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 Vance Bates, Dawn Campeau, Mary Dort, Diana Nolan and Kirt Giddis.

**Additions/Deletions to Meeting Agenda by Board and Citizens:** None

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

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

1. Approve minutes of Regular Board meeting held July 11, 2011 and Special Board meetings held July 7, 2011 and July 25, 2011.
2. Budget amendments for the month of August 2011: None
3. Approve payment of check #’s 32461 – 32546. 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: No Report

Recreational Resources Committee: Included in Packet

Fire & EMS Department: No Report

Planning Commission: No Report

Veterans Memorial Committee: No Report

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

Lake Ann Village Council Meeting Minutes dated 7-12-11

Letter from Almira Citizens for Preservation dated 7-22-11

E-mail from Amy Murley dated 7-11-11

The Par-Plan News dated July 2011

Benzie County Road Commission meeting minutes dated 6-23-11; 7-14-11

Letter from Michigan DNR dated 7-18-11

All ayes, motion passed.

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

**Brief Public Input:**

Dale Flaherty stated that there was a hazardous waste collection scheduled for this Saturday from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at the Road Commission parking lot in Honor.

Amy Rosa mentioned that the drinking fountain by the volley ball court was not working. Supervisor Bates stated it is being worked on.

**Guests:**

Mark Roper, Benzie County Commissioner, reported on the following: Budget for MSU Extension; Conservation District Resolution regarding phragmites; Parks and Recreation Committee working on grants for Point Betsie Lighthouse road and parking; interviews for County Administrator; Soil Erosion Appeals Board formed; need to reduce budget a lot; personnel policy being revised; appointment to Maples Board and the Blank law suit still at Appeals Court level.

**Old Business:**

1. **Alcohol and Substance Abuse Policy:** Draft policy was reviewed and discussed with a change being made to page 3.C second paragraph to read “shall” instead of “may”. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Nolan, to accept the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Policy as amended. All ayes, motion passed.
2. **Recreation Millage:** Ballot language from attorney was reviewed and discussed. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Nolan, to accept the amended ballot language upon approval from the Township attorney. Roll call vote was as follows: Giddis, aye; Dort, aye; Bates, aye; Campeau, aye; Nolan, aye. All ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.

**New Business:**

1. **Fire & EMS Dept. New Member:** *Motion by* Bates, and supported by Campeau, to accept Matt Tallman as a never member of the Fire & EMS Department. All ayes, motion passed.
2. **Fire & EMS Dept. Member Leave of Absence:** *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Nolan, to approve a six month leave of absence for Gene Mayo from the Fire & EMS Department. All ayes, motion passed.
3. **Fire & EMS Lieutenant Openings:** *Motion by* Bates, and supported by Nolan, to post Lieutenant 2 position as being open until August 31, 2011. All ayes, motion passed.
4. **Road Brining:** Supervisor Bates provided information. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Bates, to brine the improved gravel roads with an eight (8) foot wide strip down the middle of the road with the costs not to exceed $2,200.oo and to approve a budget amendment for the same amount. All ayes, motion passed.
5. **Lakefront Park Right of Way:** Supervisor Bates explained that another title search was needed to find out who all the right of way affected. He will talk with the title insurance company that did the original title search and with the Township Attorney.
6. **September Meeting:** Supervisor Bates will be out of town but could attend the meeting if it started at 7:00 p.m. instead of 5:00 p.m. Consensus of Board was to start the September meeting at 7:00 p.m.
7. **Charter Township:** Clerk Dort presented information and discussion took place. Consensus of the Board was to have to the Township attorney draft a resolution for non-charter status for the September meeting.
8. **Payroll Issues:** Information presented was reviewed and discussed. *Motion by* Dort, and supported by Bates, to pay the pool rate of pay for the two (2) additional hours worked for each of the pool people who worked the Almira Homecoming event. All ayes, motion passed. *Motion by* Bates, and supported by Campeau, to pay the duty crew member an additional three and one-half (31/2) hours at overtime rate with the Township Supervisor approving the overtime worked on June 22, 2011. Ayes, Bates, Campeau, Dort and Nolan; Nays Giddis; motion passed.
9. **Fire & EMS Officer Positions:** Supervisor Bates stated that this item would be tabled until some issues could be clarified.

**Extended Public Input:**

Mark Roper had a question about the recreation millage. Supervisor Bates will verify what can be collected and when.

Chief Jay Morse stated that all the coverage positions for the Dune Grass festival were filled and that there was one call during the event that the department responded to.

Ellie Flaherty also had a question about the recreation millage.

**Board Comments:**

Treasurer Campeau stated that 10% per year is all that could be paid additional on the Fire & EMS Facility loan. Hopefully October of this year will be the last payment.

Clerk Dort talked about a possible draft of new meeting rules in the future.

Trustee Giddis stated that designs for the Veterans Memorial entrances were being reviewed along with backdrops for the flags.

Supervisor Bates had talked with the Sheriff about the Dune Grass event and they did not receive any complaints. There is a settlement in the Roper property issue. It is being sent to the State for approval and final paper work is still to come. Supervisor Bates stated that the Fire & EMS Department had to respond to his house twice this past month and complimented the Department on the quickness of the responses.

**Adjourn:** There being no other business Supervisor Bates adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Mary Dort,

Almira Township Clerk