

BLAIR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2008
Approved

CALL TO ORDER: The Regular meeting of the Blair Township Board of Trustees was held at 6:00 pm on February 12, 2008 at the Township Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Clous, Fleis, DeKuiper, Lowe, Zeits, Rademaker. Tharp Excused. There were 14 guests in attendance along with the Deputy Clerk – Lori McGee, Zoning Administrator-Sara Kopriva, Assessor – Aaron Plowman, Fire Chief – Jim Carroll and Medical Director-Daryl Case.

LIMITED PUBLIC INPUT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Clous supported by Zeits to approve the Agenda as presented. All in favor 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL REPORTS:

County Commissioner Report: Commissioner Thomas stated they would like to see the Road Commission go to a 5 member board. Mr. Thomas would like to see representatives from all around the county on that board. He also commented that the city has got a lot of attention from the press for decreasing the tax fees. He said many townships have operated on 1 mill for some time and never get credit for not increasing its administrative fees. He believes that the townships don't get enough credit when something good has been done. The commissioner believes that the civic pool is too expensive to operate and the funds could be put to better use elsewhere. He would like to see them lease the pool to the YMCA for \$1 a year and let them pay to operate it.

Commissioner Fleis reported that the County Board of Commissioners will be holding their monthly board meeting this month here at Blair Township on February 27, 2008 at 7:00 pm. Commissioner Fleis stated he just returned from a conference in Lansing. He talked about how it would be an advantage to appoint the candidates on the Road Commission. He would like to see appointed candidates from all over different areas of the county.

Sheriff's Report: Deputy Moeggenburg from the county gave the Community Police Officer's report. He reported that Blair Township had 425 complaints for the month of January. It was the 3rd highest in the county.

A presentation was given by area businessmen from Blair Township. Mr. Jeff Dohm from Northern Michigan Equipment spoke on behalf of the group. The area business owners would like to pool together to promote business and the growth of new business in the township. They would like to offer their time, money and resources to the township. They would like to help promote more businesses which would bring more jobs and business to this area. He stated it would bring in more revenue to the township and it's a good tax base. Mr. Jim Schmuckal stated that they are looking for direction from this board to see if the concept may be something the township would support. He stated aerial photographs, traffic counts, population, major highways, water and sewer, and the fact that Blair is the gateway to Traverse City are all things that could be done in packets that we could send out to promote the township. It would also be a good idea to identify all the franchises that are currently in the township along with all the native businesses that are here. They also would like to put a link on the township's website to promote their businesses. It was suggested that some guidelines be put in place prior to establishing this new concept. **Motion by DeKuiper supported by Clous** to proceed forward with the concept of working with area businesspeople to help promote area business growth in Blair Township and the board will set guidelines at the first budget workshop in March and then get back with the businesspeople. All in favor 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

The supervisor read a letter from a resident that congratulated the township on whoever is responsible for writing the 140th Birthday Newsletter that was sent out with the winter taxes. She found the history of the township very interesting and news to her. She was pleased on how well written the newsletter was. The supervisor thanked Lori McGee the Deputy Clerk. She is the person responsible for putting the newsletter together for the township.

The Deputy Clerk Lori McGee was very grateful for the nice compliments but also mentioned that the each department at the township should be commended for getting their information to her and that it really is a group effort. We all work together to do a good job!

The supervisor also announced that a letter was received from MTA (Michigan Township Association). MTA has selected Blair Township's Web Site as a "featured township website." They have placed a link to Blair Township on their homepage. They are commending Blair's commitment to providing easily accessible, online information to the residents. The supervisor mentioned that there are 2 people who should be commended for keeping that information accurate and they are Webmaster Rich Powell from High Profile and our Deputy Clerk Lori McGee. Lori has been real helpful and makes sure the information stays current.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Motion by Clous supported by Rademaker to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. To approve the following: to pay the Township General fund vouchers # 24936-25053, the Ambulance fund vouchers # 10567-10672, the Fire fund vouchers # 6271-6310, the Trust & Agency Fund vouchers # 1296 for a grand total of \$267,780.79. To approve the Sewer Working Account Voucher # 1075-1077, the Water fund assessment account voucher # 1171 and the Water fund working account vouchers # 2391-2406 for a grand total of \$39,891.22. To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2008. To accept the EMS, Fire, Assessing, Zoning, Water, Treasurer and Supervisor's report for the month of January. To reappointment Carl Schlueter to the Zoning Board of Appeals with the term ending March 18, 2011. Roll Call Vote: Clous yea, Rademaker yea, Zeits yea, Lowe yea, Fleis yea, DeKuijper yea, 6 yeas, 0 nays, Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion by Clous supported by DeKuijper to pass the Hardship/Poverty Exemption Resolution #2008-02 & Application presented last month with the changes for paragraph 3 on page 2A. Roll Call Vote: Rademaker yea, Zeits yea, Lowe yea, Fleis yea, DeKuijper yea, Clous yea. 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion by DeKuijper supported by Zeits to approve the Fireworks permit for 2008 season to the Traverse City Beach Bums, LLC for a Fireworks Display as presented to this board with the same conditions as last year. All in favor 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.

1. The Plan Review presented by the Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department is fully complied with by the applicant and the display operator.
2. The Rural Fire Department Inspector has the authority to stop the display if the Plan Review terms are not complied with or that he determines that the weather conditions make the display unsafe.
3. The Applicant files with the Township Clerk, not less than 15 days in advance of the first display date, Certificates of Insurance naming the Township as an additional insured. Liability policies, one for \$1 million and an umbrella policy for \$5 million, covering all display dates must be named in the Certificates.
4. The Applicant has entered into a Cost Recovery Agreement with the Township where by the Applicant agrees to pay the additional costs incurred by the Township for supplying fire and rescue protection at the home games during the fireworks displays.
5. The Applicant provides adequate security personnel as determined by the Grand Traverse Rural Fire Inspector to secure the fireworks staging and display area, including the baseball field following the display.

Motion by Rademaker supported by DeKuijper to approve the supervisor to use her authority in approving a dollar amount for a contribution to the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition but not to exceed the recommended dollar amount in which she can approve. Roll Call Vote: Zeits yea, Lowe yea, Fleis yea, DeKuijper yea, Clous yea, Rademaker yea. 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.

Motion by DeKuijper supported by Lowe to put out for bids for Request for Proposals for Planning Services. All in favor, 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.

Motion by DeKuijper supported by Lowe to approve RESOLUTION # 2008-03 TO SET THE INTEREST RATE ON THE UNPAID INSTALLMENTS OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL NO. 1. and set the interest rate at 5.45 %. Roll Call Vote: Lowe yea, Fleis yea, DeKuijper yea, Clous yea, Rademaker yea, Zeits yea. 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Larry Fleis stated he is glad to hear that the board is being supportive to the area businesses.

Jeff Dohm thanked the board for its support and he made comments to the fact that Blair Township is the main gateway to Traverse City and we have so much potential here with proper planning. He also thanked Brenda DeKuiper, Treasurer for her efforts that she has put into making the new playground a reality for the Township. He was real happy to donate equipment for the construction of the new playground.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Rademaker supported by Zeits to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. All in favor 6 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori L. McGee, Deputy Township Clerk

Marilyn Fleis, Township Supervisor