

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

15 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. Call for Conflict – Shearer – Roll call, Almose, Nichol, Shaw, Shoemaker, and Shearer all stated no conflict of interest.
- V. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** to adopt agenda by Almose with additions (#6 and & under old business), supported by Shaw. Motion carried.
- VI. Minutes of last meeting - **Motion** by Almose to approve the October 5, 2022 minutes with changes, supported by Shoemaker, motion carried.
- VII. The Treasurer’s report was accepted **Motion** by Almose to accept the Agreement for Summer Collection of School Property Taxes for Kalkaska Public Schools, supported by Nichol. Roll call: Almose, Nichol, Shaw, Shoemaker, and Shearer all yeas. Motion carried.
- VIII. Clerks Report – Nichol
 1. **Motion** by Shaw to pay the October 2022 expenditures in the amount of \$33,028.15 supported by Shoemaker. Roll Call: Shaw, Shoemaker, Almose, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.
- IX. Correspondence and Guests
 1. Jennifer Lister – Community Officer – there were 21 incidents in the township for October which included two larcenies. Please keep your outbuildings locked, be aware, and look out for your neighbors.
 2. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner - Not present
- X. Public Input – Newberry asked about speed signs. Shearer received a letter from our Attorney and Shearer will be emailed to Newberry, Mae and one other. Request for Saturday meetings June and July was tabled until December when they are addressed annually.
- XI. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk’s office.
 1. Assessor’s Report – Sheneman –
 - a. For the months of October: 0 homestead granted, 0 denials, 10 deeds, 3 transfers, 0 death certificates, 3 GLE electrical easements and 0 DTE easements.
 - b. 20% of parcels have been visited (per State rule) along with an initial review of the building permits. A couple of sale parcels to review yet this fall.
 2. Fire Department Report – Brierley
 - a. 5 runs for the month of October; 2 fire related, and 3 medical runs. We had 1 mutual aid call for Coldsprings: House fire.
 - b. Old Business: The Positive pressure fan (from Trans Canada Grant) has arrived and is in service. Kalkaska Chief’s meeting on November 9th discussed a county wide grant application for all new SCBA and we will have grant writer apply for the over \$1,000,000 grant. Each department would split the costs of the grant writer and a % of the total equipment they receive. Top Notch Heating and Cooling completed/converted the new furnaces and gas line in the main building. DTE set the meter with all furnaces working as they should. Top Notch will return on November 3rd to paint the gas line outside and seal the whole made in the building made from the install of the gas lines. They will also replace and convert the upper

barn. DTE will come that same afternoon to set the gas meter. The old furnace is ok by the board to sell at a nominal cost (whatever the chief feels is its worth ie: 5, 10, 25 dollars).

- c. New Business: Asst Chief Dickens is writing a grant to Par Plan for scene lighting, hand lighting, lights for each fire fighter, and a portable generator. **Motion** by Almose to pass Resolution #1122022 to approve the Blue Lake Township Fire Department to apply to the Michigan Township Participating Risk Reduction Grant for lighting/generator as specified, supported by Shaw. Roll Call: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried, resolution is passed. The equipment will be ordered when/if we are approved for the grant.
 - d. Training: Training for the month consisted of new portable radio use, drafting to supply hand line; GPS locating: run review paperwork; truck checks; communication, pump operations to shut down and add hose to attack lines.
 - e. Truck/Equipment maintenance: None.
 - f. **Motion** by Shearer to extend Dickens' snowplow contract for 2022/2023 at \$6,000/year with a diesel fuel surcharge of \$250, supported by Shaw. Roll call: Shearer, Shaw, Almose, Shoemaker, and Nichol all yea. Motion carried.
 - g. Shoemaker: You appear to be missing one Monday night meeting per month and cancelled a Monday night. I think this is a high percentage, you need to be there and we all need training. The cancelled meeting was holiday, Halloween. We were in Kalkaska County (as in the past 3 years); a family occasion.
3. Planning Board Report - Shaw
 - a. Shoemaker questioning "Incidental" definition: accompanying but not a major part of something. As it pertains to Home Based Business. Also questioned what about employees? Shaw: That piece had not changed. Working on Kennels, non-conforming, and our 5-year plan. The first two should be wrapped up for our next meeting but the 5-year will take another meeting or two.
 4. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore - no meeting
 5. Zoning Administrator – Campbell
 - a. 1 building permit and 3 dead tree permits issued for October. 2 voilations, a shed and greenbelt.
 - b. Motion by Nichol to accept Campbells resignation effective 12/31/2022 with great regret, supported by Shearer, motion carried. The board expressed their appreciation for her work.
 6. Hospital Report – Nichol
 - a. KMHC has erected signage to help visitors find their way during the construction. Moments of excellence, Acute Care Pavilion update, Financial Audit Presentation for 2022 were discussed. Unexpected staffing issues at the Walk-in clinic, doctors are stepping in to take pressure off. Please call the Walk-in Clinic first to make sure your needs can be taken care of. Talking points available in the Clerk's office.
 7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker
 - a. Hired Three Rivers Corp for design build services for construction of new building.
 - b. Sand and salt deliveries near complete.
 - c. CR 571 all planned items are complete.
 - d. David Gill retiring after 55 years of service and will not remain on the KCRC board.
 - e. Asked Rogers about the change out of some signage around Blue Lake; cautionary speed limit signs. Rogers states KCRC was not responsible. The back of the signs do have the KCRC tag on the back.

XII. Board Member Comments and Input

1. Almose: PRE-Denial, one additional one received from the Treasury. Over 100 denials in

the county. Not sure if we will continue to get additional denials.

2. Almose will need to contact LIAA for web site help in getting Newsletters on the site.
3. Almose: any update on cell tower Blair? They were to come out and visit sites, then hurricanes so I am unsure what their timeline will be.
4. Almose: any update on trash bids Blair? Have not received any yet.

XIII. Old Business –

1. Adopt updated Code of Ethics and TB Rules of Procedures from Attorney. Will table until all board members take time to go through the packet and bring questions, changes, etc.
Shaw: If these are for appointed not elected why would we adopt them?
2. Snow Plow Contract for Twp Hall (+525/yr) **Motion** by Nichol to extend TWS for two years at \$4025/year with the right to add a “per plow” fuel surcharge on the second year of the contract if fuel costs and/or cost of living continues to rise. Supported by Shaw. Roll Call: Nichol, Shaw, Almose, Shoemaker all yea’s. Shearer no. Motion carried.
3. Trash Bids: See number 4 under Board Member Comments and Input
4. Audio/Visual Costs for Professional. Nichol contacted Parkway Powerful Ideas and was advised to purchase a TV and put it on a cart. They work with budgets of approximately \$60,000 and could possibly get that price to around \$30,000. Smart Board is an idea (like the school uses) and Sandy Shearer will get us some information.
5. Bid Specs for Kitchen (purchase dishwasher, stove, vent hood): Still looking for licensed contractor to bid. Machin Engineering sent their report and in part stated: “We did not identify any conclusive structural causes for the cracking in the meeting hall area, though it is possible that the shallow depth of the meeting hall wall foundation is causing frost susceptibility.” Suggest we keep an eye on the cracking. After repairing cracks, if they reappear it may be indicative of foundation settlement. MEI recommends the voids around the concrete patio be filled in to support the structure and fix the porch at the back of the building as it is a safety hazard. In essence, we can go ahead with the kitchen remodel.
6. Fire Chief Job Description – Shaw: send it to the Fire Department and let them decide on job descriptions, policy and procedures. They have enough experience. Fire department can do a better job if we engage them and empower them to do so. The Board agrees as a whole to the aforementioned.
7. Fire Chief Contract – **Motion** by Shaw as a matter of policy that all station 4 administrative decisions, policies, procedures, guidelines will be made by the Chief and the officers through teamwork and consensus. If consensus cannot be reached then by majority rule. Effective until May 31, 2023 to be relooked at in June 2023. Supported by Almose. Roll call vote: Shaw, Almose, and Shoemaker yea. Shearer and Nichol, No. Motion carried.
Discussion before the vote. Nichol: why this motion? Shaw: because the chief is 50% so someone else running it the other 50%. Nichol: you are taking authority and power away from the Chief. The chief cannot be held accountable when you take his authority away and is contrary to what is in our MTA on-call book. Nichol: What issues? Shaw: you (Nichol) wanted signed statements from those with complaints and I did not do that. You wouldn’t believe without that. Nichol: The first we heard of issues was in the last meeting but again, what issues. You say you know the issues but have never stated what they are and by whom. From the last meeting it sounded like he said, she said, not agreeing the chief has the final say. You say issues keep coming to the board but, again, you say you are privy to this information, I am not. Whomever spoke with you has not talked with me and only you have made these statements. Nichol: On record, I do not agree with this motion. It does feel the chief has not had the support of this board for a very long time. Why do you have this motion on the table? There is no precedence for this and I do not see this board bolstering the chief. Shaw: I think if the Chief works with his staff and officers that a lot of the issues can be resolved right there. Nichol: Then why do you have to make a motion of majority vote? Shaw: Because he won’t do it otherwise. Nichol: How do you know he won’t do it?

Shaw: at the last meeting I went through my list, not stating what others told me. There is a motion on the floor. Almore: I supported your motion. I think we should work on building a team. Public (Newberry) commented you are taking that away from the chief (his ability to create a team). Shaw: is this public comment? Shearer: No, this is not public comment. We will take a roll call vote per your motion. Chief: please read your motion again. you said decisions? Shaw: I said administrative decisions. Nichol: I think this is a huge problem and a big error on this board. Shaw: That's why we will look at it again. It just might build some teamwork. Shearer called the vote. Chief: will the board confirm who the officers are. Shoemaker has not been the training officer since I took over. He was given the title of Accountability Officer. Almore: he (Shoemaker) asked for clarification of title and he got none. He has been attending the officer's meetings. He is an officer. Shoemaker read the policy for training officer. Newberry, Shearer (Sandy), May, Lister, Markenus (audience members) aired concerns and opposition to the motion.

XIV. New Business –

XV. Adjournment – Next meeting December 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm

1. **Motion** to adjourn at 9:26 pm by Shoemaker, supported by Shearer, motion carried.