

ALPENA TOWNSHIP – BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 22, 2016 - 7pm
MINUTES

The Alpena Township Board of Trustees met in Special session on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 7 pm at the Alpena Township Offices, 4385 US 23 North, Alpena, Michigan.

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

Others present: Attorney James Florip

ADOPT AGENDA: Motion made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Thomson to adopt the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ken Tenniswood commented regarding how the snow will be removed from the bi-path.

Matt Hamilton from Huron Shores Little League requested that the Board of Trustees have further discussion and reconsider the purchase of the property located behind the Township office for future development of baseball fields.

Larry Clark: Made comments regarding the status of the South Bay Bi path extension grant process and that they are moving forward. They are seeking to raise \$100k to toward this project. Total projects planned have cost of approximately \$500K

MINUTES APPROVED: November 7, November 14 and November 21, 2016. Motion made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Thomson to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Tax reverted properties. As reported by Supervisor Skibbe there are 5 properties that Alpena County has notified the Township that are being reverted. Motion made by Trustee Dunckel supported by Treasurer Ellery- Somers to reject the properties. Township does not want properties. Alpena County Treasurer will be notified by the Alpena Township Treasurer. Roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Supervisor Skibbe. Motion carried. Naves: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Skibbe presented a proposal from Franks Key and Lock to rekey all of the exterior locks, some interior locks and change the vault combination. Motion made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Kroll to have Franks Key and Lock rekey and change vault combination with the total change not to exceed \$1200.00. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes:

Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Supervisor Skibbe. Nayas: None. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Ellery-Somers announced that she has selected Rhonda Hansen Himes to serve as the Deputy Treasurer.

First Federal required a resolution that specifically named them for the Escrow account shared with the City of Alpena. Motion by Trustee Kroll and supported by Trustee Poli to adopt the resolution upon approval of the Township Attorney, that the signers for the financial institutions be approved as presented. Roll Call vote was taken: Ayes: Trustee Kroll, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Clerk Bleau, Trustee Thomson, Trustee Poli, Trustee Dunckel, Supervisor Skibbe. Nayas: None. Motion carried.

First Federal required a resolution that specifically named their institution to change the authorized signers. Motion by Trustee Kroll I and supported by Trustee Thomson that effective, November 20, 2016 at 12:00 noon the following names/signatures Genie Diamond and T. Juergen Thusat will be removed from all of the bank accounts/financial institutions. The following names/signatures will be added effective immediately, Laura L. Ellery-Somers, Alpena Township Treasurer and Karie K. Bleau, Alpena Township Clerk. Roll call vote was taken Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Supervisor Skibbe. Nayas: None. Motion carried.

Supervisor Skibbe reported to the Board of Trustees of the desire to establish a policy regarding in lieu of insurance payments to employees who opt out of health insurance coverage that is offered to eligible employees. Motion made by Treasurer Ellery- Somers and supported by Clerk Bleau to establish a policy for ALL employees who opt out of insurance and elect to receive in lieu insurance payments those payments will be limited to \$300.00 per month. Clerk Bleau added that she would not be taking said in lieu of payment as Alpena Township already provides insurance for her as part of her spouses contract. Roll call vote taken: Ayes: Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Supervisor Skibbe. Nayas: None. Motion carried.

Clerk Bleau reported to the Board of Trustees information regarding the Salary overtime law which takes effective on Dec 1, 2016 and the possible options to be for Alpena Township to become compliant with the Fair Labor Standards Act. Motion made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Thomson to convert the DPW Director to an hourly employee and which requires a 40 hour work week and pay overtime at 1.5 times the hourly rate until Budget is finalized in March 2017 and revisit the issue and potentially implement a change at that time. There was much discussion surrounding the best option for becoming compliant with the Salary Overtime Law. The DPW Director spoke to the Board regarding his position and his desire to resolve this issue. Many questions asked of Board Members with the best answers provided by Clerk Bleau based on the documentation provided. Many questions asked of the DPW Director by individual Board members. Clerk Bleau asked to abstain from voting on this issue due to the conflict of interest as the DPW Director is her spouse. Attorney Florip advised that abstaining from voting is not an option. Roll call vote

taken. Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Dunckel, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Department Reports :

Fire Department Report – None

Water Department – DPW Director Jerry Bleau reported that the Drinking Water Operator Certification renewal is due for Scott Stoppa who acts as the back-up operator. Motion made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Dunckel to pay for the \$95.00 renewal fee for Scott Stoppa. 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.

Mr. Bleau also reported the resignation of Nathan Skibbe as Laborer for the DPW. Motion to accept the resignation made by Trustee Thomson supported by Supervisor Skibbe. All in favor. Motion carried.

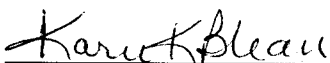
Bleau would like to Board of Trustees to consider promoting the two current DPW employees and seek to replace the Meter Reader (as the lowest position in the Dept). Motion made by Treasurer Ellery Somers and supported by Trustee Kroll to allow the DPW Director to promote the two existing employees to the next available positions. Scott Stoppa will be Lead Laborer and Devin Robinette will be Assistant Laborer– Devin Robinette will be required to get his S4 Certification as soon as possible. And allow the DPW Director to post the Meter Reader position – if no one signs the posting – advertise the position. Bleau also asked the Board to clarify what the desire is to conduct interviews. Normal protocol – post the position, advertise the position in the Alpena News or other areas and the Supervisor and Bleau interview and select and bring to the Board their recommendations for hiring.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Gary Partyka stated that he felt that the in lieu of decision was made prior to the meeting and voiced his concerns.

Larry Clark – complimented the Board on our desire to be transparent and our ongoing discussion.

Attorney Jim Florip reports that both parties in the ongoing litigation have agreed to a mediator and a contract needs to be signed by the Clerk and Supervisor.

Motion made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Thomson to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm



Karie K. Bleau
Alpena Township Clerk



Date