

Blendon Township Board Meeting
June 20, 2022
7:00 pm

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm** by Supervisor Kevin Peters.
2. **Invocation** was given by Clerk, Robin Overway
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by all in attendance.
4. **Roll Call:**
 - PRESENT: Kevin Peters
 - Robin Overway
 - Greg Golembiewski
 - Don Vander Kuyl
 - Jeff Meyer
5. **Approval of the Agenda:**
 - Motion to approve the agenda** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Don Vander Kuyl.
 - Motion Carried 5-0
6. **Approval of the Minutes dated May 16, 2022:**
 - Motion to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2022, Board Meeting** was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Greg Golembiewski.
 - Motion Carried 5-0
7. **Approval of Invoices dated May 17, 2022, to June 20, 2022:**
 - Motion to approve the invoices dated May 17, 2022, to June 20, 2022,** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Don Vander Kuyl.
 - Motion Carried 5-0
8. **Public Comment:**
 - a. Brian and Melissa Kronemeyer: 6678 Van Buren
 - o Comments in support of a potential road millage
9. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. As submitted
10. **Clerks Report:**
 - a. As submitted
11. **Supervisors Report:**
 - a. Verbal
 - Many items worked on are the topics of the meeting in the packet.

12. **Monthly Reports:**

- a. **Fire Department:**
 - None
- b. **Ottawa County Sheriff:**
 - As Submitted
- c. **Building Permit Report:**
 - As Submitted
- d. **Building and Grounds Report:**
 - None
- e. **Preliminary Planning Commission Meeting Minutes:**
 - As Submitted
 - Highlighted by Jeff Meyer

13. **New Business:**

a. **Compensation Committee Appointment:**

- Supervisor Peters recommended the reinstatement of Trisha Henderson to the Compensation Committee.
- ***Motion to reinstate Trisha Henderson to the Compensation Committee was made by Kevin Peters, support by Don Vander Kuyl***

Motion Carried 5-0

b. **Resolution for the Partial Termination of Farmland Development Rights:**

- Tina Vander Schuur presented
 - Patricia Reister currently has 40 acres protected under Farmland Development Rights. Wants to remove 1.15 acres piece, containing the house, from the 40 acres. The remaining land will remain under Farmland Development Rights.
 - Resolution needed from the Board to terminate the Farmland Development Rights on the 1.15 acres.
- ***Motion to approve the resolution for the partial termination of Farmland Development Rights of 9341 – 48th Ave was made by Kevin Peters, support by Don Vander Kuyl.***

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

Motion Carried 5-0

c. **Sidewalk Master Plan:**

- Presented by Trustee and Planning Commission Liaison, Jeff Meyer.
 - Would help the Planning Commission in the discussions concerning the location and installation of required bike paths
 - Williams & Works to submit a proposal letter for developing a sidewalk master plan.
 - Township Board in favor of the develop of a sidewalk master plan.

d. **Water Infrastructure:**

- Trustee, Jeff Meyer, presented
 - Planning Commission has decided to set up a subcommittee to help develop a plan relating to bring water to Blendon Township.

- Focus will be on planning where areas of higher density should be located within the township to best utilize the expansion of water-sewer into the township.
- Asking for a Board member to also serve on the subcommittee in addition to himself.
 - Don Vander Kuyl volunteered
 - Subcommittee will consist of the following people:
 - Shane Herrema, Planning Commissioner
 - Jason Vander Kodde, Planning Commissioner
 - Jeff Meyer, Board Member
 - Don Vander Kuyl, Board Member
 - Resident (to be asked) Past Planning Commissioner

14. Old or Ongoing Business:

a. Road Millage Proposal:

- Supervisor Peters presented reasons for proposing a millage:
 - Resident concern on current road conditions
 - Meeting with the Ottawa County Road Commission
 - Not just gravel roads that need work
 - We are behind all our surrounding townships on all forms of infrastructure.
- Reviewed proposed road millage of the past
 - Last approved millage expired in 2009
 - Why do all other attempts fail?
 - How do we make the millage more palatable to residents?
- Board Discussion Ensued:
 - Vander Kuyl: Feels we need to require a petition of support from the residents before placing on the ballot
 - Peters: Disagrees based on the number of phone calls he has been receiving.
 - Golembiewski: Stated that residents do not want to pay more taxes regardless of the reason.
- Residents in attendance, Brian and Melissa Kronemeyer, made the following comments:
 - Feels that the proposal should be a small amount for a long time
 - Need to make the residents aware of the significant percentage of the roads of Blendon Township that are gravel compared to our surrounding townships that have millages.
 - Proposal needs to be highly promoted so residents understand the reasoning behind the need for a millage.
- Supervisor Peters put the following questions to a vote:
 - Does the Board want to pursue a Road Millage?
 - Golembiewski: No
 - Overway: Yes
 - Vander Kuyl: Yes
 - Meyer: Yes
 - Peters: Yes

- Does the Board wish to have the proposal placed on the November 8 ballot?
 - Golembiewski: Yes
 - Overway: Yes
 - Vander Kuyl: Yes
 - Meyer: Yes
 - Peters: Yes
- Supervisor Peters asked each Board Member to come to the July meeting with opinion on how they think the proposal should read, number of mills and length of time.

b. **Dan Carlton:**

- Supervisor Peters read an email that was received from Township Attorney, Jim Scales, explaining the difference between a Superintendent and a Manager.
- Discussion was had concerning the areas of concern that the Board would like the help and expertise from the consulting services of Dan Carlton based on the conversation at the May 2022 Board meeting.
- ***Motion to hire Dan Carlton as a consultant to the township board for the purpose of his help and expertise in the areas of developing a ‘Township Manager Position’ and the planning, development, negotiating, and setting up of water infrastructure in Blendon Township was made by Kevin Peters, support by Don Vander Kuyl.***

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

Motion Carried 5-0

c. **Health Insurance:**

- Supervisor Peters highlighted the new bids, containing lower deductibles, which were requested by the Board at the May meeting.
- Supervisor Peters also shared with the board an Ordinance from the State of Michigan dictating the maximum contribution allowed to an employee healthcare plan per employee per year.
 - Based on the cost of the plans and the maximum allowed contribution, this would still leave the employee with a significant amount of out-of-pocket expenses just to pay the monthly premiums.
- Discussion ensued concerning ‘in lieu’ payments
- Supervisor Peters will meet with the two benefit eligible employees before the next Board meeting to discuss general insurance premiums and in lieu payments to see where their interest, if any, may lie.

15. **Opportunity for Public Comment:**

- Bruce Costen:
 - Questioned if the Verizon Cell Tower was moving forward for the cemetery location.
 - Yes, location has been determined.
 - Company securing the appropriate permits

16. **Correspondence for Informational Purposes:**

- a. Population Growth Rates in Ottawa County

17. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Planning Commission Meeting: **Wednesday, July 6, 2022**
- b. Township Board Meeting: **July 18, 2022**

18. Adjournment:

- a. **With no further business to be brought before the board a motion to adjourn at 9:11 pm** was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Robin Overway.

Motion Carried 5-0

Recorded by Tina Vander Schuur
Submitted by Robin Overway