

Blendon Township
Board Meeting Minutes
June 17, 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 attendees.

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 Greg Golembiewski, support by Robin Overway.

Motion Carried

6. **Motion to amend the May 20, 2019 meeting minutes** was made by Phil DeLange, support by Greg Golembiewski with the following changes:
 - Under #11
 - Change the wording to read 'reviewed all 17 townships in Ottawa County, and found 2 like general law townships for her comparison to Blendon Township.'
 - Replace the wording 'no written documentation of facts was presented to the Board' with 'no one on the Board requested a copy of Ms. Schafer's findings.'

Motion Carried

Motion to add a side note to the May 20, 2019 minutes under #11 and the June 17 agenda was made by Jim Vander Veen, support by Greg Golembiewski to see the June 17, 2019 minutes for an update to the wording on the May 20 minutes stating that Ms. Schafer stated to the board, that acting as her role of resident, and not under the legal roll as the Deputy Supervisor...

Motion Carried

Motion to approve the minutes from the Special Board Meeting dated May 30, 2019 was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Robin Overway.

Motion Carried

7. **Motion to approve the invoices** dated May 16, 2019 through June 17, 2019, with the additions that were added to the packet, was made by Jim Vander Veen, support by Greg Golembiewski.

Motion Carried

8. Treasurer's Report submitted by Greg Golembiewski

- As submitted.
- State revenue sharing up for 2019 by \$11,179
- Tax Rolls have been submitted
- Tax Deferment applications are available in the office
- Annual audit complete, waiting for results
- Dust control underway
- Explained West Coast Chamber membership benefits
- Township Manager job description, not on the agenda but is still in the working documents stage.

9. Clerk's Report submitted by Robin Overway.

- As submitted.
- Modem maintenance taking place
- Attended Regional Clerks Conference
- Attending training on the 19th and 20th

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

- No Report Submitted - Verbal
- AMAR letter - good
- Asked the Board's opinion on farmland preservation and how they felt about it:
 - Some discussion was had by the Board:
 - Jim Vander Veen stated that it's up to the land owner
 - Phil DeLange explained how Purchase of Development Rights works.
- Asked how the Board feels about marketing and promoting our township for industrial growth through a website enhancement company called LocalIntel.
 - Trustee Vander Veen feels this is a contradiction to the discussion on farmland preservation.
 - Trustee DeLange does not feel it is practical for Blendon Township

**11. Opportunity for Public Comment that is not listed on the Agenda:
(see update in June 17, 2019 Minutes)**

- Bernadette Schafer, of 5134 Fillmore St, addressed the Board on the following items:
 - Inaccuracies in the May 20, 2019 meeting minutes
 - Availability of past meeting minutes on the township website
 - Township Manager job description.
 - Employee file policies
- Pam Hammond, of 6061 Port Sheldon St, addressed the Board on the following items:
 - Public Hearing Notices
 - Where and when are they published
 - Land division question

- Paul Blauwkamp, of 6825 – 88th Ave, addressed the Board on the following items:
 - Meeting minutes being taken out of context
 - Reasons to or not to put resident reports/letters in meeting minutes
 - Misconception of savings for the 2019 dust control
 - Appointment of a Deputy Supervisor
 - Opinion on the fire fighter recognition ceremony
- Ginger Meurer, of 7004 – 72nd Ave, addressed the Board on the following items:
 - Opinion of the actions of the Township board.
 - History of comparison between townships.
 - Opinion on Bernadette Schafer being the Deputy Supervisor.
- Trustee Jim Vander Veen stated to the Board that a policy is needed on how the Board receives and accepts statements from the public.
 - Every time someone stands up and speaks, do we have a duty to respond or publish what they say?

12. Monthly Reports:

a. Fire Department Activity Report:

- As Submitted

b. Police Activity Report:

- None Submitted

c. Assessor Report:

- None Submitted

d. Cemetery Sexton Report:

- None Submitted

e. Building Permit Report:

- As Submitted

f. Building and Grounds Report:

- As Submitted

g. Zoning Administration Report:

- None Submitted

h. Planning Commission Minutes: Reviewed by Jim Vander Veen

- Highlighted the following items:
 - Multiple Rezone Requests
 - Planning Commission By-laws being revised
 - Discussion on the current ordinance concerning traditional condos.

i. ZBA Minutes: None submitted

13. Tabled Business:

- a. None

14. New Business:

a. **Rezone Ordinance 2019-06.01:**

- o Owner-applicant, Eric Payne, is present
- o Trustee Vander Veen explained the reasoning for the request.
- o ***Motion to approve Ordinance 2019-06.1 to rezone parcel #70-13-34-100-018 from AG to R1 was made by Bill Vanden Berg, support by Jim Vander Veen.***

Roll Call:

Yea: DeLange, Overway, Golembiewski, Vanden Berg, Vander Veen

Nay: None

Motion Carried

b. **Rezone Ordinance 2019-06.02:**

- o Trustee Vander Veen explained the reasoning for the request.
- o ***Motion to approve Ordinance 2019-06.2 to rezone parcel #70-13-02-200-014 from AG to R1 was made by Phil DeLange, support by Jim Vander Veen.***

Roll Call:

Yea: DeLange, Overway, Golembiewski, Vanden Berg, Vander Veen

Nay: None

Motion Carried

15. Information / Correspondence:

- a. Encompass Presentation on Change
- b. LocalIntel email
- c. Letter from Cindy Meurer-Kukic
- d. Letter from State of MI-Dept of State: AMAR Review

16. Public Comments on Items on the Agenda:

- o Mary Vanden Berg, of 6305 Port Sheldon St, addressed the board on the following items:
 - Questioned if a study had been done on the Township Manager position by the Board.
 - Questioned Chief Gernaat was currently the Township Manger and what are his current job responsibilities.
 - Questioned the need for a Human Resource director
 - Asked when the Township Manager job description would be available.
- o MaryBeth Gernaat, 4855 Hide Away Lane, addressed the Board on the following items:
 - Opinion of Fire Chief Gernaat's abilities on his current job and responsibilities

17. Upcoming Events:

- a. Planning Commission Meeting: July 2, 2019
- b. Township Board Meeting: July 15, 2019

18. Adjournment:

- a. With no other business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

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