

BLAIR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Special Meeting

June 24, 2008

8:25 P.M.

Approved

CALL TO ORDER: The special meeting of the Blair Township Board of Trustees was held at 8:25 pm on June 24, 2008 at the Township Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL: Members: Fleis, Lowe, Clous, DeKuiper, Rademaker, Tharp, Zeits. There were 10 guests present along with the Township Attorney Shawn Worden, Daryl Cass – Medical Director, Jim Carroll – Fire Chief.

LIMITED PUBLIC INPUT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Clous supported by Tharp to approve the agenda as presented. 7 yeas, Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL REPORTS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE: None

CONSENT CALENDAR: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion took place on the pros and cons on staying or pulling out of Rural Fire. There were four informational meetings for the residents to voice their concerns. The most in attendance were 50. The amount of money that is paid to Rural Fire and how it is spent is a concern. This would bring a function that is contracted out and bring it in house for operation. The township is now subsidizing other townships by what we pay into the Rural Division. Questions on the concern of the ISO rating, the (6) month's time frame, concerns on training and the political aspect. Going on our own we would be able to better serve our residents. Would have updated equipment and fire gear, still would have mutual aid, the residents believe that we are already on our own. **Motion by Tharp supported by DeKuiper** to send a letter to Grand Traverse Rural Fire to withdraw effective December 31, 2008. Roll Call Vote: Rademaker yea, Zeits yea, Lowe nay, Fleis yea, Tharp yea, DeKuiper yea, Clous yea, 6 yeas, 1 nay, Motion carried.

Motion by Tharp supported by DeKuiper to appoint our part-time Chief Jim Carroll to the full-time Chief position with (6) months trial period, wages to be 42,500 for the fiscal year 2008-2009 with benefits effective July 1, 2008, with a job description and a fire committee to follow. Roll Call Vote: Clous yea, Fleis yea, Rademaker yea, Tharp yea, DeKuiper yea, Lowe yea, Zeits yea, 7 yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Clous supported by DeKuiper to amend the fire budget for 2008-2009 by reducing other services by \$50,430. and increase wages, to 42,500, F.I.C.A. to 3,251, and Pension to 4,674. Roll Call Vote: Tharp yea, Zeits yea, Lowe yea, Rademaker yea concerned about the work ahead issues need to be addressed. Fleis yea, DeKuiper yea understanding a lot more to be dealt with, Clous yea. 7 yeas, Motion carried.

Motion by Tharp supported by Rademaker to accept the bid from Tobin & Company for the year-end audit for 2007-2008 in the amount of \$8,650.00. 6 yeas, 1 nay Lowe, Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: Mr. Larry Fleis agrees with Mr. Lowe in putting the audit out for bid every 2 to 3 years. Mr. Duane Sanford agrees with having a fireboard with a certain make up of the Board with the laws of the state of Michigan. Mr. Larry Fleis commended the Board on their decision in pulling out of Rural Fire and going on their own, for Blair

Township will reap the benefits in years to come. Mrs. Keith commended the Board on the decision and is extremely proud of the Department. Nicole Blonshine commented as an employee it is very scary, but the relationship between the administration and the Board and employees have been the best it's been in years.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Clous supported by DeKuiper to adjourn at 9:37 P.M. 7 yeas, Motion carried.

Betty A. Tharp
Township Clerk

Marilyn Fleis
Township Supervisor