

Blendon Township
Board Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2019

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 7:00 pm by Township Supervisor, Bill Vanden Berg.
2. **Invocation** was given by Trustee, Jim Vander Veen.
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 Jim Vander Veen, support by Greg Golembiewski, with the following changes:
 - a. Under new business, add (f) Line Item Resolution 2019-04.11
 - b. Under Correspondence add Planning Commission 2018-19 Annual ReportMotion Carried
6. **Motion to strike the correspondence received by Ken Schuiteman from the record due to the fact that the correspondence of question was not submitted by Mr. Schuiteman as stated in the minutes**, was made by Jim Vander Veen, support by Phil DeLange.
Motion Carried
 - a. **Motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes**, dated March 18, 2019, with the above mention changes, was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Phil DeLange.
Motion Carried
7. **Motion to approve the invoices** dated March 19, 2019 through April 9, 2019, including the addendum dated April 10, 2019 through April 15, 2019, was made by Phil DeLange, support by Robin Overway.
Motion Carried
8. **Treasurer's Report submitted by Greg Golembiewski**
 - As submitted.
 - Arranged for the annual audit to begin earlier this year.
 - Will be attending some upcoming classes and training sessions.
9. **Clerk's Report submitted by Robin Overway.**
 - As submitted.
 - Upcoming Election May 7. All precincts voting at Township Hall.
 - Absentee voter list projected to double
 - Attended additional training.

10. Supervisor's Report submitted by Bill Vanden Berg.

- As submitted
- Supervisor Vanden Berg asked the Board for explanation on who pays for the paving of subdivision roads:
 - Trustee Vander Veen explained that subdivision roads are paid for one of the following ways:
 - i. If the subdivision has private roads they are then paid for by the HOA.
 - ii. Mileage on taxes
 - iii. Special Assessment
 - iv. From the General Fund
- Supervisor Vanden Berg stated that the Ottawa County Road Commission will be adding gravel to both 84th and 76th Ave.
 - Cost \$30,000.00
 - This was ordered last year, but due to gravel shortage was never completed.
 - Trustee Vander Veen pointed out that gravel was not budgeted into the expenditures of the 2019-2020 Budget because the board was not aware that this was an outstanding order from last year.
 - i. The allocation was not carried into the new budget year.
 - Supervisor Vanden Berg stated that he feels that 'the roads are for the people so we should just take it out of the general fund to pay for the gravel'
 - Trustee DeLange stated that there is no question that the roads need the new gravel; therefore, the Board needs to do one of the following:
 - i. The Board needs to come up with a plan of how to pay for the gravel.
 - 1. A public hearing would have to be set to amend the 2019-2020 budget.
 - ii. The gravel order needs to be cancelled.
 - Treasurer Golembiewski agrees.
- ***Motion to set a Public Hearing to Amend the 2019-2020 Budget on May 20, 2019 @ 7:30 pm to pay for gravel application was made by Phil DeLange, support by Greg Golembiewski.***

Motion Carried

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

- None

12. Monthly Reports:

a. Fire Department Activity Report:

- As Submitted
- Noted the upcoming pancake breakfast:
 - Saturday, April 20, 2019 @ 7:00-10:30 am.
 - Activities for the family
 - Aero med – weather permitting
- Treasurer Golembiewski asked if we ever posted burning bans on the township website?

- Fire Chief Gernaat stated that unless the ban is for a long period of time, it is not listed on the website.

b. Police Activity Report:

- None

c. Assessor Report:

- None

d. Cemetery Sexton Report:

- None

e. Building Permit Report:

- As Submitted

f. Building and Grounds Report:

- Verbal: Kurt Gernaat
- Sprinklers will be started up soon
- Plows have been removed and mowers have been put on
- Grounds have been dethatched and mowed
- BCC remodel is very close to completion
 - Trustee Vander Veen mentioned having the BCC open during the Dandelion Festival for the community to see the improvements.
 - Kurt Gernaat will look into putting a flyer together for an open house.
- There was discussion on doing a controlled burn of the field behind the Township Hall and when this should be done.
 - Trustee DeLange stated that half of the field should be done in 2020 and the other half in 2021.
 - This allows the small animals that inhabit the field to move to the non-burning portion.

g. Zoning Administration Report:

- None

h. Planning Commission Minutes: Reviewed by Jim Vander Veen

- Highlighted the following items:
 - New Officers have been elected:
 - Chairman: Terry Huberts
 - Vice Chair: Jeff Van Eck
 - Secretary: Jason Vander Kodde
 - Rick Lamer resigned from the Planning Commission after serving more than 20 years.
 - Farmhaus Cider amended SLU was approved.
 - Koetje Developers requested a rezone of the existing Beld Farm on Port Sheldon from AG to C2 conditional.
 - New member, Brett Huizenga, began his service on the Planning Commission.

i. ZBA Minutes: None submitted

13. Tabled Business: None

14. New Business:

a. Ottawa County Road Commission Informational Meeting:

- Brett Laughlin, Managing Director of the Ottawa County Road Commission, addressed the Board with updates and information that affects Blenden Township.
 - A packet was handed out.
 - Statistical information was discussed
 - Types and Miles of Roads in the township
 - 2019 Anticipated Revenue
 - 2019 Expenditures
 - Improvements and Maintenance Costs
 - Projected projects for Blenden Township
 - Road Millage
- The Board had time to ask questions and have discussion on what was presented.

b. **Firefighter Recognition:**

- Fire Chief, Kurt Gernaat, presented the Board with the details of the life saving efforts of some of his firefighters that took place on 03.21.2019.
 - Blenden Township Fire Dept was dispatched to a medical call where they found the gentlemen, in cardiac arrest. The firefighters administered CPR until the patient could be transferred to higher level care. Upon arrival at the hospital the patient was alive and conscious.
- Treasurer Greg Golembiewski read the Resolution recognizing the firefighters for the dedication, training and sacrifice that they make for the residents of Blenden Township.
- ***Motion to approve the following resolutions as recognition of the successful life-saving efforts provided by the Blenden Township Firefighters, was made by Robin Overway, support by Jim Vander Veen.***
 - ***Resolution 2019-04.1 Firefighter Jeremy Hejl***
 - ***Resolution 2019-04.2 Firefighter Kay Poortenga***
 - ***Resolution 2019-04.3 Firefighter Mark Dykstra***
 - ***Resolution 2019-04.4 Firefighter Justin Regnerus***
 - ***Resolution 2019-04.5 Firefighter Scott Vander Veen***
 - ***Resolution 2019-04.6 Firefighter Chad Ward***
 - ***Resolution 2019-04.7 Firefighter Craig Sawyer***
 - ***Resolution 2019-04.8 Lieutenant Mark Nylaan***
 - ***Resolution 2019-04.9 Lieutenant Trevor Overweg***
 - ***Resolution 2019-04.10 Deputy Chief Tom Haveman***

Yay: Jim Vander Veen, Greg Golembiewski, Robin Overway
Bill Vanden Berg, Phil DeLange

Nay: None

c. **Planning Commission Nomination:**

- **Motion to nominate Lynette Peters** to the Planning Commission was made by Bill Vanden Berg, support by Greg Golembiewski.

Motion Carried

d. **Closed Door Meeting with Attorney from Foster-Swift: (7:48 pm)**

- **Motion to go into closed door session** to discuss the pending litigation of Equestrian Trails LLC – Eagles Landing, because if discussed in open session it could have adverse impact on the litigation or settlement position of the township, was made by Jim Vander Veen, support by Phil DeLange.

Motion Carried

e. **Township Manager:**

- Treasurer Golembiewski presented the Board with a preliminary job description and list of benefits concerning the proposed Township Manager Position.
 - Treasurer Golembiewski stated that the Board needed to look at the future of the township and the way that the township is growing it would serve the residents well.
 - Officials come and go but a township manager provides consistency, familiarity and knowledge for the residents.
 - Treasurer Golembiewski wanted to bring the position up to the Board again, as he feels that since it was presented it has been sitting out there with nothing being done and it should be discussed.
- Trustee Vander Veen recalled the original discussion about the possibility of moving to a Township Manager:
 - Kurt Gernaat was being interviewed by the City of Zeeland.
 - The Board decided that they did not want to lose Kurt at the township and decided to increase his wage to at least what he would be able to obtain by accepting a position somewhere else.
 - Unsure if Kurt would stay at the township or not; if he did, what would that position look like?
 - Felt that Kurt offers a special skill set that is a major asset to the township:
 - He is familiar with all of the roads
 - He has and has had more contact with citizens out in the community than most people.
 - He understands the challenges and achievements in the areas of growth in the township.
 - The discussion now needs to be what does the position of Township Manager look like? What does the transition period look like? What does a new fire chief position look like?
 - We need to keep the residents informed of what is going on and welcome and support any comments that the public has.
- **Motion was made to table the discussion of the job description of Township Manager** until the May meeting so the Board has time to review the information that was handed out and think about how we will move forward with the Township Manager position, was made Phil DeLange. Support was offered by Jim Vander Veen upon clarification that all discussion will be with the intent of moving forward with the position, not dismissing it.

Motion Carried

f. Line Item Resolution 2019-04.11:

- **Motion made to approve Line Item Resolution 2019-04.11** was made by *Bill Vanden Berg*, support by *Greg Golembiewski*.

Motion Carried

15. Information/Correspondence:

- a. Planning Commission Annual Report
- b. FOIA Request from Ken Schuiteman, concerning Kurt Gernaat's personnel file.
 - Trustee Vander Veen suggested contacting Township Attorney, Jim Scales, to confirm what information we legally can and cannot release.
- c. 2019-2020 Planning Commission, Annual Meeting Schedule
- d. 2019-2020 Safety Service Board, Annual Meeting Schedule

16. Public Comments:

- Mr. Ken Schuiteman question the reason for the closed-door session.
 - Supervisor Vanden Berg said it was a meeting with our attorney concerning a lawsuit.

17. Upcoming Events:

- a. Planning Commission Meeting: May 14, 2019 (later date due to school elections)
- b. Township Board Meeting: May 20, 2019

18. Adjournment:

- a. With no other business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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