

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

32 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 Nichol, supported by Shearer. Motion carried.
- V. Conflict of Interest – Roll call vote: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all no.
- VI. Minutes of last meeting – **Motion** by Shearer to accept the April 3, 2024 minutes, supported by Almose. Motion carried.
- VII. The Treasurer's report was accepted.
 1. Working on LCSA to make sure all transfers are made and match with Clerk's spreadsheet.
- VIII. Clerks Report –
 1. **Motion** by Almose to pay the April expenditures in the amount of \$71,252.13, supported by Shoemaker. Roll Call: Almose, Shaw, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all yea. Motion carried.
 2. Budget Workshop/Hearing is scheduled for May 21, 2024 at 10:00 am here at the township hall. Any outstanding Budget worksheets? Chief did not receive his through email, Clerk will resend.
- IX. Correspondence and Guests
 1. Chief Whiteford: Spoke on the 911 request of .6 mills over 10 years which will be on the August ballot. After research, 12.5 million is necessary over 10 years. Monies would be used for new equipment and staffing as needed for 911 services. If the millage does not pass was discussed with the KC Board. Options: cut staff to 1, not upgrade equipment until it breaks, see if the General Fund could make up the difference necessary. If the millage does not pass, the Chief will need to ask the KC board for an immediate decision on if they will fund 911 for at least 2025 as \$638,000 is necessary for new equipment due to the move to the building next to the District Health Department. Some equipment has been around since 1950 while some was purchased in 2011. The question was posed as to where the revenues go when the current building 911 occupies is sold. The Chief requests you ask the KC board as it is their decision. There are no grants available for 911 and those previously available have gone to larger areas of Michigan. Even if 911 consolidated with another county, that county would require payment for services and they would not know our county roads like the officers here.
 2. Community Officer - Ray Farrier reviewed his monthly report containing eleven incidents and answered questions. Deputy Farrier scheduled a Fraud Presentation to be held on Saturday, May 15th at 9:00 am here at the township hall. As several incidents of fraud take place every year, you, or someone you know may have been a victim. Please come!
 3. Kohn Fisher – County Commissioner not present
 4. KCSAS – Rick Nory: I have a Power Point presentation this evening that we can refer to as I speak. Presently, we lease 5 acres from Blue Lake Township at 9280 Sunset Trail. After much discussion with the officers and membership, we would like to propose purchasing the property. Several reasons: our membership is over 300 now and continues to grow. We have 1000 followers on social media. This helps drive traffic and revenues to local businesses. We are very appreciative of Blue Lake Twp and the Fire Department who allow

us to use a building at the Fire Department to store our equipment. We have a building and site plan in place. Stage 1 will consist of sitework and building for machinery. Stage 2 will consist of building the community and education center sponsored by the DNR. We educate on safety, direction and mapping. KCSAS raises money for Kalkaska Veterans, senior citizens, students, 2 disabled children's families and the Blue Lake Township Fire Department. We are proud to say we were able to contribute \$4,100 for assistance in purchasing/equipping the side X side. We have applied for a 501C3 this year and it will be our Foundation. The club will still maintain its 501C7 status. Monies gained from the sale of the land could be used by BLT for whatever purpose they deem appropriate. I urge the BLT Board to have a discussion on this matter. We will add in BLT's first right of refusal should we be able to purchase the property. Our club has been in existence since 1970. We plan on continuing for a very long time. A Club House has been a goal and we feel the site is an excellent place for it; so near the trail head. Nory thanked the board and audience for their time and attention. Nory stated they would speak to Rick and the KCSAS about a question concerning snowmobile crossings.

- a. There is an opportunity for a permanent easement through the property located in BLT (ORV & Snowmobile trail 79) just NNE of the fire station and N of the tower by the Fire Station where the pipeline is. TransCanada operates this pipeline and under Act PA288, the site is open. TransCanada has been neighborly. We have good communication. This is a point where the trail ends and those using it must turn around and go back in order to continue on the trail system. Some folks take a short cut causing what looks to be an extension of the trails. This can result in a ticket if caught. It makes sense to extend the trail to preclude a dead-end situation. It would be best to create this portion of trail where it can be maintained and properly designed. More food for thought.

X. Public Input – Concerning Rick Nory's presentation: positives in Alba (located near the Green Lantern). A win-win with the club not serving alcohol.

XI. Township Reports – written reports are available in the Clerk's office.

1. Assessor's Report – Sheneman

- a. For the month of April: 3 deeds, 1 PRE denial, and 1 death certificate.
- b. Copies of the Summary and Comments relating to the AxemiTax property tax elimination proposal along with Tim Schnelle response from the Michigan Tax Commission. This proposal would be the complete elimination of both Real and Personal property taxes. On the surface it would be fantastic, however, there is no avenue for replacing all the lost revenue for local units (including schools, hospitals, libraries, etc.)

2. Planning Board Report – Next meeting scheduled May 14th at 7 pm

3. Zoning Board of Appeals – Buttermore - no meetings

4. Zoning Administrator – Anderson

- a. 2 permits issued, 1 noise complaint with notice sent for the month of April.

5. Hospital Report – Nichol – Barr

- a. The KMHC Board of Trustees are continuing to gather information on ACT47 vs Nonprofit. Our hospital was built in 1950 and a lot has changed since. Medicare and Medicaid did not exist then. Of the original thirty Act47 hospitals, KMHC is the only one left. KMHC is hosting three ACT47 vs Nonprofit presentations this month and will be hosting more next month. Please attend one that is convenient for you. Lots of questions will be answered during the talk. What we have learned to date is being reported to the community at these events. The main difference between ACT47 and Nonprofit is the hospital may only have vendor relationships. Unlike Nonprofit where they can partner or joint venture where both parties have a stake in the outcome. We have done very well so far as an ACT47 but as the only one left, it

sends a message. Times are changing and we need to be able to pivot with them. Our doctors love working at KMHC, but they believe changing is the best way to continue. Some have stated if we don't change, they will be moving along. There are those who think we should stay the same and some think we should change. Each has the right to their decisions; we just hope the decisions are well informed. Tax implications are being investigated. A change would require KMHC to pay back the last 5 years of taxes. These paybacks would, by statute, require the townships to use all dollars refunded for health and welfare. Barr stated the only good argument he has heard against Not 4 Profit is we own the hospital and we would lose control over it. That being said, each township has one appointed member. One member, one vote out of the 20-member hospital board. Just some food for thought. ACT47 must only have vendor relationships; Munson is our vendor. We are affiliated with Munson, and they provide services we must purchase. We requested a 1-year extension to our contract and they came back with a huge increase and did not want to break out the "bill". KMHC fought hard to get the normal breakout to ensure we would not be paying for services we do not use. This tenacity proved fruitful for KMHC. A decrease of over \$700,000 on the contract was obtained through another round of negotiations.

6. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker

- a. KCRC's will meet the 3rd Wednesday, May 15th at 9 am at the KCRC building on Island Lake Rd.
- b. Truck 129 was involved in a fire. Insurance covered \$100,000, KCRC paid \$2,000. KCRC will rehab the vehicle. The insurance carrier will only insure the rehabbed vehicle up to the cost of the rehab.
- c. One phone call (on the call log) was received in April by a Blue Lake resident.

7. Fire Department Report - Brierley

- a. 17 runs for the month of April; 6 fire related, and 5 medical runs. We had 3 mutual aid runs to Coldsprings: 13 fire related and 4 medical. We had 3 mutual aid calls to Coldsprings Twp.
- b. Old Business: The side x side rear extension is complete. We received a \$5,000 grant from Great Lakes Energy (Peoples Grant). The check should come any day now. This grant was written for radio and equipment for the SXS (winch & mount, 2 piece stokes basket). **Motion** by Shearer for Fire Chief to order a new radio w/charger and extra battery at a cost of \$2,859 with the grant dollars from Peoples Grant, supported by Nichol. Roll call: Shearer, Nichol, Shaw, Almose, and Shoemaker all yea. Motion carried.
- c. New Business: I applied for a Trans Canada Grant for training and received an email stating we did not receive the grant. I will look into it and see if I can find out why. I will speak with our Emergency Manager and discuss worst cast scenarios involving Trans Canada. This will allow a check to see if we have proper equipment to be of assistance (besides some valuable information). **Motion** by Shoemaker to hire Ron Schroeder, supported by Shearer. Motion carried. Received another application just today and another person passed their background check. Hopefully we will get them on board after the next board meeting.
- d. Training: Training for the month consisted of truck checks, pump operations, EMS equipment, and MABAS.
- e. Truck/Equipment maintenance: Engine was sent to CSI to have the front and rear cameras fixed. A loose connection was repaired.

8. Road Committee Report – Shoemaker

XII. New Business

1. Street signage on road ends – Shearer: Received 2 estimates for 3 signs; Lake port signs.

Pro Image at \$127 for one sign and Advanced for the other two at \$166. **Motion** by Almose to purchase 1 sign from Pro Image and 2 signs from Advanced, supported Shaw. Roll call: Almose, Shaw, Nichol, Shoemaker, and Shearer all yea. Motion carried. Repairing the bridge is planned for Memorial Day weekend. No charge to the township. This bridge connects Bluff Terrace to Beaver Ln.

2. Resolution for HZ plan: **Motion** by Almose to approve Resolution 05012024-1 to adopt the 2023 Kalkaska County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-year update as the official plan of Blue Lake Township, supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Almose, Shoemaker, Nichol, Shaw, and Shearer all yea. Motion carried.

XIII. Old Business

1. Township remodel: Carter Lumber came last Thursday, Bid Specs will be emailed to the board by Shearer.
2. Pension Update: One payout has been received.
3. Clerk's payment for Election Worker: the Clerk stated the new stance on incompatibility with clerks working as election inspectors did not happen until after the February Primary. The BOE still held the position the Clerk could work as an election worker at that time. Shaw stated we should put this matter to rest and move forward. The board agreed.

XIV. Adjournment – Next meeting June 5, at 7:00 pm

1. **Motion** to adjourn at 9:22 pm by Shoemaker, supported by Shaw, motion carried.