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:** Move New Business Item A. Almira Citizens for Preservation to be included with Old Business Item B. Lakefront Park.

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

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

1. Approve minutes of Regular Board meeting dated July 9, 2012...
2. Budget amendments for the month of August 2012: None
3. Approve payment of check #’s 33542– 33693. 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: Included in Packet

Zoning Administrator: Included in Packet

Recreational Resources Committee: Included in Packet

Fire & EMS Department: Added at Meeting

Planning Commission: No Report

Veterans Memorial Committee: No Report

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

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:** Christie Trout introduced herself and asked that any other speakers introduce themselves also because not everyone knows who you might be.

**Guests:**

Larry Poulisse commented on Fire & EMS Department response times, recruitment / keeping members and that it was time for a change in the Fire & EMS Department Officers.

Carol Poulisse commented on the tremendous job Dawn Campeau has done as Township Treasurer over the years. She also commented on the Fire & EMS response times and had questions regarding the number of runs the duty crew have been on, has the new ambulance been leant to Benzie County at all and where was the new ambulance during the months of June and July.

Mark Roper, Benzie County Commissioner, talked about items at the County level.

Amy Rosa had questions about election hours for the Clerk.

**Old Business:**

1. **Volunteer of Year Presentations:** Supervisor Bates presented plaques to John and Sandy Nuske and Diana Nolan as Volunteers of the Year for Almira Township.
2. **Lakefront Park:** Trustee Nolan updated everyone on the progress of the Lakefront Park. DEQ wet land permit has been applied for and proposals for the two pavilions in the park are due 8-17-12. The Almira Citizens for Preservation Group spokesperson, Jim Slis, thanked Diana for the update and their group might be helping with the funding for the two pavilions.
3. **Library Computers:** Information was presented and discussed. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Nolan, to allow $3,500.00 to purchase computer equipment for the library. All ayes, motion passed.
4. **Union Negotiations:** Supervisor Bates updated the Board. Meetings for negotiations have been scheduled for August 30th. Discussion took place with comments from the public.

Meeting was recessed at 6:12 p.m.

Meeting was reconvened at 6:22 p.m.

Special Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 24th at 9:00 a.m.

**New Business:**

1. **Almira Citizens for Preservation:** This was included in the Lakefront Park item under Old Business.
2. **Road Brining:** Discussion took place regarding a second brining of the improved gravel roads in Almira Township. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Giddis, to bring the improved gravel roads in Almira Township a second time with one (1) single pass down the middle of the road allowing up to $2,500.00. All ayes, motion passed.
3. **Zoning Ordinance Amendments:** Zoning Ordinance Amendments that were presented from the Planning Commission after their public hearing were discussed.*Motion by* Campeau, supported by Nolan, to approve the Zoning Ordinance Amendments, Ordinance # 8-1 of 2012 as presented. All ayes, motion passed.
4. **Employee Handbook – Termination compensation Vacation & Personal Time:** There is nothing mentioned in the Employee Handbook if unused Vacation and Personal time are to be paid when an employee leaves employment with the Township. Discussion took place. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Dort, to pay unused vacation and personal time still on the books for Gary Florip. All ayes, motion passed.
5. **Fire & EMS Pool Position:** Vance Bates is requesting to be added as a Fire & EMS pool member. This request was withdrawn by Vance Bates after some discussion.
6. **Fire & EMS Coverage for Music in the Park:** The Recreational Resources Committee has requested EMS coverage for their event to be held on Saturday, August 25. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Giddis, to have two (2) Fire & EMS personnel staff the ambulance from noon until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at the regular rate of pay. All ayes, motion passed.
7. **Fire & EMS Personnel Leave of Absences:** *Motion by* Giddis, and supported by Nolan, to approve a medical leave of absence for Gene Mayo. All ayes, motion passed. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Nolan, to approve a six (6) month leave for Eric Pettigrove. All ayes, motion passed.
8. **Recreational Resources Committee Appointment:** Supervisor Bates presented a recommendation from the Recreation Resources Committee for an appointment to that committee. *Motion by* Giddis, and supported by Nolan, that Pam Brigham be appointed to the Recreational Resources Committee for a two year term. All ayes, motion passed.
9. **Zoning Administrator Position:** Thirteen applications have been received. Some Board members have talked with the assessor and previous zoning administrator for their thoughts. Discussion took place. Board members are each to review the applications and this will be added to the special Board meeting for further discussion.

**Extended Public Input:**

Rasa Baker, member of the Veterans Memorial Committee asked if the re-cycling dumpsters could be moved to another location, they are in the parking lot of the Veterans Memorial and not very peaceful.

Dale Flaherty had questions about the zoning administrator advertisement.

Mark Roper had questions regarding who was responsible for zoning items if there was no zoning administrator.

**Board Comments:**

Trustee Giddis also commented on moving the re-cycling dumpsters from the Veterans Memorial parking lot. He also thanked several residents who have been and who have helped during the years to get the memorial this far.

Treasurer Campeau asked about the Sleepy Bear Music Festival, where there any complaints or need for Fire & EMS help. Music hours complaint from a neighbor had been received and no major incidents for Fire & EMS personnel.

Clerk Dort gave an election update.

**Adjourn:** There being no other business the Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Mary Dort

Almira Township Clerk