

BLAIR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting

June 12, 2007

Approved Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Blair Township Board of Trustees was held at 6:00 pm on June 12, 2007 at the Township Hall and called to order by the Supervisor Fleis.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL: Members: Tharp, Clous, Lowe, Rademaker, DeKuiper, Fleis, and Zeits were present. There were 35 guests in attendance along with the Assessor Aaron Plowman, Zoning Administrator Sara Kopriva, Carl Bearinger, and Deputy Clerk Lori McGee.

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

Don Weathers 4442 N. Ironwood Dr. stated that the board all looks good and it's a beautiful day. Walter Bogucki 565 South Creek Ct. questioned the word "turmoil" used in the April 10, 2007 Minutes and if the township obtained a Hold Harmless Agreement with the Veteran's Coalition for our donation to the July 4th Fireworks display.

Dorothy Biegler 4303 County Rd 633 stated that they sent out over 1000 fliers for the Summer Library Program, which will be held in the township park.

Lynn Cox 5476 Sunnyside St would like some answers to questions she has on the budget such as Medical Insurance, Benefits, Holiday Pay, decrease in other services, Election Commission wage increase, and various wage increases and salaries for Employees, EMS, and Fire personnel.

Motion by Tharp supported by Clous to accept the agenda with a correction to item (Z) to be a Motion and not a Resolution. All in favor 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL REPORTS:

County Commissioner Report: Commissioner Thomas talked about the article from Michigan Township Association regarding the recent proposed legislation to do away with townships. He stated that some of our legislatures want to remove Assessing, Collecting of Taxes, and Elections from local governments to the county level. He stated it is a very bad idea and townships are the grassroots to government and it would not be a cost saving measure by no means. He encouraged everyone to contact the legislatures and let them know you think House Bill 4780 is a real bad idea.

Commissioner Thomas spoke in regards to the recent county meeting over taping of the meeting and the media attention it brought. Commissioner Thomas stated the Media has twisted the story around and has not reported the quote correctly. During that meeting the county members stated they prefer it not be taped as stated to Commissioner Maxbauer. They did not say it couldn't be taped.

Mr. Thomas does not support a County Smoking Ordinance. He also will not be supporting TVTC 2 because less than half of the population can receive it, not many watch it, and it is a waste of taxpayer money.

Commissioner Fleis reported that he is in 100% agreement with Commissioner Thomas on the legislature taking township's away. It would be a big mistake. He also does not support a smoking ban by Government intervention. Commissioner Fleis also commented on how the News Media has twisted things around just to create dialogue. In particular with the Record Eagle a quote was given and it reported something totally different.

Commissioner Fleis stated that the Boardman Pond draw down will be about 2 inches per day for a total of 17 feet as permitted by the DEQ. The project should be completed by August 31st.

Sheriff's Report: Community Police Officer Report given by Deputy Mike Opper. Blair Township was the 3rd highest in the county for the month of May 2007 in which there was a total of 331 calls for service.

Announcements / Correspondence: Treasurer Brenda DeKuiper stated that the elevated Sandbox and Fun Tunnel have arrived. The new playground structure for the 2nd phase will be assembled on July 27, 28, 29th. Volunteers are needed to help out. If you cannot volunteer perhaps you could donate snacks or beverages for the volunteers who do. She also announced that August 18th will be the date for the 2nd annual Family Fun Day in the Park from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. There will also be a Pop Can Drive set for July 14th and Aug 18th from 9:00 am -12:00 pm. There will be a Golf outing with Cox & Son with the potential of the township earning \$5,000 for the new playground. Treasurer DeKuiper read a letter that was written by Lynette Ferman the Deputy Treasurer who could not be present for the meeting. The letter was a rebuttal to a recent letter to the editor by Walter Bogucki.

Clerk Betty Tharp read a letter from a very grateful family to the Emergency Service Department for saving their son's life. Their good work, kindness, compassion and skill was very appreciated.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Motion by DeKuiper supported by Tharp to accept the Consent Calendar. To approve the following: to pay the Township General Fund Vouchers #24234-24316, the Ambulance Fund Vouchers #9900-9960, the Fire & Police Fund Vouchers #6099-6108, and the Trust and Agency Fund Vouchers #1253-1254 for a grand total of \$152,284.92. To approve the Sewer Bill Fund Vouchers #1053-1054, the Water Assessment Fund Vouchers #1158-1159, and the Water Bill Fund Vouchers #2289-2293 for a grand total of \$15,903.76. To accept the Assessing, Zoning, EMS, Fire, Water, and Treasurer Reports' for the month of May 2007. To approve the regular meeting Minutes of April 10, 2007, May 15, 2007 and the Special Meeting of May 18, 2007. Roll Call Vote: Clous yea, Rademaker yea, DeKuiper yea, Fleis yea, Zeits yea, Lowe yea, Tharp yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: The County Drain Commissioner Kevin McElyea informed the board of the updates to the purposed Storm Water Ordinance since May. He spoke in a simplified manor of what the changes are to the current ordinance with updates on the design standards. He remarked that it is a Health, Safety and Wellness Ordinance to better the Township. Many Attorneys have spent time addressing these issues. Mr. McElyea stated that an ordinance must be published 30 days after adoption and since the county is paying for the publishing of the ordinance it will cost \$1,200 for a full-page ad. If the township wants to join in it would have to be adopted before Thursday. Otherwise, the township will have to pay the whole bill if adopted later. Several questions were asked by the board members. The board stated that we have an engineering firm looking it over. **Motion by Tharp supported by Lowe** to table the Storm Water Ordinance until we hear back from our engineering firm. All in favor 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Clous supported by Zeits to approve the purchase of Plastic Cribbing for the Rescue Vehicle with West Shore Fire in the amount of \$2,300.00 as presented by the Fire Chief and to send a letter with a bill to Rural Fire addressing this issue. Roll Call Vote: Tharp yea, Clous yea, Lowe yea, Rademaker yea, Fleis yea, DeKuiper yea, Zeits yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Motion by DeKuiper supported by Rademaker to approve the purchase of 2 Automatic External Defibrillators, 1 with a screen and 1 without a screen in the amount of \$2,785.00 as presented by the Medical Director. Roll Call Vote: Clous yea, Zeits yea, Lowe yea, Tharp yea, Rademaker yea, Fleis yea, DeKuiper yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Motion by Tharp supported by Clous to approve the purchase of (1) I/V Infusion Pump with a case from Bound Tree Medical in the amount of \$2,714.45. Roll Call Vote: DeKuiper yea, Rademaker yea, Lowe yea, Clous yea, Fleis yea, Tharp yea, Zeits yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Motion by Tharp supported by Lowe to deny the request for the use of the meeting room for the Summer Library Program. Fleis abstained from vote because she is a member of the Library Committee. All in favor 6 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Motion by Tharp supported by Zeits to pass a Resolution granting conceptual approval of proposal for use of Keystone Road site to lease a portion of property to the Rugby Club. Roll Call Vote: Rademaker yea, Fleis yea, DeKuiper yea, Tharp yea, Lowe yea, Zeits yea, Clous yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Motion by Clous supported by Lowe to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to make budget amendments for the 2006-2007 fiscal year end. Roll Call Vote: Zeits yea, DeKuiper yea, Clous yea, Rademaker yea, Tharp yea, Lowe yea, Fleis yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Motion by Zeits supported by DeKuiper to deny a request to remove a parcel off the Water Assessment Roll and send the bill to whoever bought the property from the bankruptcy court. Roll Call Vote: Rademaker yea, Fleis yea, Clous yea, Lowe yea, Zeits yea, Tharp yea, DeKuiper yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Recess at 7:58 p.m.

Reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

The Clerk informed the Public on the rules for speaking at a Public Hearing and that proper notice of the Hearing was published in the Traverse City Record Eagle on June 2nd and June 5th, 2007.

Public Hearing 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget/Millage Rate Levied: Fire & Police Fund 2.5 Mills.

The Public Hearing opened at 8:08 p.m.

Walter Bogucki of 565 South Creek Ct. is in favor of the 2.5 mill increase for Fire & Police. Daryl Case, Medical Director explained to residents that last years budget was under funded. He spoke of increases with wages and benefits so that is why this fiscal budget is higher. He also commented that the 2.5 mills is not an increase. This is only to continue at the current 2.5 millage rate.

There were no other comments from the floor or phone calls/letters mailed in favor or against.
Public Hearing closed at 8:10 p.m.

Public Hearing 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget/Millage Rate Levied: Ambulance Fund 1.4166 Mills.

The Public Hearing opened at 8:12 p.m.

There were no comments from the floor or phone calls/letters mailed in favor or against.
The Public Hearing closed at 8:13 p.m.

Public Hearing 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget: Liquor Law Fund.

The Public Hearing opened at 8:13 p.m.

There were no comments from the floor or phone calls/letters mailed in favor or against.
The Public Hearing closed at 8:14 p.m.

Public Hearing 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget/Millage Rate Levied: General Fund .8250 Mills.

The Public Hearing opened at 8:14 p.m.

Walter Bogucki 565 South Creek Ct. asked questions whether the board considered having employees pay into monthly insurance costs, Lori & Carl's wages, and would like to see the stipend eliminated. He has never heard of such a thing. He also responded to the letter written by Lynette Ferman and read by the Treasurer earlier in the evening.

Lynn Cox 5476 Sunnyside St. had questions on the blank groupings on the budget. She also appreciates the Trustees not taking a pay increase.

Daryl Case, Medical Director stated that the Insurance stipend employees receive encourages them to take insurance with their spouses' employer if possible, and not with the township. The savings to the township is thousands of dollars. We also want to keep our good employees and we don't want them to leave.

Gary Cox 5476 Sunnyside wonders why the (4) Trustees take a stipend since they are not employed full-time.

Adolph Klepetka 152 West Silver Lake Rd S thinks this board is a joke. The board has themselves convinced they are looking out for our best interests. He does not agree that trustees are full-time 24 / 7.

Lori McGee, Deputy Clerk 2360 Holland Circle stated it's not easy for this board to make these decisions. It involves more than just coming to this meeting and sitting on the board. They are elected public officials that make decisions that sometimes 50 % of folks agree with and 50% don't agree. They all sit on other committees and attend various meetings. They are involved with the community. Until you walk in their shoes, you have no idea what they do. It would be so much better if everyone would work together and get involved in the community. The new playground project is about to get underway and we are looking for volunteers. That would be a great time to start doing something positive.

There were no other comments from the floor or phone calls/letters mailed in favor or against.
Public Hearing closed at 8:34 p.m.

Adoption of 2007-2008 Fire/Police Fund Budget: Motion by Clous supported by Tharp to adopt the 2007-2008 Fire/Police Fund Budget at 2.5 mills levied by activity centers and pass the general appropriations act for the fund. Roll Call Vote: Tharp yea, DeKuiper yea, Fleis yea, Clous yea, Zeits yea, Lowe yea, Rademaker yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Adoption of 2007-2008 Ambulance Fund Budget: Motion by Tharp supported by DeKuiper to adopt the 2007-2008 Ambulance Fund Budget at 1.4166 mills levied by activity centers and pass the general appropriations act for the fund. Roll Call Vote: Fleis yea, Rademaker yea, Lowe yea, Clous yea, Zeits yea, DeKuiper yea, Tharp yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Adoption of 2007-2008 Liquor Law Fund Budget: Motion by Clous supported by Zeits to adopt the 2007-2008 Liquor Law Fund Budget by activity centers and pass the general appropriations act for the fund. Roll Call Vote: Lowe yea, Zeits yea, Clous yea, Fleis yea, Rademaker yea, Tharp yea, DeKuiper yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Adoption of 2007-2008 General Fund Budget: Motion by Tharp supported by DeKuiper to adopt the 2007-2008 General Fund Budget at .8250 mills levied by activity centers and pass the general appropriations act for the fund. Roll Call Vote: Rademaker yea, Fleis yea, Clous yea, Lowe yea, Tharp yea, DeKuiper yea, Zeits yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Resolution to set the Supervisor's 2007-2008 salary: Motion by Tharp supported by Lowe to set the Supervisor's 2007-2008 salary at 44,383.00. Roll Call Vote: Fleis yea, DeKuiper yea, Zeits yea, Rademaker yea, Tharp yea, Clous yea, Lowe yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Resolution to set the Clerk's 2007-2008 salary: Motion by Clous supported by Lowe to set the Clerk's 2007-2008 salary at \$43,114.00. Roll Call Vote: Tharp yea, Fleis yea, Rademaker yea, Clous yea, Lowe yea, DeKuiper yea, Zeits yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Resolution to set the Treasurer's 2007-2008 salary: The Treasurer Brenda DeKuiper stated that she couldn't in good faith ask the residents for a salary increase because she is new to the job. Perhaps maybe next year after she has worked here longer. **Motion by Clous supported by Rademaker** to set the Treasurer's 2007-2008 salary to remain the same as last fiscal year at \$38,844.00. Roll Call Vote: DeKuiper yea, Zeits yea, Tharp yea, Clous yea, Lowe yea, Fleis yea, Rademaker yea, 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Resolution to set the 1st Trustee's 2007-2008 salary: **Motion by Tharp supported by DeKuiper** to set the 1st Trustee's 2007-2008 salary to remain the same at \$7,192.95. Roll Call Vote: Rademaker yea, Clous yea, Zeits yea, Lowe yea, Tharp yea, DeKuiper yea, Fleis yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Resolution to set the 2nd Trustee's 2007-2008 salary: **Motion by Tharp supported by Rademaker** to set the 2nd Trustee's 2007-2008 salary to remain the same at \$7,192.95. Roll Call Vote: Clous yea, Fleis yea, DeKuiper yea, Tharp yea, Lowe yea, Zeits yea, Rademaker yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Resolution to set the 3rd Trustee's 2007-2008 salary: **Motion by DeKuiper supported by Clous** to set the 3rd Trustee's 2007-2008 salary to remain the same at \$7,192.95. Roll Call Vote: Lowe yea, Tharp yea, Zeits yea, Fleis yea, Rademaker yea, DeKuiper yea, Clous yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Resolution to set the 4th Trustee's 2007-2008 salary: **Motion by Zeits supported by Tharp** to set the 4th Trustee's 2007-2008 salary to remain the same at \$7,192.95. Roll Call Vote: Zeits yea, Fleis yea, Clous yea, Rademaker yea, DeKuiper yea, Tharp yea, Lowe yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Resolution to set the 2007-2008 salaries and wages for all other Township Employees: **Motion by Tharp supported by Clous** to set all other Township Employee 2007-2008 salaries and wages as per the wage scale. Roll Call Vote: Tharp yea, DeKuiper yea, Zeits yea, Rademaker yea, Lowe yea, Clous yea, Fleis yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Authorization for Treasurer to Invest and Deposit Township Funds: **Motion by Tharp supported by Zeits** to pass a Resolution to authorize the Treasurer to invest and deposit the Township Funds in the following depositories as designated by the Township Board for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Chase Bank, Fifth/Third Bank, Honor State Bank, Huntington Bank, Irwin Union Bank, MBIA Class, Members Credit Union, National City Bank, Northwestern Bank, Traverse City State Bank. Roll Call Vote: Clous yea, Rademaker yea, Lowe yea, DeKuiper yea, Fleis yea, Tharp yea, Zeits yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Authorize Supervisor to make purchases: **Motion by Tharp supported by Clous** to authorize the supervisor to make purchases up to \$2,500.00 and report to the board at the next meeting. Roll Call Vote: Lowe yea, Clous yea, Zeits yea, DeKuiper yea, Tharp yea, Fleis yea, Rademaker yea. 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

2007-2008 Meeting Schedules: **Motion by Tharp supported by Zeits** to approve the 2007-2008 Meeting Schedule for all the Boards and Commissions. All in favor 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Motion by Tharp supported by Rademaker to accept the Township Newsletter as presented by the Deputy Clerk Lori McGee and in addition to add the phone numbers of the Trustees, add under meeting schedule for Township Board exception - July 2:00 p.m. All in favor 7 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Public Input: **Bill Clous** commented on the proposed Storm Water Ordinance. He would be willing to help the township's engineers at Gosling Czubak review the Storm Water Ordinance. He mentioned that Kevin McElyea stated the ordinance is designed for flexibility but he has never been given that option ever.

Gary Cox spoke about the Storm Water Ordinance. He also mentioned that the Treasurer Brenda DeKuiper won his vote by what she did tonight on not taking a raise.

Adjournment: **Motion by Rademaker supported by Tharp** to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.