

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Board Meeting (with one correction)

January 8, 2025

11 Present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 pm by Fletemier
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Roll Call of Board Members – Almose, Brozovich, Shoemaker, Fletemier, and Nichol present.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** to adopt agenda by Almose, supported by Shoemaker. Motion carried.
- V. Conflict of Interest – Roll call vote: Almose, Brozovich, Shoemaker, Fletemier, and Nichol all no.
- VI. Minutes of last meeting – **Motion** by Fletemier to accept the December 4, 2024 minutes with 2 corrections supported by Almose. Motion carried. **Motion** by Fletemier to accept the December 18, 2024 Special Meeting minutes, supported by Almose. Motion carried.
- VII. Treasurer’s report - Almose
 1. **Motion** by Fletemier to accept the Treasurers report, supported by Brozovich, motion carried. A Top 30 Taxpayer report was handed out.
- VIII. Clerks Report – Nichol
 1. **Motion** by Shoemaker to pay the December expenditures in the amount of \$59,834.76 supported by Fletemier. Roll Call: Almose, Shoemaker, Brozovich, Fletemier, and Nichol all yea. Motion carried.
 2. Fiscal 2025 Budget Status – Nichol states FYE 2025 budget with 3-month projection and FYE 2026 is handed out in April and returned for budget meeting in April or May.
 3. Audit is complete and F-65 has been sent to State.
- IX. Correspondence and Guests
 1. Community Officer - Ray Farrier –The monthly report contained 11 incidents which includes the 2 liquor inspections. Notable: trespassing on Haessly by snowmobiles. Discussed trespassing by snowmobiles. Blue and Bear get the most traffic. If a number can be obtained off the sleds that would be helpful. There will be a zoom meeting on the 22nd regarding the electronic speed signs.
 2. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner not present
- X. Public Input – Randy Lucyk from Kalkaska Substance Free Coalition asked if BLT made a decision regarding placing a refurbished newspaper box filled with boxes of Naloxone to be placed outside the township hall (or where the board deems would do the most good). Lucyk spoke about the program and offered the same handout he left at the December meeting. Fletemier will contact the attorney to see if he has an opinion or suggestions.
- XI. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk’s office.
 1. Assessor’s Report – Sheneman
 - a. For the month of December: 11 deeds, 0 death certificates, 0 surveys, 2 electrical easements, and 0 PRE requests, 0 PRE rescinds. In 2024 350 parcels were inspected with 80 having new construction (in progress or finished). Also accomplished, Spring and Fall trips around the entire township to look for any missed buildings and found a few. Personal property statements were sent out. Making progress on the 2025 assessments with the goal of having values established by 1/31/2025.
 - b. **Motion** by Fletemier to appoint C. Buttermore, D. Gruley, and C. Bredow-

Shawcross as Board of Review members, supported by Almose. Motion carried.

2. Fire Department - Brierley

- a. 6 runs: 0 medical and 6 fire related. 1 mutual aid call to Coldsprings and 3 mutual aid calls to Bear Lake.
- b. The fire department had one of their busiest years with 121 calls. A breakdown sheet was included with the report. All 2024 reports have been sent off to FEMA and SOM to close out the year end reports.
- c. Jeff and Jack are in their fourth month of Firefighter I and II with Haz mat class being held in Crawford County at Frederick Fire.
- d. Kalkaska county Fire Chief's met with State Representatives to discuss fire department funding and equipment needs. The meeting went well. The reps will be taking back to the house a lot of information about our needs in Kalkaska County. One of the biggest topics was firefighter retention. The State is working on a bill which would exempt firefighters from property taxes.
- e. President Biden signed a Social Security fairness act that makes all public safety personnel responsible for paying the SS tax. Blue Lake already takes both the employee and employer share of SS tax from all personnel at the fire dept.
- f. Grants: 1) AFG grant was turned in for 800mhz portable radios Senator Peters wrote a letter of support along with the State Reps the Chiefs met with. The total of the grant is \$806,755.64 for 131 radios with chargers, speaker mics and extra batteries. If Blue Lake is awarded the grant, we will receive 20 radios with a cost of 5% (\$6,158.44) which does include the \$250 state fee in the grant itself. 2) We have received a Michigan DNR matching grant for \$7,500 (\$3,750 for Blue Lake FD). The grant was written for Wild Land gear and fire hose. The Chief brought the agreement to be signed and it is due by 2/7/2025. Chief will provide Supervisor the grant for review and signature. We have \$19,533 in Capital Outlay that can be used for our portion for these two grants.
- g. **Motion** by Shoemaker to accept Kevin ~~Ikevich's~~ Ivkovich's resignation from the Fire Department, supported by Almose, motion carried.
- h. Chief will attend SOM Fire Instructor Course starting 2/21/2025. This is a 40-hour course. SOM Fire Training Council has mandated on 11/3/2021 that all Fire Chiefs must have Firefighter I & II, Fire Officer I, II, NIMS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, and 800, and Fire Instructor. Once I have completed the class, we will be able to host all State Fire training to include Firefighter I & II classes here at the barn vs sending our firefighters to other departments. We will also be able to do Emergency Vehicle drivers class in house.
- i. MSA will do our annual SCBA flow testing in February and Summitt will come 1/15 for our annual fire extinguisher inspections both at the barn and the hall.
- j. Training: Truck checks, medical CEU with Bear Lake FD, small engine and pump training.
- k. Truck/Equipment maintenance: No maintenance for the month.
- l. Fletemier will place a resolution to reestablish the Fire Department on the February agenda. He will send the information gathered soon.
- m. Old Business: Sale of boat: Spring 2025.

3. Planning Commission Report – Fletemier

- a. Next meeting 1/28/25. **Motion** by Fletemier to request the Planning Commission review the possibility of rezoning #9 (PID 002-142-024-00) and #7 (PID 002-020-007-00) township owned acreage from Commercial to Conservation Resource, supported by Almose. Motion carried.
- b. Kalkaska County meeting 1/14 addressing SB 480. Changes minimum split on 10's

and 20's per to accommodate more development. **Motion** by Fletemier to request the Planning Commission to review the minimum acre size for Land Division Splits with thought to increase minimum parcel size, supported by Almose. Motion carried.

4. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore - no meetings
5. Zoning Administrator – Anderson
 - a. 2 zoning violations in December and have 3 outstanding.
 - b. STR's: all applications that were complete have been licensed, still a great deal of incomplete applications (extensions have been given) and hope to have them all done by 1/31/2024.
 - c. How to instruction for residents regarding building projects in Blue Lake Townships has been sent to Supervisor to review. Once final, ZA will send it to the full board.
6. Hospital Report – Nichol
 - a. Fletemier and Nichol attended KMHC's meeting regarding the transition to 501C3 to discuss next steps. A decision needs to be made regarding a resolution stating Blue Lake Township will become an incorporator and corporate member of the new 501C3, naming Fletemier to serve as its authorized representative to undertake such actions as are required of Incorporating Members and Nichol to serve as its authorized representative on the initial board of trustees (both according to the Corporation's governing documents). **Motion** by Nichol to adopt the resolution #01082025 approving Blue Lake Township's participation as an incorporator and corporate member of the Nonprofit Hospital Corporation with Fletemier serving as its authorized representative to undertake such actions as are required of a Corporate Member and Nichol to serve as its authorized representative on the initial Board of Trustees (both pursuant to the Corporation's governing documents), supported by Brozovich. Roll call: Nichol, Brozovich, Fletemier, Shoemaker, and Almose voted yes, 0 no's and 0 abstained or absent. Resolution passed.
7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker
 - a. Rogers is working on Twin Lake Rd.
 - b. Letter from Blue Lake Supervisor to KCRC regarding shoulders on Eagle Lk Dr has been completed and submitted.
 - c. KCRC had their organizational meeting. They also talked about a new building.
 - d. Invoices from KCRC are incorrect. Fletemier will contact Rogers. He will keep Clerk file and return.

XII. Board Member Comments and Input –

1. Fletemier: SOM Boiler Inspector called for our boiler inspection. Fletemier met him at the Township Hall. Per the Inspector, Northern Services must complete a detailed inspection and update the inspection form. Our attorney called earlier today to say they are selling the practice. Attorneys out of Harbor Springs stated they would honor the existing rate for one year. Put on the February agenda. Possible equipment changes to the tower behind the Fire Barn. Once Fletemier gets more information he will update the board.

XIII. Old Business

1. Kitchen – schedule a meeting between Brozovich and Nichol.
2. KCSA – appraisal update – next meeting
3. Michigan Earned Sick Time law update – lack of new information - next meeting

XIV. New Business

1. Policy and Procedures: Ethics manual from our attorney and FD establishment
2. Virtual meeting equipment handout by Fletemier. **Motion** by Nichol to spend up to \$3,000 on equipment for virtual meetings, supported by Almose. Roll call: Nichol, Almose, Fletemier, Shoemaker, and Brozovich all yea. Motion carried. Fletemier will order and install all equipment.

3. Budget Cycle FYE 2026 preliminary dates – due to time, next meeting
- XV.** Adjournment – Next meeting February 5th, at 7:00 pm
1. **Motion** to adjourn at 9:57 pm by Nichol, supported by Fletemier, motion carried.