

## Bear Creek Township Board Meeting June 2, 2021

- I. Called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Keiser, Golding, Hoffman, Urman, Radatovich
  - a. Others Present: Al Welsheimer, Mitch Brown, Dr. LaBeau, Cade Trudeau, Aubrey Williams, Trevor Swiss, Ethel Larsen, Alexandra B, Quinn O'Neill
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from two meetings: Regular meeting of May 5, 2021 and closed session minutes of May 5, 2021.

**Motion** by Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Radatovich.

**Passed**

- V. **Request from the Floor/Discussion**

- VI. **Approval of the Agenda**

Hoffman requested that Dr. LaBeau give a short presentation on the soil conservation district.

- VII. **Unfinished Business**

- a. **Roads**

Keiser shared that dust control was supposed to go down last week. This is the first year with our new contractor from downstate. They started applying it today and are hoping to finish it by the end of the week. It is important that this gets done. Dr. LaBeau shared concerns about the corner of Mitchell and Rolling Hills. People go very fast there are swerve around cars that are turning. He is concerned about accidents. Keiser agreed that this is a concerning area. He shared that the ultra thin work is done and the pavement all came out well. The gravel shoulders have not been completed yet. Country Club Rd was finished on time, but there was some problems with the ride quality of the road. While the road is built well with good quality, the final roller/paver did a poor job, which left the ride quality poor. Keiser and Radatovich met with the road commission and Tri-County Excavating today and agreed on certain areas that need to be fixed. Tri-County will be paid, as their portion was done correctly, but the pavers will not be paid until they make some corrections. Brian Gutowski believes that the ride quality will smooth out in about a year. Keiser noted that we could add ride quality to our contracts, but we may not get any bidders, because they would choose other, quicker jobs in the area. Additionally, it would be more expensive. Quality only became an issue after the strike two years ago. Half of Country Club Rd is done well but the other half is where the concerns are. Hoffman noted that E Mitchell has not had gravel on the shoulders for two years. This needs to be done. Keiser agrees that it is not only a safety issues, but also helps the shoulder not to break up.

- b. **Library Report:** None

- c. **City Rec Agreement**

Keiser shared the city recreation agreement, which we also discussed last month. This year's cost will be \$45,091.

**Motion** by Radatovich to authorize the township supervisor to sign the City of Petoskey recreation agreement and authorize this year's payment of \$45,091. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Urman.

**Passed**

- d. **Housing North- Director**

Keiser noted that Housing North has been going around to nearby units of government asking for financial support for a new director. Since last month's meeting, we became aware that we cannot donate to a non-profit. Carlin Smith has asked that we table this discussion for now and come back to it next month. Keiser feels it is still a good idea for the leaders of these local municipalities to get together to discuss this, because there is definitely a housing problem.

**Motion** by Radatovich to table the discussion on the housing north director. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hoffman.

**Passed**

- VIII. **New Business**

- a. **DPW Voucher Contract**

Keiser shared that Bear Creek Township has sent cleanup vouchers for the last 17 years. We pay for the vouchers as they are used. In the past, this has been on a verbal agreement with the county. However, the county has now proposed a formal contract. Keiser and Joel Wurster reviewed this contract and have some proposed changes for the county. There is a portion in the county's proposed contract about being able to cancel at will. Keiser feels that this portion should be changed, because once our vouchers go out, we can't get them back. Keiser sent revised proposed language to the county, but we are still waiting to hear back.

**Motion** by Hoffman to table the discussion on the DPW voucher contract. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Radatovich.

**Passed**

- b. **Blight**

Keiser explained that he received a blight letter for the property at 3760 Country Club Rd. We do not have a second letter yet. This was from a vehicle crash last fall, and the car is unrepairable. Keiser called the owner, who is currently not home. They will be home the third week of June and will take care of it then.

- c. **Conservation District Tree Sale**

Dr. LaBeau shared that they had a successful tree sale, and grossed approximately \$40,000, which is much needed. There were some substantial buyers, who purchased entire boxes of trees. However, they were behind on bagging trees this year, so there was more of a wait than normal. Hoffman suggested some website updates for the conservation district.

- IX. **Planning/Zoning Report**

Keiser shared the Planning Commission cases of the month. The first was a request by Kristi Schuil at 2800 E Mitchell Rd for a PUD amendment to allow for 5 campers per day. The Planning Commission agreed that this is not the proper area for camping, as it is surrounded by residential uses (R-1), which is not zoned for camping, and there would also be no screening for campers. This case was denied. The second case was for Mackinaw Trail Winery, as a request to add a pergola for outdoor dining. This would seat about 30

people. This case was approved. The text amendment regarding flags was also approved. The Planning Commission also reviewed the Housing Ready Checklist. The board should complete this as well and return it to Tammy Doernenburg.

**Motion** by Keiser to approve the Planning Commission report and follow the Planning Commission's recommendations. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Radatovich. **Passed**

**X. Fire Department Report- Report by Welsheimer**

Welsheimer shared that they did basics with the younger firemen to give them one on one experience in the different trucks. There were 4 EMS and 24 fire calls this month. There was a structure fire on Greenwood Rd last night in a pole barn. There are currently 26 individuals on the fire department and 4 that are strongly interested. We also have one who is fully trained who will be brought on soon. The new Airvac system was installed as well and they did a great job.

**XI. Parks and Recreation Report**

Keiser noted that the May Parks and Recreation meeting was moved to next Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be a site walk at the River Rd property. Keiser shared that a beaver has moved into Spring Lake Park. We have applied for a nuisance permit through the DNR and when we receive that, Bill Kanine will go trap them. Both Spring Lake Park and Jones Landing have been striped and sealed and they did a great job. The shower tower at Jones Landing has been working well. Keiser noted that someone hit the dock hard at Jones Landing, and one of the posts got loose. After further inspection, it came to light that 4/8 posts are loose. Bryan Conklin secured these posts yesterday, but this fall, when we pull out the dock, Keiser suggests that we re-drill and re-bolt these posts. Urman noted that the bottom board on the walkways at Jones Landing needs to be looked at as well. Keiser also shared that there was some vandalism in the men's bathroom at Jones Landing. All Seasons spray painted the dividers to cover it up, because it was too engrained in to clean. There has also been a homeless man sporadically showing up at Spring Lake Park, but we have not seen any damage there yet. Keiser noted that we have new swim rope and buoys at Jones Landing as well. He remarked that Walloon Lake will probably want to do their annual boat wash and education day at the launch again this year. We will allow this again this year. Hoffman asked if the same marina is using Jones Landing again this year. Keiser explained that they are using it frequently, but just for launching. He has not witnessed them using it for repairs yet.

**XII. Correspondence**

Keiser read the letter from Mary Jane Ulrich. He read a thank you letter from Jerry Donnelly. Keiser also made note of our fireworks ordinance. We typically get questions and complaints near the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Lastly, Keiser asked about the township hall. People are starting to ask to use it again for gatherings, but we do not have any COVID-19 guidelines in place specifically about renting out the hall. We have no way to control how many people are gathering and we would also need to figure out a cleaning situation. Radatovich has been gathering sample hall rental policies from other nearby jurisdictions. She will start drafting a new hall rental policy. Hoffman asked who will clean it, because the cleaning company will not be available all the time.

**XIII. Clerk's Business/Bills- Report by Radatovich**

Radatovich reported bills in the amount of \$196,064.16. She shared that the auditors will be coming July 12-16 this year.

i. **Motion** by Radatovich to pay the bills in the amount of \$196,064.16. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Golding. **Passed**

**XIV. Treasurer's Report- Report by Golding**

The Treasurer's Report shows a balance of \$8,709,035.80 as of 5/31/21. Taxes will be going out at the end of the month.

**XV. Building Department Report**

Golding explained that things have been going really well with Bryan Conklin, our new building inspector. He has received lots of compliments and is settling in well. She ordered the new online books for him as well. Keiser noted that we also remodeled his office, with fresh paint and carpeting, and ordered him a new desk. Conklin has been working with the county well and is building that relationship. Radatovich noted that we will need to amend the budget when we receive the invoices for Conklin's new desk and supplies.

**XVI. Sewer Business/Bills**

Keiser noted bills for the township sewer in the amount of \$63,843.42.

i. **Motion** by Keiser to pay the township sewer bills in the amount of \$63,843.42. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Radatovich. **Passed**

Keiser noted that there are no new REU connections this month. There was a mercury reporting due to the state last October that was brought to his attention. This is for dentist's offices. We are going to hire Mead & Hunt to come and do this for us. They will visit the five dentist's offices where the sewage goes to the City of Petoskey.

**XVII. Request from the Floor/Discussion**

**XVIII. Other Business:**

Urman asked about the stakes along the township parking lot entrance. Keiser will get this out to bid to curb the drive going into the township parking lot.

**XIX. Public Comment:**

**XX. Adjournment: 8:10p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Emma Radatovich*

Emma Radatovich, Bear Creek Township Clerk