Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes with Corrections

Township Board Meeting

Saturday, August 5, 2023

18 Present

1. Meeting Call to Order at 10:00 am by Shearer.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Shearer
3. Roll Call of Officers - Almose, Shaw, Shearer, Shoemaker, and Nichol all present.
4. Call for Conflict – Roll call, Almose, Nichol, Shaw, Shoemaker, and Shearer all stated no conflict of interest.
5. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** by Shaw to adopt the agenda, supported by Shoemaker. Motion carried.
6. carried.
7. Minutes of last meeting – **Motion** by Shaw to accept the July 12, 2023 budget minutes, support by Almose, motion carried.
8. The Treasurer’s report was accepted. Moved Township Improvement CD to Huntington. Interest from the new ICS account resulted in an additional $992. Other fund dollars will be moved as appropriate.
9. Clerks Report – Nichol
   1. **Motion** by Shaw to pay the July 2023 expenditures in the amount of $27,152.56 supported by Shoemaker. Roll Call: Shaw, Shoemaker, Almose, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.
10. Correspondence and Guests
    1. KCSO –. An email received from the Sheriff’s Office showing 17 incidents in the township including 2 liquor inspections for the month of July.
    2. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner – not present
11. Public Input – Question on who bid on our last request for Trash bid in 2022. Newberry stated the Board voted on zoning ordinances last month but failed to take into account the wishes of the public. The planning board stated they would revisit the number of rentals allowed as it was based off of lake front properties only. The process used to determine the original final number was unclear. The planning board decided not to change the number of rentals for the township and the board did not make a change. Shaw stated the Township Board can change the number we allow for rentals ~~as we see fit~~ if needed. Newberry: how will ordinances be enforced now that the Sheriff’s contract has not been renewed? What are the number of required planning board meetings? Shearer stated statute for planning board is meeting four times per year. Other comments: what about security, property checks and speeding.
12. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk’s office.
    1. Assessor’s Report – Sheneman –
       1. Working in the field for the month of July, not a lot of sales. Eight items (ie: deeds, transfers, death certificates) processed during the month.
    2. Fire Department Report – Brierley
       1. 8 runs for the month of July; 4 fire related, and 4 medical runs. 1 mutual aid call for Coldsprings (tree down).
       2. Old Business: Daily coverage: officers met per the Boards request to discuss putting names on the calendar for days Chief is off. The majority stated the Guideline presented to the board in July is the way daily coverage will be conducted. **Motion** by Nichol to approve the Fire Department guideline for Blue Lake Township Daily Coverage effective 8/5/2023, supported by Shearer. Motion carried (3:2). Shaw: Can reinstate the $50 on-call if this will help. Otherwise, ~~it~~ the burden falls on the Assistant Chief if the Chief is out of town. Shaw wants the Assistant Chief to know.
       3. New Business: Kalkaska dispatch is down to four full-time dispatchers. Three are in training, if they stay, dispatch will be up to seven. Sheriff Whiteford wants all FD’s to be on 800 MHz paging in the next few months. Garfield, Blue Lake, Kalkaska, and Bear Lake would have to make the switch as all other departments have done so at a cost of $1,500 each. The Sheriff will waive the $1,500 fee for the four departments needing to make the switch. BLFD will not need additional equipment to make the switch. This move may be a precursor to move dispatch to another County or State Police dispatch. Alex Porter received his EMT. Congratulations and thanks for your commitment. **Motion** by Shearer to sell the 1,000 gallon propane tank for not less than $300, supported by Nichol. Roll call: Shearer, Nichol, Almose, Shaw, and Shoemaker all yeas. Motion carried. Ford Motor offered 10 to 20 Scot Air Packs (circa 2019). If not needed by BLFD, Rapid City could use them. Three are MSA’s and they can go to Bear Lake. If we get the grant, we will donate all, if not, we will keep ten and donate the rest.
       4. Training: Training for the month consisted of truck checks, pumping with engine 4, mock car vs tree crash with pt, LDH hose lay from road down driveway with Tanker supplying water.
       5. Truck/Equipment maintenance: None
    3. Planning Board Report – Shaw
       1. Next meeting August 19th at 9:00 am.
    4. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore: No Meeting
    5. Zoning Administrator’s Report – Schuhart
       1. For the month of July: 2 building permits were issued.
    6. Hospital Report – Nichol –KC Bd of Commissioners will meet with KMHC with regard to the Kaliseum on August 1. Signage and logo update: leadership is investigating renovations to signage placing more emphasis on KMHC and less on the partnership with Munson as it continues to create confusion in the community. Phase one proposal was shared and approved. This phase updates approximately 40 signs. Also looking to potentially incorporate KMHC Mission/Vision into signs. Long term care is the only commitment not yet fulfilled by the 2017 levy. Leadership has already worked with an architect to create a conceptual vision of what the future of LTC should look like. KHMC is working to develop a series of community forums to help educate the community on preparing for LTC; helping families to navigate the system.
    7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker
       1. Shoemaker requested to get a Per Mile Cost from KCRC in order for us to forecast and has not received this information yet.
13. Board Member Comments and Input –
    1. Shaw: Sheriff contract discussion. 4 hours instead of 8 at one half price, approximately $7,000/year. **Motion** by Shearer to reinstate the Sheriff contract voted out in June. Supported by Shaw. Discussion. **Shearer withdraws his motion with no vote taken**. Almose: we can pay for the Sheriff contract by using Township improvement dollars. What would the cost be for ½ time (4 hours). **Motion** by Shaw for ½ time (4 hours) at ½ the price of the last contract. Supported by Shearer. Roll call: Shaw, Shearer, Almose, and Shoemaker all yeas. Nichol no. Motion passed. Nichol: this board voted 4:1 to end the contract. The Board acknowledged there would be no added policing and no enforcement of zoning ordinances (even with 6 new zoning ordinances; some requiring police powers). Nichol was the lone dissenter at the time and felt public input was called for. What now has changed? We need more clarity and confirmation of the cost. Public comment shows agreement. Public comment: all these knee jerk reactions and motions without all the information needed. **Motion** by Shaw to rescind the motion to contract with the Sheriff’s office for ½ time (4 hours) coverage, supported by Almose: Roll call: Shaw, Almose, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol: all yeas. Motion carried. Shaw will contact Sheriff Whiteford for clarification on hours, amount of contract, services to be provided.
14. New Business – none
15. Old Business –
    1. ARPA – nothing new to report
    2. Wake Limitations – No support in Public Meeting, the matter is dropped.
    3. Kitchen – Bid specifications, Shearer will contact a new contractor.
16. Adjournment – Next meeting Saturday, September 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm
    1. **Motion** to adjourn at 12:48 pm by Shaw, supported by Shearer, motion carried.