

BLAIR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
December 12, 2006
Approved Minutes (01/09/07)

CALL TO ORDER: The Regular meeting of the Blair Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 pm, December 12, 2006 by Clerk Betty Tharp, at the Township Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was recited.

ROLL CALL: Members Clous, Rademaker, Fleis, Tharp, Lowe and DeKuiper were present. There were 54 guests in attendance, along with Township Attorney Steve Chambers.

Motion by Fleis supported by Clous to appoint Betty Tharp as Chairperson for the meeting. 6 yeas, Motion carried.

LIMITED PUBLIC INPUT: Public input was heard from the following:

Jim Pascoe inquired about when the interim treasurer would produce a financial report, and if there was an audit taking place. Mr. Pascoe also stated that creating a new position for the recalled supervisor is not illegal, but it is unethical.

Walter Bogucki spoke representing 6 residents. Mr. Bogucki asked if all other applicants for the interim treasurer's position were given the same consideration as Brenda DeKuiper. Mr. Bogucki also asked if anything had been found on the computers that were seized on August 14, 2006.

Don Weathers stated that circumventing the voters by creating a Township Manager position for the recalled supervisor is a sad mistake, and asked for Clerk Betty Tharp's resignation.

Duane Sanford stated that the board is there to represent the citizens of the township and that there is no room for prejudice or cronyism. Mr. Sanford also stated that there should be a policy for filling township vacancies.

Ross French agreed that it is wrong to hire the recalled supervisor as Township Manager. Mr. French also stated that anything could be stated in a recall effort, whether it is true or not.

A voice recording was presented by Mr. Bartlett from Diane Bartlett she stated that the citizens are taking back the township, and that she does not want Pat or Susan Pahl in any township office.

Roseannah Keith stated that Betty Tharp does a tremendous job and that the recall effort is vengeance.

Gary Sladek stated vengeance it is not.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Clous supported by Rademaker to accept the agenda with changes. Add letter (J) Closed Session, under "NEW BUSINESS" and add letter (C) Municipal Retirement Systems Inc., under "OLD BUSINESS" 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL REPORTS:

County Commissioners Report: Dick Thomas and Virginia Olds were present. Dick Thomas mentioned the recent newspaper articles regarding landfills and dams. Mr. Thomas also answered questions regarding the announcement that the recycling centers at Green Lake Township and Chum's Corners would be closing.

Sheriff's Report: No report available.

Commercial Sewer Update: Clyde Johnson with Gosling Czubak reported that testing on the last stretch of sewer line found a defective pipe, which is being repaired. The rest of the system has been tested and is accepting sewage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE: Brenda DeKuiper announced that the Blair Township Community Playground Project has received a \$10,000.00 donation from the Norris Foundation.

CONSENT CALENDAR: **Motion by Rademaker supported by Fleis** to accept the Consent Calendar with change: to pull the EMS and Fire reports as requested by Mr. Ross French. To approve the following: to pay the Township General Fund vouchers #23693-23803, the Ambulance Fund vouchers, #9414-9487, the Fire Fund vouchers #5948-5961, and the T & A Fund voucher #1242 for a grand total of \$154,829.44. To approve Sewer Working Account vouchers #1030-1034, the Water Assessment Account vouchers #1147-1148, and the Water Fund Working Account vouchers #2212-2228 for a grand total of \$36,462.21. To approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting, November 14, 2006 and the minutes for the Special Meetings, November 16, 2006, and November 24, 2006. To accept the Zoning, Assessing, and Water reports for the month of November. RCV: Lowe yea, DeKuiper yea, Rademaker yea, Tharp yea, Fleis yea, Clous yea, 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: **Motion by Fleis supported Rademaker** to table the Curbside Recycling plan because Kelly Ignace was not in attendance. 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Fleis supported by Rademaker to table the Water Amendment changes and expanded water district until legal counsel has a chance to review them, and then have the Water Department present to the board. 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Tharp supported by Lowe to table the Municipal Retirement Systems Inc. until a later date. 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: The four applicants for the interim supervisor's position were Carl Bearinger, Lynn Cox, Bill Schuurmans and Don Weathers. **Motion by Lowe supported by Fleis** to appoint Carl Bearinger as Interim Supervisor with the stipulation that he is returned to his current position after the Special Election in February. RVC: Fleis yea, Lowe yea, Tharp yea, DeKuiper yea, Clous yea, Rademaker nay. 5 Yeas, 1 Nay, Motion carried.

Motion by DeKuiper supported by Fleis to send the Storm Water Ordinance and Guidelines to the Township Attorney for his review and directive. 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Rademaker supported by Tharp to approve the Elmer's pay draw on sewer work on payment # 12 in the amount of \$518,158.43 and approve change order # 2. RCV: Tharp yea, Lowe yea, Clous yea, DeKuiper yea, Fleis yea, Rademaker yea, 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Tharp supported by Clous to approve the pay draw for Gosling-Czubak on sewer work on Invoice # 54255 in the amount of \$16,608.75. RCV: Clous yea, Rademaker yea, DeKuiper yea, Lowe yea, Tharp yea, Fleis yea, 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Lowe supported by Rademaker to table the Server/Storage Software bid from Crain System until January meeting. Member Rademaker also suggested getting bids from other companies. 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Public Hearing SU/SPR #06-11-01 Special Use /Site Plan Review requested by Ruth Penner Trust to establish a used car lot using existing structure. Property located at 468 US 31 South. Parcel #28-02-005-008-00.

The Clerk informed the Public that proper notice of the Public Hearing was published in the Traverse City Record Eagle and the mailing of notices were mailed to the owners within the proposed area.

Open Public Hearing 7:27 pm

Charlie Deadman, 1668 Duke Hollow, presented his request to the board.

Duane Sanford, 621 Autumnview Lane, spoke regarding the old Grand Traverse Auto Used Car lot, and how the lighting did not comply with the Zoning Ordinance, and does not want a similar situation with this car lot.

Close Public Hearing 7:32 pm

Motion by Tharp supported by Lowe to approve SU/SPR #06-11-01 as it meets The Standards for Approval in Section 22.04 items A-G, of the Zoning Ordinance. RCV: Rademaker yea, Lowe yea, Clous yea, Fleis yea, DeKuiper yea, Tharp yea, 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

David Day, a Blair Township resident is requesting reimbursement of \$34.38 for a damaged dryer vent. Mr. Day claims that when the water main was installed into his home, which was sometime between 2000-2001, the vent was damaged. His receipt for the materials to repair the vent is dated 11/7/2006. **Motion by Fleis supported by Clous** to deny the untimely request. 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Resolution # 2006-20 Hayes Pub, Inc.

Motion by Rademaker supported by Clous to transfer all stock in Class C liquor license to Geoffrey A. Hayes and Kristie D. Hayes, jointly. RCV: Lowe yea, DeKuiper yea, Fleis yea, Tharp yea, Clous yea, Rademaker yea, 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Fleis supported by DeKuiper to re-appoint Tim Dunn, Roger Roberts and Francis Clous to a 2-year term Jan 1, 2007 to Dec 31, 2008 to the Board of Review. 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Tharp supported by Rademaker to recess at 7:56 pm.

Re-adjourn at 8:07 pm.

Motion by Fleis supported by Clous to go into closed session at 8:07 pm to review the Litigation between Radtke vs. Blair Township and Pat Pahl with Attorney Dan White. RCV: Lowe yea, Tharp yea, Clous yea, Fleis yea, Rademaker yea, DeKuiper yea 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Fleis supported by Clous to come out of closed session 9:00 pm. RCV: DeKuiper yea, Fleis yea, Rademaker yea, Tharp yea, Lowe yea, Clous yea, 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Rademaker supported by Fleis to respectfully reject the conditional mediation agreement in the matter of Radtke vs. Blair Township and Pat Pahl. RCV: Rademaker yea, Clous yea, DeKuiper yea, Fleis yea, Lowe yea, Tharp yea, 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: Public Input was heard from the following:

Jim Pascoe inquired as to whether there would be a financial report from the interim treasurer next month.

Ross French stated he was appalled at each board member because they gave no consideration to Don Weathers for interim supervisor. Mr. French also stated that Clerk Betty Tharp could run the township until the special election.

Maureen Exstine asked further questions regarding the Water Amendments.

Duane Sanford reiterated his earlier statements.

Lynn Cox inquired as to how the vacancy on the Township Board, created by Larry Fleis' resignation, would be filled.

Dan Monroe inquired as to how to get the speed limit on State Street in Grawn changed from 35 mph to 25 mph.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Rademaker supported by Tharp to adjourn at 9:10 pm. 6 Yeas, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Ferman
Recording Secretary

Betty A. Tharp
Township Clerk