

Blendon Township Board Meeting
July 18, 2022
7:00 pm (Amended)

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm** by Supervisor Kevin Peters.

2. **Invocation** was given by Supervisor, Kevin Peters

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

Also Attending: Kurt Gernaat, Fire Chief

5. **Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda with the following addition was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Robin Overway

- Add:
 - New Business (c): Parking lot crack filling and striping.
 - New Business (d): Firefighter New Hire

Motion Carried 5-0

6. **Approval of the Minutes dated June 20, 2022:**

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2022, Board Meeting was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Jeff Meyer.

Motion Carried 5-0

7. **Approval of Invoices dated June 21, 2022, to July 18, 2022:**

Motion to approve the invoices dated June 20, 2022, to July 18, 2022, was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Robin Overway.

Motion Carried 5-0

8. **Public Comment:**

- None

9. **Treasurer's Report:**

- a. As submitted

10. **Clerks Report:**

- a. Verbal

- Public accuracy test complete
- Funds from Help America Vote Act used to purchase security camera on drop box which was installed last week.
- Looking at purchasing a weatherproof drop box.

- 813 Absentee Voter Ballots already sent out
- b. Election Commission Meeting:
 - Election Inspectors Approved.

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. **BCC Carpet Cleaning:**

- Proposal included with the cost of quarterly cleaning from Meyer Carpet Cleaning.
- Highlighted by Supervisor Peters
- Stated that his is already budgeted
- Board agreed to move forward with the quarterly cleaning no motion or approval needed.
- Supervisor Peters the need to make sure that there is no communication breakdown in the staff going forward.

b. **Water-Sewer Correspondence:**

- Email thread included in the packet
- Supervisor Peters highlighted the purpose of the original email and the subsequent responses.
 - Many meetings have been held with Ottawa County discussing water and sewer. Up until this time all services provided have been free of charge. Continued pursuit of direction and advice will ~~not~~ result in a fee.
 - Pat Staskiewicz from Ottawa County stated that since Blendon is paying a portion of the interim lift station on the Georgetown Township side of 48th Ave a great area to start planning the expansion of sewer into Blendon would be to determine and utilize the capacity allowed for Blendon and the size of piping needed.
 - Recommended the following:
 - Prein & Newhof to develop the plan (\$1500-\$2000)
 - Ottawa County: Pat and Joe to develop the infrastructure mapping (\$1500-\$2000)

- Currently working on a water contract with Allendale to support a proposed project on Fillmore and 68th Ave.
- ***Motion to approve the spending of \$4000 to develop a more comprehensive plan and map of sewer capacity was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Kevin Peters.***

Motion Carried 5-0

c. **Parking Lot Crack Sealing and Re-Striping:**

- Supervisor Peters presented
 - Received quotes from two companies
 - MichPro Striping: \$4,650
 - Georgetown Pavement Services: \$5,113
 - Both owners are residents of the township.
 - ***Motion to hire MichPro to seal the cracks and re-stripe the parking lots at both the township hall and the Tyler Street Fire Station was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Jeff Meyer.***

Motion Carried 5-0

d. **Firefighter New Hire:**

- Chief Gernaat presented
 - Aaron Huizenga
 - Station 1
- ***Motion to approve the hiring of new firefighter, Aaron Huizenga, was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Greg Golembiewski.***

Motion Carried 5-0

14. **Old or Ongoing Business:**

a. **Road Millage Proposal:**

- Discussion
- Supervisor Peters read correspondence from township attorney, Jim Scales
 - Cannot urge but may use funds to present the facts of the reason for a millage.
- Discussion on reasonable verbiage for millage proposal for residents:
 - a. Meyer: struggles whether to ask a little for a long term. 1.0 or 1.25 for 5-10 years. Set up percentage collected breakdown and how it will be spent.
 - b. Greg: not in favor, feels that gravel repair and maintenance should be budget yearly. Discouraged at how slow progress will be made on the roads. Residents do not want additional taxes. County aide? State aide?
 - c. Robin: see both sides. Agrees with Meyer, low millage for longer period.
 - d. Don: not in favor. Refers to past failure of millages. Feels that without signature support it appears that the board is trying to push an agenda.
 - e. Kevin: refers to past proposals and why failed? High mils requested in a short amount of time, high mils for long time, small for short amount...
Why renewal fail? Recession

Disagree – feels that you need to start sometime on improving and repairing our roads or they just get worse and more expensive.
Propose 1.5 mils for 20 years.
Need a goal and a vision for infrastructure
Capital Improvement Debt millage funds used for the payback of the debt.

- **Motion on whether to propose a millage for the November election:**
 - Made and withdrawn by Jeff Meyer.
- **Motion to propose the verbiage of 1.5 mills (\$1.50 for each \$1,000 of taxable value), for twenty (20) years, from 2022 through and including 2041 for the structural maintenance, improvement and construction of both gravel and paved public roads within the Township was made by Kevin Peters, support by Jeff Meyer.**

Roll call: Yes: Overway, Meyer, Peters
No: Golembiewski, Vander Kuyl
Motion Carried 3-2

b. **Health Insurance:**

- Follow-up discussion
 - Kevin Highlighted
 - Spoke with the 2 eligible employees
 - One would not take at this time
 - One is looking at the parameters surrounding their current insurance.
 - In lieu payments – neither interested
 - Vander Kuyl talked with accountant who made recommendation to speak with township lawyer.
 - Board opinion: premium employee contribution or township paid?
 - For next meeting: Contact Jim Scales on health insurance, wait on employee response.

15. Opportunity for Public Comment:

- None

16. Correspondence for Informational Purposes:

- None

17. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Planning Commission Meeting: **Wednesday, August 3, 2022**
- b. Township Board Meeting: **August 15, 2022**

18. Adjournment:

- a. **With no further business to be brought before the board a motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm** was made by Don Vander Kuyl, support by Kevin Peters.

Motion Carried 5-0

Recorded by Tina Vander Schuur
Submitted by Robin Overway