

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Board Meeting

April 2, 2025

10 Present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 pm by Fletemier
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Roll Call of Board Members –Brozovich, Shoemaker, Fletemier, and Nichol present, Almose absent.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** to adopt agenda as revised by Nichol, supported by Shoemaker. Motion carried.
- V. Conflict of Interest – Roll call vote: Brozovich, Shoemaker, Fletemier, and Nichol all no.
- VI. Minutes of last meeting –
 1. **Motion** by Fletemier to accept February 28, 2025 minutes, supported by Shoemaker. Motion carried.
 2. **Motion** by Nichol to accept March 5, 2025 minutes, supported by Fletemier. Motion carried.
 3. **Motion** by Fletemier to accept March 25, 2025 special meeting minutes, supported by Brozovich. Motion carried.
- VII. Treasurer's report - Almose
 1. **Motion** by Fletemier to accept the Treasurers report, supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Fletemier, Shoemaker, Brozovich, and Nichol all yes. Motion carried.
- VIII. Clerks Report – Nichol
 1. **Motion** by Shoemaker to pay the March expenditures in the amount of \$33,169.35 supported by Fletemier. Roll Call: Shoemaker, Brozovich, Fletemier, and Nichol all yes. Motion carried. **Motion** by Fletemier to pay Kalkaska County Sheriff's Office check # 6144 in the amount of \$1,360.75, supported by Almose. Roll call vote: Almose, Nichol, Brozovich, Fletemier, and Shoemaker all yes. Motion carried.
 2. Revenue and Expenditure report review.
 3. Kalkaska County Tax Allocation report completed and sent to the County Clerk.
- IX. Correspondence and Guests
 1. Community Officer - Ray Farrier –The monthly report contained 9 incidents which includes the 2 liquor inspections. Notable: Threat against Zoning, OWI on Sunset, Fraud through Facebook Marketplace-Hacked account: Bitcoin vending machines are Fraud/Fake.
 2. Kohn Fisher - County Commissioner, not present.
 3. ~~Harm Reduction Michigan~~
- X. Public Input – Mr. Cipriano: STR is a real mess. A divisive issue. Should have negotiated some sort of agreement with those having STR's and the Board. Goal: reasonable rules and regulations. STR's have worked here for years and years. Would like to come together and be a model for other Townships. Fletemier: the starting point would be to go to the Planning Commission, they are a citizens group, where you could let them know what idea's you have. Zoning, including STR licensing, is being handled by the Supervisor as the Zoning Administrator's position is open. Mr. Cipriano would like all STR licensed owners to be made aware of any decisions/changes. There is rumor and gossip. Fletemier appreciates the input and plans to reach out to those folks with STR's.
- XI. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk's office.
 1. Assessor's Report – Sheneman - Fletemier gave report
 - a. For the month of February: 6 deeds, 2 death certificates, 0 surveys, 0 electrical

- easements, and 0 PRE requests, 0 PRE rescinds, 0 PRE denial, and 2 PTAs.
 - b. March Board of Review 5 or 6 written petitions, no walk-ins.
 - c. ANR Coldsprings / Blue Lake Tax Payment: Michigan Tax Tribunal issued a judgement. The County will send ANR a bill of approximately \$171,000 covering 2022 and 2023 which will flow through to Blue Lake Township.
2. Fire Department - Brierley
- a. 27 runs: 6 medical and 21 fire related. 2 Mutual aid runs to Coldspring (house fire, garage fire). 1 Auto mutual aid to Bear Lake for a possible house fire. 1 MABAS call out: rescue task force to Alpena. Firefighter Clark was sent and paired with a Paramedic from Frederick. MABAS 37-02 sent 5 ambulances with 12 personnel. This was a 24 to 48 hour assignment with Fire Chiefs attending Zoom meetings twice a day for updates and reports. The Governor declared a state of emergency. The Chief will work with the State for cost reimbursement.
 - b. Jeff and Jack are in their final 2 weeks of Firefighter I and II with Haz mat class. State testing is April 12th.
 - c. Grants: 1) AFG grant was turned in for 131-800 MHz portable radios (Blue Lake will receive 20). 2) Michigan DNR matching grant: Wildland gear, boots ordered, and fire hose ordered. Timelines: Grant expires August 1, 2025. Invoices and payment verification is due on September 1, 2025. TransCanada grant for \$10,000 was turned in. Requested lighted signs for roadway safety, personal flashlights for firefighter safety, and station equipment (power washer).
 - d. John Hulwick has stepped down as he finds he just does not have the time to dedicate due to his workload.
 - e. Training: Truck checks, forcible entry, pump operations, EMS scenarios, Firefighter safety and survival.
 - f. Truck/Equipment maintenance: none for the month
 - g. Chief's meetings: County meeting Tuesday to go over emergency plan. Next week for ISO. Blue Lake Township's rating is expected to be reduced from 9 to 8B. Once a new rating is established, insurance rates would go down. Citizens will need to contact their respective insurance providers.
 - h. Old Business: Sale of boat: Spring 2025.
3. Planning Commission – Brozovich
- a. Working on: Assessory structures, definitions. Solar and wind, information to attorney. PC will also look to the State of Michigan for further insight/information. Finishing up on site plans for "Clubs" and will send verbiage to attorney.
4. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore
- a. Open ZBA seat status – still open, must be registered voter in the township.
 - b. One appeal at the March 26th meeting requesting a residential setback which was approved. Nichol inquired about the cost of the appeal and asked to Board to consider waving any fee due to inaccurate zoning classification. Fletemier will look at the book for guidance on the fee schedule. He would prefer a process is put into place. Look to PC for non-lakeshore, at a later date.
5. Zoning Administrator – Fletemier
- a. Approximately 20 open or active. 11 looking to close out. 4 on hold for further information/documentation. 1 complaint received today.
 - b. STR's: 20 licenses issued, 6 are open waiting for information/documentation. It should be done by end of next week.
 - c. **Motion** by Shoemaker to formally install the Supervisor as Acting Zoning Administrator (additional duties) until a new ZA is hired, supported by Nichol. Motion carried.

- d. **Motion** by Nichol to approve the new Zoning Administrator job description, supported by Shoemaker. Motion carried.
- e. Old Business: Modernizing permits forms and system. How to guide for permit process.

6. Hospital Report – Nichol

- a. Report concentrated on the Performance Score Card. A table showing 2025 goals, where we are percentage wise in meeting those goals, as well as comparison to prior year. A copy is available at the Clerk's office. Medical Staff update: Blair Brown, new Family Practice doctor. Credentialing explanation and update. Employment compensation and contract review, Employment agreement review. Munson update: all eyes on how Medicare and Medicaid may be affected by Congress' goal to reduce the budget by \$880 billion. KMHC CEO has sent concerns regarding Medicare/Medicaid reductions to Congressman Jack Bergman. The Board and Staff will be keeping a close eye on new developments. Pharmacy expansion project continues.
- b. **Motion** by Fletemier to recuse Nichol from the vote on Resolution 04022025, supported by Brozovich: Roll call: Fletemier, Brozovich, and Shoemaker all yes. Absent: Almose Nichol: nonparticipator. **Motion** by Fletemier to approve Resolution #04022025-1 to authorize Todd W Millar, Parker Harvey Law Firm, to negotiate with Kalkaska Memorial Health Center on behalf of Blue Lake Township for the return of \$831,679 or full amount required by law pursuant to Act 47 of 1945, supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Fletemier, Shoemaker, and Brozovich all yes. Absent: Almose Abstain: Nichol. Motion carried.

7. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker

- a. Chip seal should be done by June 1st. As bids come in, budget amendments will be looked at. Goals and objectives included as well as The Review articles.
- b. Brozovich will make call to State regarding snowmobile crossings.

XII. Board Member Comments and Input –

- 1. Fletemier read Mr. Jeff VanRiper's email of March 4, 2025 per his request.

XIII. Old Business

1. Attorney Change to Bauckham Thall

- a. General Attorney – Fletemier will arrange a meeting (virtual or otherwise) Buckman Thall.
- b. HR Attorney – **Motion** by Fletemier to sign the engagement letter with Dar Law, supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Nichol, Fletemier, Shoemaker and Brozovich all yes. Motion carried. Nichol will forward the signed Engagement Letter to Dar Law, send the existing employee handbook for updating, and request updates on ESTA law.

2. Kitchen – Brozovich handed out his specification for the kitchen. He received information and drawing from Home Depot. Nichol and Brozovich will meet.

3. Budget Cycle FYE 2026 meeting dates

- a. Updates back to Fletemier as soon as possible.

4. Michigan Earned Sick Time Law (ESTA) update – Nothing new

5. IT Support Anavon Update: Anavon came in on 4/2/2025 to put a comprehensive quote for Blue Lake Township needs: computers, Microsoft licensure, Fire needs. Migration of email to .gov over the next year. Adobe (or other) still working on with Anavon.

6. Brighthouse – Still waiting on reply, if nothing by next Monday, Shoemaker and Nichol will meet on Tuesday to finalize any paperwork. Nichol had to create 1099-R as both Brighthouse and Manor Group state they are not responsible.

7. Timing of Check issued and Treasurer Signature – hold for future meeting

XIV. New Business

1. **Motion** by Fletemier to hold the Ethics Policy until next meeting (May 7, 2025), supported by Brozovich. Motion carried.

- a. Policy and Procedures

1. Township Board Ethics Policy
2. Township Board Rules of Procedure – Hold for future meeting

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

1. **Motion** to adjourn at 8:36 pm by Shoemaker, supported by Brozovich. Motion carried.