Supervisor Mark Roper called the meeting of the Almira Township Board to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Almira Township Fire & EMS Facility.

Supervisor led the Pledge to the Flag.

Supervisor called for roll call. Members present were: Mark Roper, Mandy Gray Rineer, Tammy Clous, Matt Therrien, and Ann Beaujean.

**Additions/Deletions to Meeting Agenda by Board and Citizens:** Move New Business E. To Department Heads and add New Business H. Resignation. Remove Guests C. not available.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda:** *Motion by* Therrien, and supported by Rineer, to approve the meeting agenda as amended. All ayes, motion passed.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Motion by* Therrien and supported by Beaujean, to approve the consent agenda:

1. Approve regular Board meeting minutes dated September 9, 2013.
2. BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF September 2013: None

1. APPROVE PAYMENT OF CHECKS #’s 34732 – 34834. SEE CHECK REGISTERS INCLUDED IN PACKET. BILLS AVAILABLE FOR EXAMINATION UPON REQUEST.
2. RECEIVE AND FILE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:

BENZIE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Included in Packet

1. MISCELLANEOUS: None
2. RECEIVE AND FILE THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE:

Benzie County Recycling Thank You: Included in packet

**Treasurer’s Report:** Rineer presented the treasurers report. Report was received and filed.

**Brief Public Input:** Marlene Wood: Recycling Coordinator is glad to be back in charge and is thankful for our participation in the recycling program. There will be a couple more events this year one being the scheduled one on December 28th the other being November 16th this one will include paper shredding, fluorescent bulb and Styrofoam recycling. Sarah Thompson, Judy Koch, Dianne Minicucci, Marianne Caldwell, and Lee Muehlmann all spoke in favor of restricting fireworks in the township. It was also stated that other that were unable to attend the meeting felt the same way.

**County Commissioners:** Commissioner Bates stated that budget is set. It was also said that the Maples are currently laying individuals off, however they are still able to make their payments to the county on the guaranteed money they were lent. The Maples has a new administrator. She has a good plan to get things back on track. The Maples is still moving forward with the beginning of the new construction. A representative from the State Police came and spoke to the commissioners and made them aware that currently there is one officer to cover a five (5) county area during the night time hours. He also stated that there are three (3) county wide millages on the November 5th ballot; one for the sheriff’s department, the animal control, and road commission. The current county Administrators contract has been extended to the end of the year at the longest. The commissioners have two good candidates in mind to be considered at their October 15th meeting.

**Department Heads:**

1. **Library:** Shirley was unable to attend however she did supply a report stating that the library is doing well. Larry and Carol Bishop have left for the winter leaving the Friday library hours uncovered so the library will currently not be open on Fridays until someone can fill this time slot. The Friends of the Library Held a meeting and a committee was formed to see what may be done with the part of the building that the Advent Church is currently using once the new church building is complete.

**Guests:**

1. Lisa Vogler: Spoke on being considered to be one of the Township legal advisors. The firm she works for specializes in municipal law and has experience in the issue we run into. She would really like to help the township out with legal matters being a member of our community. Motion by Therrien and supported by Rineer to add Cummings, McClorey, Davis and Acho to our list of law firms to call if needed. All Ayes motion passed.
2. Heather Jamison: Shared information regarding the upcoming Road Commission millage. This millage would bring back night primary road plowing, as well as allow for some primary road improvement matching funds. 50% of the one (1) mil would be reinvested into local road projects. A map was presented of the roads that could be fixed in the first year if passed.

**Old Business:**

1. **Fireworks Ordinance:** Discussion took place with a direction where we wish to go. Options for this process were discussed. Ann stated that before new regulations went into effect there were a few fireworks around the July 4th holiday, but now they are more often. We as a board are asking that the Planning Commission look into and comeback to the board with a recommendation on a fireworks ordinance. Ann feels that we as a board can make a decision without sending this issue to the Planning Commission.

**New Business:**

1. **Full-time Firefighter/EMT-B Position:** Motion by Therrien and supported by Rineer to hire Nick Grzesik as a Full-time Firefighter/EMT-B to the Almira Township Fire and EMS Department. All ayes motion passed.
2. **Snowplowing:** Discussion took place on having the walking path at the Township Park cleared this winter as well as the Lakefront Park and Ransom Lake Natural Area Parking lots. A priority level on what needs to be plowed first will need to be considered as well as our currently liability insurance coverage. This item will be discussed at Novembers Regular Board meeting.
3. **Townhall Issues:** The lionswould like to put in a cabinet/counter which would require removing the Advent Church refrigerator. The board discussed options and would like to talk to the church and the Lions to see what can be worked out before making any final decisions.
4. **Election Appointments & Meal Allowance:** Motion by Therrien and supported by Rineer to approve the Elections Inspectors as recommended by the Election Commission. All ayes motion passed. Motion by Rineer and supported by Beaujean to approve meal allowance as recommended. All ayes motion passed. Motion by Rineer and supported by Beaujean to approve the Receiving Board as recommended. All ayes motion passed.
5. **Moved to Department Heads.**
6. **November Meeting:** Discussion took place on if we wished to move the November meeting date. It was decided that we are not going to be moving the date.
7. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission is ready to go to the attorney and hold a public hearing on a couple of ordinances. Motion by Rineer and supported by Beaujean to accept the resignation of Terry Montgomery from the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals with regret. All ayes motion passed. The Planning Commission will be coming up with an advertisement seeking candidate to fill this position. All applications for this position will be going to the Chairperson.
8. **Resignation:** Motion by Rineer and supported by Clous to accept the resignation of Steven M. Puchovan as the Maintenance Supervisor with regrets. All ayes motion passed. An exit interview will be held at the next regular board meeting.

**Extended Public Input:** Dale Flaherty in regards to snow plowing the walking path he feels that we should leave the path as it has been in the past. Vance bates says when we consider the new maintenance position candidate that they have a Fire and Ems Background. Larry Poulisse mentioned a concern with the lack of Fire and EMS response. Craig Johnson stated that things have improved with our responses however they are not yet where they need to be. A possible EMT class at our department for January 2014 has been discussed. There is currently one in Traverse City starting in December.

**Board Comments:** Beaujean stated that the Parks and Recreations Committee is at a critical juncture on member involvement and that there may be some opening coming up on this committee. Rineer stated that if we wanted to place a newsletter in the winter tax bills that it would need to be completed before November. The Benzie County Chapter of MTA will be holding is biannual meeting here October 23rd at 7:00 pm. Also the Veterans will be holding a remembrance time on Veterans Day at 6:30pm at the Veterans Memorial located at the Almira Township Park. Roper stated that the surveillance system is almost completed and should be up and running next week. It is also budget time; Department Heads need to start compiling their 2014-15 budget requests and submit them as soon as possible.

**Adjourn:** There being no other business the Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Tammy Clous

Almira Township Clerk