

ALPENA TOWNSHIP – BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR SESSION – December 18, 2017 – 6 pm  
MINUTES

The Alpena Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 6 pm at the Alpena Township Offices, 4385 US 23 North, Alpena, Michigan.

Present: Supervisor Nathan Skibbe  
Clerk Karie K. Bleau  
Treasurer Laura L. Ellery-Somers  
Trustee Matt Duncel  
Trustee Nate Thomson  
Trustee Cash Kroll  
Trustee Norm Poli

Absent: None

Others present: Attorney Tim Gulden

Media Present: WATZ – Sharon Cole  
Alpena News – Julie Goldberg

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Kroll to adopt the agenda with the following changes: remove the ZBA minutes from Correspondence and remove the letter of understanding from TPOAM; and add Presentations for Target Alpena and NEMSCA. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**PRESENTATION:** Jim Klarich of Target Alpena informed the Board that there will be more activity in the near future at the former MC Sports location in the M32 corridor as he can confirm that Harbor Freight has secured a lease agreement for that location and they will be making further announcements in the near future.

James Juchartz of NEMSCA reported to the Board that NEMSCA is involved in an initiative called Point in Time count that will be taking place on Jan. 31, 2018. NEMSCA would like the Township to get the word out and be mindful of noticing people who appear to be homeless and call the agency to share the information so that they can be counted and get services from their agency.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Bob Young of the South Bay Corridor group provided an update of activities the group is developing for the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park and bike path extension.

Stan Mischley addressed the Board regarding his prior advocacy of the Charter Township and would support the resolution. Mr. Mischley also volunteered to help with the Fire Dept. millage when it is time.

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Duncel to approve the minutes from November 27, 2017. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Poli to pay the bills as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Alpena Township - Personnel Committee Minutes - Nov. 28, 2017, Finance Committee Minutes - Nov. 21, 2017, DTE - Notice of Hearing - Dec. 20, 2017, State Building Code Amendments, House Bill 5095. A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Kroll to receive and file all correspondence. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Skibbe would like permission to write a letter to Gov. Snyder asking him to oppose House Bill 5095. A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Poli to authorize Supervisor Skibbe to send a letter to Gov. Snyder asking him to not sign House Bill 5095. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Charter Township Resolution.

The Charter Exploration Committee addressed the written questions of the Board members. The questions that were submitted were read and answered by the Committee members. The Committee assured the Board numerous times that the millage rates and taxes would not be increased without a vote of the people. Gerald Fournier addressed the Board regarding his feelings about becoming a Charter Township. His belief is that the question should go to a vote of the people. Russ Rhynard addressed the Board regarding his feelings about the Charter Township. His belief is that the Board should make decisions on the majority of questions but he believes that the Charter Township should be a ballot proposal and not by resolution as he feels that this is similar to a change in the constitution and should be voted on by the people. A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Poli to sign the Charter Township Resolution. Roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Trustee Thomson, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers. Motion carried.

Telephone Quote/Bid.

Supervisor Skibbe and Clerk Bleau informed the Board regarding the phone service and phone equipment. Clerk Bleau advised the Board of the pricing for Charter phone services. Jack Visger of Michigan Telecom addressed the Board regarding the bids that were submitted for new phone equipment and the potential for expansion. A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Clerk Bleau to negotiate the least cost as possible to move the Township's phone and internet and TV services to Charter after getting a recommendation on needed speed from 1010 Technology. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Supervisor Skibbe further informed the Board of the quotes for the phone hardware. The change of service providers will be made and the hardware proposals will be tabled to a future meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution to adopt the Michigan Dept. of Treasury Uniform Chart of Accounts.

A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Treasurer Ellery-Somers to adopt the Michigan Department of Treasury Uniform Chart of Accounts. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Adopt Poverty Guidelines – 2018.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Dunckel to adopt the poverty Guidelines as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Alpena Public Schools – Summer Property Tax Collection.

Treasurer Ellery-Somers informed the Board of the Alpena Public Schools request to have the Township collect their Summer taxes. A motion was made by Treasurer Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Dunckel to decline collecting Alpena Public Schools Summer taxes. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Resignation – I. Schuelke.

Supervisor Skibbe informed the Board that he received a letter of resignation from a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Thomson to accept the resignation of Irma Schuelke of the Zoning Board of Appeals and ask the Personnel Committee to fill the vacancy. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

NEMCOG – Letter of Support.

Supervisor Skibbe advised the Board that he drafted a letter of support to NEMCOG prior to seeking approval from the Board of Trustees as NEMCOG is our partner and the due date for the letter was (12/15/17) prior to the Board meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Dunckel to authorize the Supervisor to draft a letter of support for NEMCOG. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **Department Reports/Requests: Assessing, Building, Fire, Water:**

Building Dept. - Permit Reports - November, 2017

Building Official Bleau informed the Board that the monthly permit reports are available in packet for review and is willing to answer any questions that the Board may have. Treasurer Ellery-Somers asked how the 2017 figures compare to last year. Bleau responded that he will provide a comparison report to her shortly.

Building Permit Fees – Supervisor Skibbe informed the Board of the need for a fee schedule for people who build/remodel without acquiring a building permit. He is working on this and will bring it back to the Board for review and approval.

Bleau informed the Board that the Northern Michigan Code Officials Association membership is due. Annual Membership is \$100.00. Bleau recommended obtaining memberships for both himself and Fire Inspector Dave Robbins. A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Poli to pay the annual membership for Bleau and Robbins. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Water Dept. - Report - J. Bleau

DPW Director Jerry Bleau informed the Board of the need to replace the furnace in the middle garage. The existing one has failed and repairing it will cost more than a replacement. Bleau would like approval to replace the furnace and have Werth Electric install. A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Thomson to authorize DPW Director Bleau to replace the furnace in the garage. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

DPW Director Bleau requested that the Board approve mileage and a free training session in Kalkaska for him and S. Stoppa on Jan 10, 2018. The training will apply toward continuing education credits. A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Thomson to approve the mileage expense and training session in Kalkaska for him and S. Stoppa on Jan. 10, 2018. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Bleau also sought approval from the Board of Trustees to purchase a GPS device for fire hydrants, valves and water breaks/repairs to the system. A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Poli to authorize Bleau to purchase a GPS device for fire hydrants, valves and water breaks/repairs to the system from Silversmith. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Clerk Bleau, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fire Dept. - Report - D. Robbins

Chief Robbins informed the Board that the fleet inspections have been done and he provided a list of repairs that need to be done. A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Thomson to authorize Chief Robbins to have the necessary repairs done on the fleet with the expense not to exceed \$15k. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Chief Robbins requested permission for four (4) students to Ice Rescue Tech class at a cost of \$140.00 each. The students will pay for their own transportation and lodging. A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Thomson to approve the cost of the Ice Rescue Tech class for 4 students and transfer \$20.00 from line item # 101.336.704.040 In house training to line item # 101.336.830.000 Schools & Conventions to cover the cost of the training. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brenda Fournier asked the Board if the millage could increase by becoming a Charter Township without a vote of the people and if we intend to have a Police Dept.

Russ Rhynard commented that the contract with the County does provide a police force per the needs of the Charter Township and he commended the Township Board's decision with regard to the phone service and systems.

**DISCUSSION:**

Supervisor Skibbe reminded the Board to be mindful of the content of the Policy & Procedures and that the Board members should submit their questions/concerns/suggestions to Trustee Kroll.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Treasurer Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Poli to adjourn the meeting. Adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Karie K. Bleau  
Alpena Township Clerk