

Almira Township

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2024

I. Supervisor Roper called the meeting to order at 6 pm at the Almira Township Hall 19639 Maple Street, Lake Ann

II. Pledge to the Flag Recited

III. Roll Call

Present: Tammy Clous, Mandy Gray Rineer, Mark Roper, Lori Florip, Matt Therrien

IV. Additions/Deletions to Meeting Agenda: None

V. **Approval of Meeting Agenda:** *Motion by Clous, supported by Therrien, to approve the meeting agenda as presented. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.*

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Therrien, supported by Clous, to approve the consent agenda as presented. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.

VII. Treasurer's Report: No report

IX. County Commissioners:

Commissioner Art Jeannot provided a written report and answered questions from residents. Art also thanked the clerks for doing a great job on the August election.

X. Dept. Heads:

Martha Redick, Recreational Resources Committee member stated that Movie in the Park is on Friday, August 23rd at sunset, dog park fence should be installed in August or September, and that Christina Steele has taken the lead for the youth baseball.

Fire Chief Drury reported on call statistics, vehicle and equipment status, training, grants, and community outreach. Chief Drury also thanked the Clerk and election workers for their help getting the election area turned into a class room for two nights of first aid/CPR instruction and back to the election area.

XI. Guests: None

VIII. **Brief Public Input:** Sue Jennings stated that Housing North was holding a meeting regarding housing issues in the area. Amy Carmien brought two issues to the Board regarding the Ransom Lake Natural Area. Missing Natural Area sign on Lake Ann Road and a broken bench at the first landing. Roper will check with Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy regarding the sign. Roper will check with township maintenance regarding the bench. Duane Redick, Pearl Lake Home Owners Association, stated that two acres of Pearl Lake had been treated on 8/7/2024 for Eurasian watermilfoil at a cost of \$1,725.00. He thanked the Board for the financial support.

XII. Old Business:

- A. **ARPA Projects:** Roper reported that the town hall steps had to be reworked before getting approved by the Benzie County Building Department at an additional cost. Discussion took place. *Motion by Therrien, supported by Florip, to pay the additional*

cost to Best Concrete Inc. for the additional work. Four (4) ayes, one (1) nay, motion passed. Roper also reported that the two new flush toilets in the park are being worked on and that the structure(s) could be up by the end of this week, then the plumbing can be done. Therrien stated that he has found a drywall/plaster person willing to look at the ceiling in the townhall.

- B. Social Security and Pension:** Clous and Rineer are meeting remotely weekly with the pension people getting items updated.
- C. Recreational Plan:** No update at this time.
- D. Ransom Lake Grant:** Roper will be contacting Dallas from Gosling Czubak regarding the status.

XIII. New Business

- A. Fire and EMS Association Request:** Chief Drury stated that the Fire & EMS Association will be donating a storage cabinet and chest freezer to the Fire & EMS Department.
- B. Zoning Items:** Zoning Administrator Preston would like the Board to approve the new formats for zoning applications. Discussion took place. *Motion by* Clous, supported by Rineer, to approve the updated format for applications of Construct an Accessory Dwelling Unit, Short-Term Rental, Tourist Home/Bed & Breakfast, Use Land, Construct/Add to Structures & Driveways as presented. All ayes, no nays, motion passed. ZA Preston also asked the Board to have discussion regarding the Special Event Ordinance. Discussion took place. *Motion by* Roper, supported by Rineer, to allow ZA Preston and Township Attorney to clean up the Special Event Ordinance. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.
- C. Fire and EMS Personnel:** Chief Drury requested that one member be removed from the roster and that a new member be added to the roster. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Clous, to remove Angelika Diehl from the Fire & EMS Department roster. All ayes, no nays, motion passed. *Motion by* Therrien, supported by Rineer, to add Jose Garcia to the Fire & EMS Department roster. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.

XIV. Extended Public Input: Derek Smith, Fire & EMS Association member, read parts of the Fire & EMS Association's bylaws regarding community and Fire/EMS Department support and that if the Association were to dissolve, the funds would go to the Fire/EMS Department.

XV. Board Comments: Therrien stated that the 16th Annual Music in the Park is to be held on Saturday, August 24th from 4 to 10 p.m. Two food trucks will be on site this year. Therrien also stated that a few years ago the Board approved lowering the square footage for dwellings and allowed residents to have accessory dwellings. Florip stated that they have been getting several inquiries about long term rentals. Rineer stated that there has been a tremendous amount of election law changes this year which leads to a lot of work. She thanked Clous and Dort for all their work. Mandy also stated that taxes are due September 16th this year. Movie and Music in the Park events are coming up and that volunteers are needed for these events. The library also needs more people to volunteer. Clous stated that the election went smoothly and thanked the election workers and Fire/EMS Department staff for helping get things done. Roper also thanked Clous and Dort for their election work. Movie in Park will start at sunset, rain or shine.

Roper also stated that the Road Commission will soon be starting work on Barber Road and Maple Grove Road. The Road Commission will also be working on creating better visual clearance on the corners of Green Briar Road/Cedar Run Road and Lake Ann Road/Cedar Run Road.

XVI. Adjourn: Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

DRAFT