Supervisor Vance Bates called the special meeting of the Almira Township Board to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Almira Township Hall.

Supervisor led the Pledge to the Flag

**Members Present:** Dawn Campeau, Mary Dort, Kirt Giddis, Diana Nolan and Vance Bates.

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

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

**Brief Public Input:** None

**Guests:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

1. **Review Proposed Lakefront Park Site Plan:**

Brian Rowley, from Gourdie-Fraser, explained the process that had been done to reach this point in the development of the proposed lakefront park site plan. The Supervisor opened discussion to the Board and to the public present.

Dawn Campeau inquired about being able to plow over the parking lot pavers and the number of parking spaces. She also asked about the two different paths shown.

Laurie Harm asked if there would be a beach volleyball court, bike racks, grills, water safety and swimming lessons offered.

Marvin Rosa inquired about the location of the restrooms/changing room wondering if it could be closer to the water; whether all Township parks had the same closing time; wheel chair accessibility; and buoys or open water.

Larry Muzzarelli stated he was opposed to the parking lot being any closer to the water. He also submitted a drawing changing the walk ways from two to one.

Jan Herringa stated parking should not be any closer to the water and that the park in the Village closes at 10:00 p.m.

Mike Salamino stated he thought there should be two separate bathrooms and no changing rooms. He thought that the Long Lake Park had about 20 parking spots.

John Nuske Sr. mentioned the slow rate of progress on this project.

Bob Hensel questioned whether the bathrooms were portable; was the pavilion to be an open air concrete slab; was the pavilion going to have electricity; what was the handicap trail to the water going to be made out of, any other lighting in park; and if the park would be open all year.

Mark Roper asked if there were more than one pavilion; how much of the park would be fenced in; might want to contact the disability network group in Grand Traverse County regarding the material that was used at the state park beach area; and why has it taken so long to bring this plan to the public.

Ann Beaujean thanked the Board for bringing the preliminary site plan to the public; questioned a time line for progress; landscaping questions; swings and a slide should be considered; would there be a well. She also expressed that she would like the landscaping to be a more peaceful landscaping versus a typical beach.

Doug Campeau thought that if the restrooms were closer to the water that there would be more of a vandalism problem; did the Village Ordinance require certain hours of operation; heard talk of a gate for the parking lot and who would be opening and closing it.

Barb Hood stated that she thought the talk about a gate was before the park is officially opened; no need to move the parking closer to the water but maybe it could be moved to a more central location on the property; would there be phases of development; the Ransom Lake handicap trail looks good with whatever that was made out of; all residents are welcome to attend the Village Council meetings and that the proposed park is not officially opened and to move forward on getting an approved site plan and special use permit.

John Nuske Jr. stated there is no gate at Burnett Park.

Pete Derusha asked if a gate would be needed if the park open hours were posted.

Vera Carmien inquired about a historical marker for the site regarding the people who first settled on the property.

Sue White asked about how the fencing would be if there were trees where the fence would go; can anything be in the setbacks; and hasn’t the use as a park been established already since the lease had been signed.

Jim Slis also asked about a time line for this project.

Other general comments were if additional beach sand would be added and would there be a stairway and trail/ramp to the water.

**Extended Public Input:** None

**Board Comments:**

Trustees Nolan and Giddis and Supervisor Bates thanked the residents for attending the meeting and their input. Trustee Giddis also stated to stay focused on the plan for the proposed park.

**Adjourn:** There being no other business Supervisor Bates adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mary Dort

Almira Township Clerk