Supervisor Vance Bates called the meeting of the Almira Township Board to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Almira Township Fire & EMS Facility.

Supervisor led the Pledge to the Flag.

Supervisor called for roll call. Members present were: Mary Dort, Diana Nolan, Vance Bates, Dawn Campeau and Kirt Giddis.

**Additions/Deletions to Meeting Agenda by Board and Citizens:** Under Old Business Item B. Library.

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

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Motion by* Nolan, and supported by Campeau, to approve the consent agenda as amended:

1. Approve minutes of Regular Board meeting dated September 10, 2012 including closed session minutes.
2. Budget amendments for the month of October 2012: None
3. Approve payment of check #’s 33785– 33827. See check registers included in packet. Bills are available for examination upon request.
4. Receive and File the following reports:

Benzie County Commissioners: Included in Packet

Assessor: Added at Meeting

Zoning Administrator: No Report

Recreational Resources Committee: No Report

Fire & EMS Department: Included in Packet

Planning Commission: No Report

Veterans Memorial Committee: No Report

1. Miscellaneous: None.
2. Receive and file the following correspondence:

Benzie County Road Commission meeting minutes dated 8-9-12; 8-23-12

E-mail from Benzie County Administrator Chris Olson dated 9-19-12

All ayes, motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** *Motion* by Giddis, and supported by Nolan, to receive and file the Treasurer’s report. All ayes, motion passed. Copy will be filed in the Clerk’s office.

**Brief Public Input:**

Rasa Baker, Veteran’s Memorial Committee member, addressed concerns regarding the balance in the Veteran’s Memorial fund and payments that had been paid from that fund. Clerk and Treasurer are still working with the auditors to get all funds moved into one line item.

Fire & EMS Chief Jay Morse discussed recruitment of volunteers for the Fire & EMS Department and presented the Board with a news article from the “Firehouse” magazine regarding this problem, which is occurring all over the United States.

**Guests:**

Steve Haugen presented a sample ordinance for the Township if the Township would be interested in doing building code inspections, to add additional funds for Township use. This was discussed briefly, more information should be provided for the November meeting.

Mark Roper, Benzie County Commissioner, talked about items at the County level such as budget, building inspections, Sheriff’s department equipment, new recycling coordinator, new ORV roads being opened, Council on Aging issues and the Benzie Bus.

John & Sandy Nuske, Members of the Almira Citizens for Preservation, presented the Township with a check in the amount of $8,500.00 to be used on the construction costs for the Lakefront Park pavilions. This money was raised from donated bottle and can returns, sale of refurbished bicycles and donated change from purchases.

**Old Business:**

1. **Lakefront Park:** Trustee Nolan announced that the Lakefront Park would be open on Sunday October 21, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony to be done by area children. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Giddis, to have a flyer printed and mailed regarding the opening of the Lakefront Park. Discussion took place. All ayes, motion passed.
2. **Library:** Martha Dagneau-Bates informed the Board that computers are in but still need to be connected to the internet. Will also be purchasing “re-set” software and office word software. The first public fax machine in the Village will be at the Library. The Board needs to decide the status of the old copier in the Library along with the Dell computer. A list of surplus equipment will be made for the Board to act on. Supervisor Bates talked to a couple of contractors regarding another door to the Library. Building Code says we have what we need. Trustee Nolan had additional questions. Steve Haugen will look at the Library also regarding another door.

**New Business:**

1. **Draft Audit Report:** Board members had several questions and discussion took place. Clerk Dort will contact Tobin & Company to set up a meeting for the Board to discuss the audit.
2. **November General Election Items:** Clerk Dort read a letter from the Township Election Commission. *Motion by* Giddis, and supported by Bates, to appoint election inspectors for the November General Election and meal allowances. All ayes, motion passed.
3. **Newsletter:** Treasurer Campeau asked if the Board wanted to put out a newsletter with the December tax bills. Consensus was yes and items for the newsletter should be given to the Supervisor by October 22, 2012.
4. **Change Date of November Regular Board Meeting:** Treasurer Campeau inquired about changing the date. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was to leave it on November 12th.
5. **Resignation from Fire & EMS Department:** Fire & EMS Chief Jay Morse read the resignation e-mail from Jason Wolfe dated 9-20-12. *Motion by* Bates, and supported by Giddis, to accept the resignation from Jason Wolfe with regrets. All ayes, motion passed.
6. **Fire & EMS Department Return from Leave of Absence:** Fire & EMS Chief Jay Morse read the request he had submitted regarding Gene Mayo. *Motion by* Bates, and supported by Nolan, to take Gene Mayo off of medical leave of absence and to grant him to return to work pending getting his doctor’s return to work clearance note. All ayes, motion passed.

**Extended Public Input:**

Marty Dagneau-Bates asked where the donation from Lake Ann Grocery was going. It will be used to help pay for the two pavilions at the Lakefront Park.

**Board Comments:**

Trustee Giddis stated that any Fire & EMS notes and any local service people notes can go into the kiosk at the Veterans Memorial. Kirt also stated that on Sunday, November 11, 2012, Veterans Day, at about 6:30 p.m., there would be a gathering to see the Memorial with the lights on. This will be an informal gathering and you can bring your own refreshments. Please also take a look at the work that has been done this fall.

Treasurer Campeau asked when the part time maintenance person would be done. The response was that the part time maintenance person should be done before 11-15-12.

Clerk Dort asked about the union negotiations in regards to a letter from the State on mediation. Supervisor Bates stated that the union had filed for mediation and that the forms requested had been filled out and returned. Mary also gave an update on absent voter ballot application requests.

Trustee Nolan stated that she had dropped on purpose working on a facebook page and the pot luck gathering that had been discussed due to unhappy people in the Township.

Supervisor Bates stated that he had received another complaint about junk in the front yard of a residence in Hard Wood Acres. After many phones calls, he had found out that the bank now owned the residence and would be getting it cleaned up.

**Adjourn:** There being no other business the Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Mary Dort

Almira Township Clerk