

Blendon Township
Board Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2019

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 7:00 pm by Township Clerk, Robin Overway
 - a. ***Motion to appoint Treasurer, Greg Golembiewski, as the moderator of tonight's meeting due to the absence of Supervisor, Bill Vanden Berg.***
Roll Call: Yay: Robin Overway, Stan Taylor, Paul Blauwkamp, Greg Golembiewski
Nay:
2. **Invocation** was given by Trustee, Stan Taylor
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by attendees.
4. **Roll Call:** PRESENT: Robin Overway, Clerk
Greg Golembiewski, Treasurer
Stan Taylor, Trustee
Paul Blauwkamp, Trustee
ABSENT: Bill Vanden Berg (absent with notice)
ATTENDING: Kurt Gernaat, Fire Chief
Tina Vander Schuur, Administrative Assistant
5. ***Motion to approve the agenda*** was made by Paul Blauwkamp, support by Stan Taylor
Motion Carried 4-0
6. ***Motion to approve the November 18, 2019 meeting minutes*** was made by Stan Taylor, support by Robin Overway.
Motion Carried 4-0
7. ***Motion to approve the invoices*** dated November 18, 2019 through December 16, 2019, was made by Stan Taylor, support by Paul Blauwkamp.
Motion Carried 4-0
8. **Public Comment for items not on the agenda:**
 - o None
9. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - o As Submitted
 - Winter tax bills have been sent out; due February 14, 2020
 - All departments need to have their budgets set prior to the January board meeting.
10. **Clerk's Report:**
 - o As Submitted
 - Preparing for the March election
11. **Supervisor's Report:**
 - o None Submitted

- Update was given by Clerk Overway concerning the status of Supervisor Vanden Berg's health and recovery.

12. Monthly Reports:

- Fire Department Activity Report
 - As Submitted
- Police Activity Report
 - As Submitted
- Assessor Report
 - None Submitted
- Cemetery Sexton Report
 - None Submitted
- Building Permit Report
 - As Submitted
- Building and Grounds Report
 - As Submitted
- Preliminary Planning commission Minutes
 - As Submitted
- ZBA Minutes
 - None Submitted

13. New Business:

a. **Board and Commission Appointments:**

○ Emergency Services Board:

- Kurt Gernaat spoke with township attorney, Jim Scales, concerning the number of Board members that can serve on the ESB.
 - Legally two (2) board members can serve on the board.
 - Stan Taylor and Greg Golembiewski will remain on the ESB
 - Look for a replacement for Paul Blauwkamp

○ Board of Review:

- Trustee, Stan Taylor, approached a couple of potential candidates; one as a member, one as an alternate.
 - One of the candidates declined at this time due to family, church and business constraints.
 - A candidate for an Alternate will be submitting a letter of interest to the Board after the holidays.
- Discussion was had on how having a background in an area such as finance, real estate or appraisals is very beneficial on the board of review.

○ Zoning Board of Appeals:

- Opening needs to be filled with a Planning Commission Rep.
- Kurt Gernaat will speak with Brett Huizenga

○ Compensation Commission:

- Not urgent
- Will not meet for a year

b. **Board of Review Pay Rate:**

○ Information sheet of pay history included in the packet.

- Discussion on keeping an hourly rate or going to a per meeting rate like all of the boards and commissions.

- Look at what other townships are currently doing and their rates
 - Trustee Taylor – Jamestown
 - Trustee Blauwkamp - Zeeland

c. **Zoning Ordinance Recommendation:**

- The Planning Commission is considering taking a look at updating existing and potentially adopting some new zoning ordinances. The following list was presented to the Board for direction:
 - Wind and Solar Energy
 - R1-R2 Building Height Restriction
 - Small Business
 - Combination of the AG and R1 zoning districts
 - Blight Ordinance
- ***Motion for the Planning Commission to move forward with the creation or updating of the above listed ordinances was made by Stan Taylor, support by Paul Blauwkamp.***

Motion Carried 4-0

14. Old Business:

a. **Cemetery Sexton Update:**

- Head of Human Resources, Kurt Gernaat, spoke with the cemetery sexton, Chad Ward. Chad stated that he feels that his job is going very well and he has no issues.

b. **Emergency Services Board:**

- See notes under New Business (a)

c. **Paving of New Holland St:**

- Trustee Paul Blauwkamp met with Zeeland Township Supervisor, Glen Nykamp to discuss the paving of New Holland.
 - South border roads are the responsibility of Blendon Township.
 - Zeeland has 20+ residents on the south side of New Holland that signed the petition to have the road paved.
 - Zeeland Township has offered to pay 50% of the cost of the paving.
- ***Motion to contact Brett Laughlin from the Ottawa County Road Commission to obtain preliminary pricing for the paving of New Holland was made by Paul Blauwkamp, support by Stan Taylor.***

Motion Carried 4-0

d. **Trustee Memorial Garden Update:**

- Sub-committee was formed and is made up of the following people:
 - Trustee Stan Taylor, Trustee Paul Blauwkamp, Fire Chief Kurt Gernaat, Kevin Peters, and the sister and friend of late Trustee Jim Vander Veen.
- Sub-committee spent some time brainstorming and discussing ideas.
- Each person going to work on putting a list of ideas together and the sub-committee will set a date to meet again.

e. **Resolution for Late Trustees Vander Veen and DeLange:**

- Trustee Paul Blauwkamp read Resolution 2019-12.1:
 - A resolution recognizing the many contributions of Phil DeLange and Jim Vander Veen to the township spanning many years of dedicated service to the community.
- A copy of the resolution will be sent to the families.
- Roll Call vote was taken to adopt Resolution 2019-12.1
 - Yeas: Stan Taylor, Paul Blauwkamp, Robin Overway, Greg Golembiewski
 - Nay: None
 - Absent: Bill Vanden Berg

f. **Township Newsletter:**

- Trustee Stan Taylor updated the board on the potential cost of mailing a newsletter to residents.
- Based on the high cost, the board spent time discussing other possible avenues in which the township could distribute a newsletter to residents.

g. **Future Park Update:**

- No new updates at this time

15. Information / Correspondence:

- a. State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy
 - Authorization for large quantity water withdrawal
- b. Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner
 - Hop Drain Maintenance

16. Public Comments for items that were on the agenda:

- a. 1 person spoke:
 - Pam Hammond: 6061 Port Sheldon St.
 - Following a car accident on Port Sheldon that ended up in her front yard, Mrs. Hammond wondered if she had any recourse for getting the large ruts repaired in her yard.
 - Fire Chief Gernaat stated that unfortunately there was no recourse but she could contact the Ottawa County Sheriff's department.

17. Upcoming Events:

- a. Planning Commission Meeting – **January 7, 2020 @ 7:00 pm**
- b. Township Board Meeting – **January 20, 2020 @ 7:00 pm**

18. Adjournment:

- a. With no other business to be brought before the Board, a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm was made by Paul Blauwkamp, support by Robin Overway.

Motion Carried 4-0

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