

BLENDON TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2017

1. Bill Vanden Berg, Township Supervisor, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Invocation by Pastor Vriesman.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
4. Roll call. PRESENT: Phil De Lange, Robin Overway, Bill Vanden Berg,
Jim VanderVeen, Don Vander Kuyl
5. Request by VanderVeen to add the following New Business Items to the Agenda:
 - F) Acknowledgment of Micandy Gardens' Award.
 - G) Addressing a letter sent to some Township residents from Mr. Ken Schuiteman.
 - H) Repair work approved in March to the Community Center which has not been done.
6. Motion to approve the agenda with the additions to New Business items above and the change in Pastor Aaron Vriesman, from North Blendon CRC, giving the Invocation in place of Jim VanderVeen, made by Vander Kuyl, supported by Overway. Motion carried.
7. Motion to approve the minutes of the Blendon Township Board meeting held on June 15, 2017, made by Vander Kuyl, supported by De Lange. Motion carried.
8. Motion to approve invoices dated June 16, 2017 through July 20, 2017, including an addendum, made by De Lange, supported by VanderVeen. Motion carried.
9. Treasurer's Report given by Vander Kuyl. The Treasurer also added that Kiekoover, Scholma & Shumaker completed the audit and will file the annual report with the State of Michigan.
10. Clerk's Report given by Overway.
11. Supervisor's Report given by Vanden Berg.
12. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - Bernadette Schaefer addressed the Board with the following questions:
 - Why is Tyler Street being paved through Capital Improvement?
 - VandenBerg stated that he would have the attorney reply to this question
 - How did Tyler Street get chosen?
 - VandenBerg replied – To assist emergency vehicles and busses.
 - VanderVeen replied
 - Roads which would create the biggest benefit to the Township as a whole.
 - Roads which would assist safety vehicles with a direct route out of the Township to hospitals.
 - There are 4 major employers in Zeeland which many residents work at. 88th if it were paved would provide a quick route to and from employment.
 - Currently there are sections of 88th that are paved.
 - How was the millage rate determined?

- VanderVeen replied – Based on estimates from County Road Commission, inflation over 5 years and the Headlee Amendment.
 - Why is a Special Election being held instead of putting it on say the primary or general election ballot?
 - VanderVeen replied – To allow people to focus on roads and not other issues.
- Greg Golembiewski of 6874 Bingham Street addressed the Board with the following questions:
 - Why was the dust control applied so late again this year? Mr. Golembiewski was told by the Great Lakes Chloride that we were the last Township to put our order in.
 - VandenBerg replied – We contracted with Great Lakes Chloride as soon as our budget passed. Next year, we'll try to do it sooner.
 - Can the roads that are used for detours when road work is being done, get dust control applied?
 - VanderVeen replied – The road work is under the responsibility and control of Ottawa County Road Commission.
 - At the January Board Meeting, Mr. Golembiewski addressed the Board asking about unsightly lawns, and sent an email to Supervisor VandenBerg on June 8th to follow up, but has not had any reply to his concerns. He suggested an Ordinance be adopted to control such properties as one on 72nd Avenue.
 - The Planning Commission has taken this under advisement, but has chosen not taken action at this time.

13. Monthly Reports.

- A. Fire Department Activity Report – No report submitted
- B. Police Activity Report – Submitted for review by Deputy Bob Jewell
- C. Assessor's Report – No report submitted
- D. Building Permit Reports – Submitted for review by Cindy Humphrey
- E. Building and Grounds Report – No report submitted
- F. Zoning Administration Report – No report submitted
- G. Planning Commission Minutes – Reviewed by VanderVeen.
- H. Blendon Road Committee Report – No meeting held.
- I. Cemetery Sexton's Report – Submitted by Chad Ward for review.

14. Tabled Business – None.

15. New Business

- A. Supervisor VandenBerg opened the Public Hearing for Eagles Landing Lighting District at 7:49 pm
 - 1. Opportunity for public comments– No comments were offered.
 - 2. Supervisor VandenBerg closed the Public Hearing at 7:51 pm.
- B. Motion by De Lange, Seconded by VanderVeen to adopt Resolution #2017-07.1 Creation of Eagles Landing Street Light Special Assessment District Roll.

Roll Call Vote: De Lange, Yes; Overway, Yes; Vanden Berg, Yes;
Vander Kuyl, Yes; VanderVeen, Yes. Resolution Adopted.
- C. Motion by VandenBerg supported by Vander Kuyl to adopt Ordinance# Z2017-07.1 to Amend the Blendon Township Zoning Ordinance; to rezone parcel 70-13-25-100-027 from AG to R2.

Roll Call Vote: De Lange, Yes; Overway, Yes; Vanden Berg, Yes;
Vander Kuyl, Yes; VanderVeen, Yes. Ordinance Adopted.

- D. Motion by Vander Kuyl, supported by Overway to approve the Eagles Landing Phase II Tentative Preliminary Plat with the conditions as recorded in the Planning Commission Minutes dated 7/11/17. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- E. Motion by VandenBerg, supported by VanderVeen to nominate David Bengston to the Zoning Board of Appeals replacing David Huizenga for a 3-year term effective 7/20/17 and expiring 3/31/2020. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- F. Motion offered by VanderVeen and supported by Vander Kuyl to offer a congratulations to Micandy Gardens for being named Operation of the Year on July 17th, at Cultivate '17 Greenhouse Growers Evening of Excellence. Motion Carried Unanimously.
- G. Motion by VanderVeen supported by Overway that in recognition that our residents deserve truthful information regarding a letter sent to some residents by Mr. Ken Schuiteman, the Board recognizes that the letter contains the following non-truthful information:

- 1. The Board is not sitting on \$2 Million. While the Township General Fund appears to have a balance of greater than \$2 Million, the Board at its February 16th meeting allocated approximately \$1.8 Million to be spent on the paving of Tyler Street from 72nd Avenue to 96th Avenue. For the benefit of our residents, we have included bike paths.

Of that \$1.8 Million, \$1 Million is coming from the existing Road Fund. The remaining \$800,000 was voted unanimously by the Board to be allocated to pay the remaining cost to pave Tyler Street from 72nd Avenue to 96th Avenue for the benefit of our residents leaving a General Fund balance of approximately \$1.6 Million, which is recognized as a safe reserve for a Township of our size.

- 2. The Board is not paving 4-lane Highways, it is paving 2-lane roads. The information on paving costs was obtained from the Ottawa County Road Commission who provided an estimate for the costs of paving roads in the Township.
- 3. As a General Law Township, No Board Member can vote to raise taxes. Taxes can only be voted on by registered township voters in an election.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

- H. Trustee VanderVeen addressed Supervisor VandenBerg and asked why the repairs to the Community Center had not been completed when the work was approved by the Board at the February 17th meeting. VandenBerg replied that the Administrative Assistant, Cindy Humphrey, did not send out the Purchase Order. Ms. Humphrey replied that she was not asked for a PO, nor does she send them out when one is requested.

16. Correspondence and Information - None

17. Public Comment - None

18. Upcoming Events.

- A. Road Committee Open House - 07/26/17
(Tyler Street Fire Station)
- B. Safety Services Committee - 07/27/17
- C. Planning Commission - 08/01/17
- D. Special Election - 08/08/17
- E. Township Board - 08/17/17

19. With no other business to be brought before the Board, a motion made by Vander Kuyl, seconded by Overway to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm.