the township's attorney to get his opinion.

XIII. Old Business

1. Kitchen remodel: Shearer has an appointment for the Bid Specs with Carter Lumber.
2. Pension: awaiting on Brighthouse to issue new checks.

XIV. New Business

1. Shearer received two applications for the open Zoning Administrator position; Jeff Greer and Cindy Anderson. The Board asked each applicant questions. **Motion** by Shaw to hire Anderson as the new Zoning Administrator, supported by Almore. Roll call: Shaw, Almore, Shoemaker each yes, Nichol no, Shearer abstained. Motion carried.
2. Wage discussion was tabled until the Budget hearing on 5/21/24.

XV. Adjournment – Next meeting May 1, at 7:00 pm

1. **Motion** to adjourn at 9:12 pm by Shoemaker, supported by Shaw, motion carried.