

Blendon Township
Board Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2021

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:**
 - Kevin Peters, Supervisor
 - Greg Golembiewski, Treasurer
 - Jeff Meyer, Trustee
 - Don Vander Kuyl, Trustee
 - Robin Overway, Clerk

ATTENDING: Kurt Gernaat, Fire Chief

5. **Motion to approve the agenda** with the following additions was made Greg Golembiewski, support by Don Vander Kuyl
 - o 9(a): Budget vs. Actual
 - o 12(e): Sheriff's Report
 - o 13(f): Holiday Observance

Motion Carried 5-0
6. **Motion to approve the November 15, 2021, meeting minutes** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Don Vander Kuyl.

Motion Carried 5-0
7. **Motion to approve the invoices dated November 15, 2021, to December 20, 2021,** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Jeff Meyer.

Motion Carried 5-0
8. **Public Comment for items on the agenda:**
 - o None
9. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - o As Submitted
 - o Budget vs. Actual Report
 - Highlighted and explained by Deputy Treasurer, Tina Vander Schuur
10. **Clerk's Report:**
 - o As Submitted
11. **Supervisor's Report:**
 - o Verbal
12. **Monthly Reports:**
 - a. Fire Department Activity Report
 - o Verbal
 - Run volume is very high

- Yearly comparison:
 - 2019 = 319
 - 2020 = 332
 - 2021 = 373 (through December 20)
- b. Building Permit Report
 - As Submitted
- c. Building and Grounds Report
 - Clean up complete
 - Mower being serviced
- d. Preliminary Planning Commission Minutes
 - As Submitted
 - Highlighted by Trustee, Jeff Meyer
- e. Sheriff's Report
 - As Submitted

13. New Business:

a. **Streetlight Fawn Meadow:**

- Supervisor Peters highlighted the request
 - Resident requesting a streetlight be installed on the corner of Fawn Meadow and Baldwin
 - Very dark corner with a lot of traffic
 - Unsafe for children waiting for the bus.
 - Deputy Treasurer, Tina Vander Schuur, explained the costs associated with installing the light and the annual cost.
 - The township would pay for the installation
 - The annual cost of electric would be paid by the residents on Fawn Meadow by way of special assessment.
 - A letter will be sent to residents on Fawn Meadow explaining the proposal and asking them to email Tina as to whether they support or do not support the installation of the streetlight.
- ***Motion to proceed with the installation of the Fawn Meadow streetlight, providing greater than 50% of the Fawn Meadow residents approve of the installation was made by Jeff Meyer, support by Don Vander Kuyl.***

Motion Carried 5-0

b. **Employee Appreciation:**

- Kurt Gernaat and Tina Vander Schuur were dismissed from the room for the board discussion.
- Discussion ensued concerning ways to show the staff (non-elected employees) the appreciation of the Board.
 - Options such as Terry Berry and West Coast Chamber Holland Dollars were discussed.
 - Don Vander Kuyl with look into both options and report back to the board at the January meeting.

c. **Michigan Search and Rescue:**

- Email from Anne Rodriguez explaining the program
 - Asking to use the woods at the cemetery as one of multiple training sites for their K9 search team.
 - Currently being used by the Ottawa County K9 Unit

- ***Motion to approve the use of the cemetery woods by Michigan Search and Rescue for the training of their K9 team was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Robin Overway.***

Motion Carried 5-0

d. **Non-motorized Path – Port Sheldon:**

- Discussion has been in the works for the last 2-years.
 - Current hold-ups
 - Re-engineering of the path
 - Securing the easements
- Original estimate provided by Williams & Works is from 2019 for \$161,000.
- Significant cost increases since the original estimate was provided.
 - The cost could potentially be almost double the original estimate
- ***Motion to approve the expenses for the engineering and installation of the non-motorized path on Port Sheldon up to \$320,000.00 was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Jeff Meyer.***

Motion Carried 5-0

e. **Township Hall Doors:**

- Estimates were collected to replace the three steel doors in the township hall
 - S.A Morman
 - Zeeland Lumber
 - Fisher Door & Hardware
 - All the estimates were presented differently and were hard to compare.
 - Kurt Gernaat was asked to have Fisher Door requote the job to be presented resembling the S A Morman quote and present the quotes at the January meeting.
 - Gernaat was also asked to have 'Storefront' give an estimate for the doors.
 - Additionally, Chief Gernaat presented the board with price quotes for replacements and repairs on multiple doors at the fire station.

f. **Holiday Observance:**

- Both the Christmas and New Year's holidays fall on days the office is normally closed.
 - Should the non-elected employees be given an additional day off with pay?
- A lengthy discussion ensued
- ***Motion NOT to add an additional day off with pay when the holiday falls on a day that the office is already closed was made by Kevin Peters, support by Don Vander Kuyl***

Roll Call: Yay: Peters, Vander Kuyl, Overway, Golembiewski
Nay: Meyer

Motion Carried 4-1

14. Old Business:

a. Lawncare and Maintenance:

- Greg Golembiewski is waiting on quotes to be submitted.
- Discussion to be held at the January meeting.

b. ARPA Funds:

- Treasurer Golembiewski highlighted some stipulations regarding the disbursement of the ARPA funds that were received from the MTA.
 - Multiple correspondence with Cindy Dodge from the MTA
- Golembiewski proposed that all 33 firefighters be given a stipend of \$1500 each as a thank you for their frontline services during the pandemic.
- Golembiewski was asked to get written clarification on the disbursement from the MTA
- ***Motion to approve the \$1500.00 stipend for each firefighter pending the clarification of disbursement was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Don Vander Kuyl.***

Motion Carried 5-0

c. Cemetery – Fire Station Trails:

- Supervisor Peters and Kurt Gernaat had a meeting with a previous funds donor concerning the use of the funds that he had donated to the township for a potential park.
 - Donor stated that he is open to other options
 - Liked the idea of the walking-biking trails
 - Stated he donated the money to the township to be used for the betterment of the township for the residents.
- Peters also spoke with Township Attorney, Jim Scales, the township will not incur any additional liability with the designated trails.
- Trails have already been cut due to a miscommunication unknown to the Board.
- A lengthy discussion ensued
 - Vander Kuyl: feels that fencing should be installed around the wooded sections of the property
 - Golembiewski: worries that allowing this could cause residents to think that they can do what they want if they donate the funds. Also concerned about the proximity to the fire station and the sacredness of the cemetery.
 - Meyer: overall likes the idea. Has concerns about parking and people staying on the paths. Feels that fencing is a good idea and well-marked paths will help.
 - Overway – agrees with Meyer. Parking is an issue. Concerned about parking congestion during elections. Thinks a partial fence could be a good idea.
 - Peters – would like to pursue but is not sure this proposal is the right fit. Does not feel that we should create something that we need to put fences around.
 - Golembiewski – Concerned about the cost of fencing
 - Meyer – feels we should pursue
 - Overway – torn, can see both sides
 - Vander Kuyl – not opposed to the idea, willing to do what needs to be done.

- ***Motion to take no further action on the proposal*** was made by *Kevin Peters*, support by *Greg Golembiewski*.

Roll Call: Yay: Peters, Golembiewski, Overway, Vander Kuyl
Nay: Meyer

Motion Carried 4-1

d. **Township Manager:**

- No new discussion

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

- None

16. **Correspondence for Information Purposes:**

- None

17. **Upcoming Events:**

- a. Planning Commission Meeting – **January 4, 2022**
- b. Work Session Meeting – **January 11, 2022**
- c. Township Board Meeting – **January 17, 2022**

18. **Adjournment:**

- a. With no other business to be brought before the Board, a motion to adjourn at 9:04 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