

## Bear Creek Township Board Meeting November 3, 2021

I. Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **Roll Call:** Keiser, Hoffman, Golding, Radatovich, Urman

a. Others Present: Al Welsheimer, Mitch Brown, Matt Koontz, Dr. LaBeau, Sheldon Buckmaster, Karla Buckmaster, Roxanne Cook

III. **Pledge of Allegiance**

IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Regular meeting of Oct 13, 2021 and special meeting of Oct 18, 2021.

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

**Passed**

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

VI. **Approval of the Agenda**

VII. **Unfinished Business**

a. **Roads**

Keiser shared that the roads have been completed. The board will need to begin considering the 2022 projects as soon as our PAZAR ratings are completed. In addition, the board received a petition from the owners of Krause Rd last summer- would the board like to request an estimate for this road for 2022? The board agreed to pursue an estimate. Additionally, Keiser shared that the ARPA money may be able to be used for roads. At the Emmet County MTA meeting, the MTA representative explained that the ARPA fund rules are changing. Hoffman noted that the price of oil is rising, so paving will be more expensive next year.

b. **Library Report**

Radatovich attended the October library board meeting and shared some highlights from the meeting. In the last ten years, the Friends of the Library book sale has raised approximately \$110,000. In addition, the new parking lot is open for use and the library will also be getting a phone app. The Library staff attended a conference and the library is considering purchasing single person cubicles for zoom calls or remote work. Dr. LaBeau asked about the letter Hoffman wrote to the library. Golding confirmed that it was discussed at the prior month's library meeting. The library board agreed to back off suggesting certain websites. Hoffman does not feel that they have backed off. He shared information about the PDL book box that the library is giving to kids.

c. **Blight Cases Pending**

Keiser shared the report from Joe Villemure. There is not a lot of new blight cases. The Davis case is two years old and has been mostly completed, but there are still two cars on the property. The Kerr case has been mostly cleaned up. The Thurman case has a junk trailer remaining. The Milliron house is still under construction, and Bryan Conklin has been working closely with him on that. Villemure sent a warning letter for the Coveyou case that it may be turned over to the attorney. This property has a fence with blight behind it that is visible to the neighbors.

d. **Click Rd**

Keiser shared that Dave Hoffman's crew planted 70 pine trees on the west end of the property and the screening looks great. We sent an application in to get temporary electric for the spring. This will be used to pump water to the new trees. The newly planted trees are 12-15ft inside the property line so that we will have 10ft for utilities.

e. **Division Rd Ending**

Keiser explained that last month, the board discussed having the end of Division Rd surveyed in preparation of having the Bay View Association deed over the 33ft that they own. He shared the history of the end of Division Rd, and noted that there is a new pipe that was placed across the property about two weeks ago from one of the neighbors. The estimate from Ferguson & Chamberlain to complete this survey is for \$1,800 at most, but it is billed hourly.

**Motion** by Radatovich to hire Ferguson & Chamberlain to survey the end of Division Rd not to exceed the amount of \$1,800. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Urman.

**Passed**

f. **ARPA Funds**

Keiser explained that the township received half of our ARPA funding. It will need to be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026. Last month, we agreed to put together a list of items that we would like to see the ARPA funding used for. Keiser noted that we will try to leverage this money as much as possible with grants and partner projects. We will need to schedule a work session meeting to discuss possible ways this money can be used. The board will meet Nov 16, 2021 at 1pm for this work session.

VIII. **New Business**

a. **Priority Health Insurance**

Keiser explained that our current health insurance policy is no longer being offered. The most comparable plan will also be a \$10,000 annual savings to the township. Radatovich added that all pricing for plans is now based on age and gender, and that the new policy will start January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion** by Radatovich to approve the new Priority Health insurance plan. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Urman.

**Passed**

**b. Outdoor Burning Ordinance**

Keiser shared that we have prepared an updated outdoor burning ordinance, which bans burning on commercial properties. This would become effective 30 days after publishing and will not affect residential properties.

**Motion** by Radatovich to adopt the Outdoor Burning Ordinance amendment, ordinance #45-21. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Urman.

Roll Call: Keiser, Golding, Urman, Hoffman, Radatovich

Yes: Keiser, Golding, Urman, Hoffman, Radatovich

**Passed**

**c. 2022 Meeting Schedule**

Keiser shared the 2022 meeting schedule for review. The township board will need to adopt it next month.

**IX. Planning/Zoning Report**

Radatovich shared two cases from this month. The first was case# PPUDP21-06 Manthei Development. This case was postponed by the applicant and was not discussed. The second case, case PSUP21-018 Krist Oil, was postponed due to a tie vote. Radatovich shared the history of this property and noted that it would be helpful for the Planning Commission to have a traffic study and photometric study to review before voting again. Keiser noted that he received an email from the neighboring property owner asking if the township would like to split the purchase of this property. However, this property is under contract, and the township would only be willing to purchase maybe 15ft or so. The main expense of the turn lane isn't in the property purchase. Rather, the expense would be to bury the utilities. Additionally, Plath's would have to be bought out to open up the intersection. Adding turn lanes to that corner only fixes one leg of the intersection.

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

Welsheimer reported 3 EMS and 15 fire calls. They did a training on electric vehicles through Krings and are looking at doing another advanced training in 6 months. As of today, there have been 90 deaths in 78 fires in MI this year, which is a decrease from previous years. Keiser suggested that we pursue a grant for fire prevention week next year to purchase fire extinguishers.

**XI. Parks and Recreation Report**

Keiser noted that there was no parks and recreation meeting this month. Both the parks will be closed this week.

**XII. Correspondence**

Keiser received an email from Martha Lancaster regarding Emmet Transit. She would like to give a presentation at the December board meeting and possibly the November planning commission meeting.

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

Radatovich reported bills in the amount of \$97,191.02.

i. **Motion** by Radatovich to pay the bills in the amount of \$97,191.02. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Golding.

**Passed**

Radatovich gave an update on the Nov 2, 2021 election. We had a great voter turnout at 25.8% of voters (just shy of 1500 voters) and the election ran very smoothly. Karla Buckmaster stated that she would like to see the county post the election results online as they come in throughout the night.

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

The Treasurer's Report shows a balance of \$8,538,219.38 as of 10/31/21.

**XV. Building Department Report**

Keiser noted that the revenues for the building department are up and that we are still within the budget.

**XVI. Sewer Business/Bills**

Keiser reported bills for the township sewer in the amount of \$106,471.35. There were no applications for sewer service this month.

i. **Motion** by Keiser to pay the township sewer bills in the amount of \$106,471.35. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Radatovich. **Passed**

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

Karla Buckmaster noted that she would like to make sure that there is a guard rail placed on Kolinske Rd.

**XVIII. Other Business: None**

**XIX. Adjournment: 8:22p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Emma Radatovich*

Emma Radatovich, Bear Creek Township Clerk