

Blendon Township  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2019

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 7:00 pm by Township Supervisor, Bill Vanden Berg.
2. **Invocation** was given by Trustee, Phil DeLange.
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by all in attendance.
4. **Roll Call: PRESENT:** Bill Vanden Berg, Supervisor  
Robin Overway, Clerk  
Greg Golembiewski, Treasurer  
Jim Vander Veen, Trustee  
Phil DeLange, Trustee  
**ATTENDING:** Kurt Gernaat, Fire Chief
5. **Motion to approve the agenda** was made by Phil DeLange, with the following changes:
  - a. *Under new business, move item #14d to #14a.*  
*Support by Greg Golembiewski.*

Motion Carried
6. **Motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes**, dated February 18, 2019, was made by Phil DeLange, support by Greg Golembiewski.

Motion Carried

  - a. **Motion to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes**, dated March 7, 2019, was made by Phil DeLange, support by Robin Overway.

Motion Carried
  - b. **Motion to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes**, dated March 15, 2019, was made by Phil DeLange, support by Robin Overway.

Motion Carried
7. **Motion to approve the invoices** dated February 19, 2019 through March 18, 2019, including the addendum, was made by Robin Overway, support by Phil DeLange.

Motion Carried
8. **Treasurer's Report submitted by Greg Golembiewski**
  - As submitted.
  - Closing out the winter tax records and settling with the county.
  - Will be starting creating the Roll for the Summer 2019 taxes.
9. **Clerk's Report submitted by Robin Overway.**
  - As submitted.
  - Upcoming Election May 7. All precincts voting at Township Hall.
  - Ballots have been received.
  - Absentee Ballots have been sent and are starting to come back in.
10. **Supervisor's Report submitted by Bill Vanden Berg.**

- None Submitted
- Verbal

**11. Opportunity for Public Comment that is not listed on the Agenda:**

- Bernadette Schafer, 5130 Fillmore St, addressed the Board concerning her appointment as Deputy Treasurer.
  - Mrs. Schafer had a letter to read to the Board and respectfully requested there be no interruption during the reading of her statement.
  - Mrs. Schafer would like her statement to be on the record.
  - Mrs. Schafer's statement dated 03.18.2019 is attached to the end of the meeting minutes.
  - The Board had no questions or comments for Mrs. Schafer.
- Ken Schuiteman, 6447 – 60<sup>th</sup> Ave, addressed the Board concerning the pay increase of Fire Chief Kurt Gernaat.
  - Mr. Schuiteman had many questions of the Board.
  - Mr. Schuiteman will provide a copy of his questions to be placed on the record in the minutes.
  - Mr. Schuiteman's questions will be attached to the end of the meeting minutes, once they are received.
- Mary Vanden Berg, 6305 Port Sheldon, questioned if the Administrative Assistant was getting all of the question and responses down for the minutes.

**12. Monthly Reports:**

**a. Fire Department Activity Report:**

- None

**b. Police Activity Report:**

- As Submitted

**c. Assessor Report:**

- None

**d. Cemetery Sexton Report:**

- None

**e. Building Permit Report:**

- As Submitted

**f. Building and Grounds Report:**

- None

**g. Zoning Administration Report:**

- None

**h. Planning Commission Minutes:** Reviewed by Jim Vander Veen

- Highlighted the following items:

- Marihuana Ordinance and existing zoning ordinances
- Another sub-committee meeting pertaining to Farmhaus Cider.
- Chairman Rick Lamer retiring from the Planning Commission after 20 years of service.

i. **ZBA Minutes:** None submitted

### 13. Tabled Business:

a. Appointment of Planning Commissioner

- Supervisor Bill Vanden Berg recommended the appointment of Duane Gunnink to fill Ron Wind's vacant spot on the Planning Commission.
- Trustee Vander Veen questioned Supervisor Vanden Berg about his reason for selecting Mr. Gunnink when Chairman Lamer and the Planning Commission had recommended Brett Huizenga for the vacant position, following interviews with each of the candidates.
  - Supervisor Vanden Berg stated that he did not take Chairman Lamer's recommendations in any certain order and he personally liked Duane Gunnink.
  - Trustee Vander Veen read an email from 03.05.2019 that Chairman Lamer sent to the Planning Commission and Supervisor Vanden Berg that stated that after interviewing each of the candidates his recommendation would be as follows; then Chairman Lamer proceeded to list the candidates in order from #1-#5.

- **Motion was made to deny** the appointment of Duane Gunnink to the Planning Commission by Jim Vander Veen, support by Phil DeLange.

**Yes:** Jim Vander Veen, Phil DeLange, Robin Overway  
Greg Golembiewski

**No:** Bill Vanden Berg

- Supervisor Vanden Berg then recommended the appointment of Brett Huizenga to the Planning Commission for the remainder of Ron Wind's term, ending 03.31.2020.

- **Motion was made to approve** the appointment of Brett Huizenga to the Planning Commission by Jim Vander Veen, support by Greg Golembiewski.

Motion Carried

- **Motion was made to reappoint** Jeff DeWind to the Planning Commission, upon the expiration of his current term, by Jim Vander Veen, support by Phil DeLange.

Motion Carried

b. Street Light Proposal – 64<sup>th</sup> Ave and Tyler St

- Supervisor Vanden Berg stated that he has no new information at this time. He has not heard back from Consumer's Power.

c. Security Proposal:

- Treasurer Golembiewski discussed the following security concerns within the township hall:

- Currently no separation between the public and the workplace
  - Administrative staff is often alone in the afternoon
  - Large amounts of cash are counted during tax season
  - Treasurer Golembiewski stated that the cost of a simple video surveillance system would range from \$800-\$2500.
  - After discussion within the office it was determined to recommend the construction of a wall in the front office, in front of the Administrative Assistant's desk, that contains a window to conduct transactions and a locked door through which people could be let in for meetings with the officers.
  - Trustee Vander Veen stated that this matter was discussed at the Special Meeting on March 15, 2019 and that funds have been allocated in the 2019-2020 Budget to fund this project with emphasis on the following items:
    - Erecting the wall
    - Redoing the employee entrance on the north side of the building to include a new door and the revamping of the 'grade' for the sidewalk.
    - Rekeying the front door
    - Installation of security cameras
  - Trustee Vander Veen also pointed out we need to be mindful of fire exits and handicap accessibility.
- d. Hudsonville Library Proposal:
- Treasurer Golembiewski explained that mileages collected on Blendon township taxes go to support both the Hudsonville Library and the Howard Miller Library in Zeeland.
  - Hudsonville Library has asked to have a link put on our website that would take people to the library's website as a way to promote upcoming events at the library.
  - The library would not have access to the township's website. The township administrator would add the link to the township's website.
  - **Motion to allow Hudsonville Library to add a link to the township's website, as proposed, was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Jim Vander Veen.**  
Motion Carried
- e. Outdoor Events Ordinance:
- **Motion to untable the Outdoor Events Ordinance was made by Jim Vander Veen, support by Phil DeLange.**  
Motion Carried
  - Discussion was had by the board. Trustee Vander Veen recapped the reasons for putting the ordinance in place.
  - **Motion to approve the Outdoor Events Ordinance was made by Jim Vander Veen, support by Phil DeLange.**  
Motion Carried

#### 14. New Business:

- a. Board Meeting Time Change:
- **Motion to change the time of the Board Meeting from starting at 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm was made by Greg Golembiewski and supported by Robin Overway.**

- Discussion was had by the board on the advantages and disadvantages of changing the time
  - Although some of the meetings are going later because of more business on the table, the earlier time is not very easy to make for some of the Board

Motion Denied

b. Budget 2019-2020:

- Public Hearing was opened at 7:40 pm
- Supervisor Vanden Berg went over the budget and recapped the revenue and expenditures.
  - Floor was opened up for public comment on the budget.
    - No comments were given.

c. Approval of Budget Resolutions:

- **Motion to approve Resolution 2019-03.2, 269 Inspection Fund Resolution was made by Bill Vanden Berg, supported by Phil DeLange.**  
 Yes: Bill Vanden Berg, Robin Overway, Greg Golembiewski  
 Jim Vander Veen, Phil DeLange  
 No: None
- **Motion to approve Resolution 2019-03.3, 214 Fire Capital Improvement Fund Resolution was made by Bill Vanden Berg, supported by Greg Golembiewski.**  
 Yes: Bill Vanden Berg, Robin Overway, Greg Golembiewski  
 Jim Vander Veen, Phil DeLange  
 No: None
- **Motion to approve Resolution 2019-03.4, 206 Fire Operation Fund Resolution was made by Bill Vanden Berg, supported by Greg Golembiewski.**  
 Yes: Bill Vanden Berg, Robin Overway, Greg Golembiewski  
 Jim Vander Veen, Phil DeLange  
 No: None
- **Motion to approve Resolution 2019-03.5, 201 Library Fund Resolution was made by Bill Vanden Berg, supported by Greg Golembiewski.**  
 Yes: Bill Vanden Berg, Robin Overway, Greg Golembiewski  
 Jim Vander Veen, Phil DeLange  
 No: None
- **Motion to approve Resolution 2019-03.6, 203 Road Fund Resolution was made by Bill Vanden Berg, supported by Greg Golembiewski.**  
 Yes: Bill Vanden Berg, Robin Overway, Greg Golembiewski  
 Jim Vander Veen, Phil DeLange  
 No: None
- **Motion to approve Resolution 2019-03.7, Regular Meeting and Recurring Payment Resolution was made by Bill Vanden Berg, supported by Robin Overway.**  
 Yes: Bill Vanden Berg, Robin Overway, Greg Golembiewski  
 Jim Vander Veen, Phil DeLange  
 No: None
- **Motion to approve Resolution 2019-03.8, Resolution to Approve the Transfer of Funds was made by Bill Vanden Berg, supported by Greg Golembiewski.**  
 Yes: Bill Vanden Berg, Robin Overway, Greg Golembiewski  
 Jim Vander Veen, Phil DeLange  
 No: None

- **Motion to approve Resolution 2019-03.9, Line Item Reconciliation Resolution** was made by *Bill Vanden Berg*, supported by *Greg Golembiewski*.  
Yes: Bill Vanden Berg, Robin Overway, Greg Golembiewski  
Jim Vander Veen, Phil DeLange  
No: None
- **Motion to approve Resolution 2019-03.10, 101 General Appropriation Account Resolution** was made by *Bill Vanden Berg*, supported by *Greg Golembiewski*.  
Yes: Bill Vanden Berg, Robin Overway, Greg Golembiewski  
Jim Vander Veen, Phil DeLange  
No: None
- **Motion to close the public hearing** was made by *Greg Golembiewski*, support by *Phil DeLange*

Motion Carried

Public Hearing Closed at 7:58 pm

d. Hiring of New Firefighters:

- Fire Chief Kurt Gernaat presented the names and profiles of two new fire fighters that he would like to hire to the Blendon Fire Department:
  - Nick Leatherman
  - Shane Peterson
- Both fire fighters come to the department fully trained and certified.
- Fire Chief Gernaat explained that both fire fighters will have a probation time (yellow helmet) for roughly 6 months until they can attend the required number of training meetings, become familiar with Blendon's equipment and pass the required competency test; at which point they will be removed from probation and receive their 'black helmet'
- **Motion to hire both Nick Leatherman and Shane Peterson to the Blendon Township Fire Department** was made by *Greg Golembiewski*, support by *Phil DeLange*.

Motion Carried

e. Ottawa County Road Commission:

- Brett Laughlin would like to come in and speak with the Board at 6:30 pm on April 15, to discuss the upcoming projects and plans for the Road Commission that affect and impact Blendon Township.
  - The Board agreed to adjust the start time to 6:30 pm to accommodate the Road Commission.
  - The time change will be posted for the public.

**15. Information/Correspondence:**

- a. Notice of Drain Maintenance of Ottawa County
- b. 2019-2020 Township board, Annual Meeting Schedule
- c. 2019-2020 Planning Commission, Annual Meeting Schedule
- d. 2019-2020 Safety Service Board, Annual Meeting Schedule

**16. Public Comments:**

- Mr. Ken Schuiteman readdressed the board concerning the nominations for the Planning Commission.

- Mr. Schuiteman wanted to know if the Board did not approve the appointment of Duane Gunnink to the Planning Commission because they are prejudice against new people serving in the township?
  - Treasurer Golembiewski stated that the Board is not in any way prejudice, but feels that the potential commissioners all went through an interview process with the Chairman of the Planning Commission for a reason; the decision for who is the best fit on the Commission should be left up to the people that actually work on Planning Commission.
  - Chairman Lamer did not feel that Duane Gunnink was the best fit, therefore the Board denied the approval.
- Mr. Jerry Hammond, 6061 Port Sheldon, asked the Board about if there are any future plans for bike paths in the township?
  - The Board spent some time explaining the long-range plan would be to have paved bike paths that in essence connect the Lakeshore to downtown Grand Rapids.
- Mr. Chip Rybicki, 5475 Stanton Woods Dr, brought some concerns from their HOA about the recent Ottawa County water issues and inquired about what plans, if any, the township had for the future?
  - Trustee Vander Veen offered, with Board approval, to meet with the Stanton Woods HOA to discuss and clarify the findings of the water study and what does that mean going forward.

**17. Upcoming Events:**

- a. Planning Commission Meeting: April 9, 2019 (later date due to Spring Break)
- b. Township Board Meeting: April 15, 2019 @ 6:30pm (earlier time)

**18. Adjournment:**

- a. With no other business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Recorded by Tina Vander Schuur  
Submitted by Robin Overway, Township Clerk