

Blendon Township
Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2021
(conducted via go-to-meeting)
(Amended)

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 7:00 pm by Supervisor, Kevin Peters
2. **Invocation** was given by Treasurer, Greg Golembiewski
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by attendees.
4. **Roll Call: PRESENT:**
 - Greg Golembiewski, Treasurer
 - Robin Overway, Clerk
 - Kevin Peters, Supervisor
 - Don Vander Kuyl, Trustee
 - Jeff Meyer, Trustee

ATTENDING: Kurt Gernaat, Fire Chief

5. **Motion to approve the agenda** with the addition of the following was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Don Vander Kuyl

○ Under new business:

- (e) 2021-2022 Proposed Budget Review
- (f) Set date and time for 2021-2022 Budget Public Hearing
- (g) Appointment of a new Planning Commissioner

Motion Carried 5-0

6. **Motion to approve the January 18, 2021 meeting minutes** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Don Vander Kuyl.

Motion Carried 5-0

7. **Motion to approve the invoices dated January 19, 2021 through February 15, 2021**, was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Don Vander Kuyl.

Motion Carried 5-0

8. **Public Comment for items on the agenda:**

○ Mary Vanden Berg (6305 Port Sheldon St)

- Questioned if the township uses Dominion voting machines and the security of votes cast in Blendon Township.

9. **Treasurer's Report:**

○ As Submitted

10. **Clerk's Report:**

○ As Submitted

11. **Supervisor's Report:**

○ As Submitted

12. Monthly Reports:

- a. Fire Department Activity Report
 - None 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
 - None Submitted
- g. Preliminary Planning Commission Minutes
 - As Submitted
- h. ZBA Minutes
 - None Submitted
- i. Emergency Service Minutes
 - None Submitted

13. New Business:

a. Compensation Commission Resolution:

- Resolution 2021-02.01
- Supervisor Peters highlighted the resolution submitted by the Compensation Commission reflecting the pay rates for the elected officials through March 31, 2022.
- ***Motion to approve Resolution 2021-02.01, was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Jeff Meyer***

Roll Call: Yes: Peters, Overway, Golembiewski, Meyer, Vander Kuyl
No:

Motion Carried 5-0

b. Roofing Estimates:

- Project Manager, Kurt Gernaat, highlighted
- Three estimates were received:
 - Kleinjans Roofing
 - Mikalan Roofing
 - Langerak Roofing
- Recommendation to use Kleinjans Roofing pending the receipt of the following additional information:
 - What Product will be used
 - Warranty
 - Does price include the metal edge?
 - Does price include the walkway?
- Final approval will be addressed at the March meeting.

c. **Building Permit Price Increase:**

- Kirk Scharphorn Jr. of Professional Code Inspections requested a price increase on building permits.
 - Application fee change from \$40 to \$50
 - Cost per \$1000 of value over \$10,000 to change from \$4.00 to \$5.00
 - New fee aligns with surrounding townships
- Resolution 2021-02.02
- ***Motion to approve Building Permit Price Increase Resolution 2021-02.02 was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Don Vander Kuyl.***
Roll Call: Yes: Peters, Overway, Golembiewski, Meyer, Vander Kuyl
No:

Motion Carried 5-0

d. **Dys Drain Maintenance:**

- County will be cleaning out the Dys Drain
- Estimate is for \$11,235.40
- County needs township approval for all projects that are over \$10,000.
 - Approval for \$1,235.40
- Supervisor Peters to fill-out and return the approved proposal.
- ***Motion to accept the proposal from the county for the clean-out of the Dys Drain was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Robin Overway.***

Motion Carried 5-0

e. **2021-2022 Proposed Budget Review:**

- Project Manager, Kurt Gernaat, reviewed and explained each line item of the proposed budget.
- Clerk, Robin Overway, reviewed the Clerk's budget and the Election's budget
- Treasurer, Greg Golembiewski, reviewed the Treasure's budget
- Discussion was had on many items
- Gernaat asked the board to solidify any changes that they would like to see made to the proposed budget within the next 2 weeks.
- Public Hearing for the finalization of the 2021-2022 Budget will be held at the March meeting.

f. **2021-2022 Budget Public Hearing:**

- Discussion on the date and time to approve the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget
- ***Motion to hold the Public Hearing to approve the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget on March 15, 2021 at 7:30 pm was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Jeff Meyer.***

Motion Carried 5-0

g. **Appointment of a New Planning Commissioner:**

- Two Planning Commissioners terms will expire on March 31, 2021
 - Jason Vander Kodde
 - Jeff Van Eck
- Jason Vander Kodde agreed to renew for another 3-year term.
- Jeff Van Eck has decided not to renew his term.

- Supervisor Peters recommended that Sean Miller be appointed to the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy.
- ***Motion to approve the appointment of Sean Miller to the Planning Commission beginning April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024 was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Greg Golembiewski.***

Motion Carried 5-0

14. Old Business:

a. **Kurt Gernaat's Responsibilities and Evaluation:**

- Supervisor Peters highlighted the following list:
 - Items Kurt is currently doing that are not on his job description
- Kurt Gernaat highlighted the following list:
 - Items that are not getting done due to too many responsibilities that need immediate attention.
- Kurt will categorize his list and document how much time is spent doing each item for the March Board Meeting.
- Board discussed the need for each department to figure out what need's to be done and what is not getting done.
 - This will help determine if there is a potential need for additional staff.
- Items to be readdressed at the March meeting.

b. **Township Hall Sign:**

- Treasurer, Greg Golembiewski, handed out two estimates to the Board both for around \$20,000.00
- Jeff Meyer highlighted the opinions and concerns that were conveyed from the Planning Commission:
 - For the amount of money that would be spent, not enough of the township's residents travel 72nd Ave in order to benefit from the sign.
 - If the township has a lighted digital sign, will other businesses want to do the same, and will this fall within the township's sign ordinance.
- The following Board members expressed their opinions:
 - Supervisor Kevin Peters has a hard time spending that amount of money when we are not sure of how many people will even be affected by the addition.
 - Trustee Jeff Meyer is concerned about the safety of putting an informational sign on an already dangerous corner.
 - Trustee Don Vander Kuyl has been taking notice of how many churches and businesses use digital signs.
 - He feels that the reason that so many use digital signs is because they are informative and they work.
 - However, the proximity of the sign to an already dangerous corner does cause him concern.

~~○ Decision was made to not pursue the purchase of a digital sign at this time.~~

c. **Mowing Contract Estimates:**

- No new information at this time
- Item to remain on the table for the March meeting.

15. Public Comments for items that were not on the agenda:

- None.

16. Correspondence for Informational Purposes

- Supervisor Peters has received an email and multiple texts from resident Joel Hoving concerning people cutting through his yard, on both foot and snowmobile, to access the wooded portion of the cemetery. Due to this, several newly planted pine trees have been destroyed.
 - Supervisor Peters feels that we should consider reimbursing Mr. Hoving for the destruction on his property due to other residents using it to access township property.
- After discussion, the Board feels that this is a 'trespassing' issue that is not the responsibility of the township and the resident should call the Ottawa County Police Department.
- The Board will have new 'No Trespassing' signs installed on the property line between the township's property and Mr. Hoving.

17. Upcoming Events:

- a. Planning Commission Meeting – **March 2, 2021**
- b. Township Board Meeting – **March 15, 2021**

18. Adjournment:

- a. With no other business to be brought before the Board, a motion to adjourn at 9:40 pm was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Greg Golembiewski.

Motion Carried 5-0

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