

1
**Bear Creek Township Board Meeting
December 7, 2022**

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Keiser, Hoffman, Golding, Urman

Absent: Radatovich

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Regular mtg of Nov 2, 2022, closed session of Nov 2, 2022, and election commission mtg of Nov 7, 2022.

Motion by Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented. 2nd by Urman.

Passed

Request from the Floor/Discussion: None

Approval of the Agenda

Unfinished Business

Roads

Keiser shared we have three contracts for 2023 road projects that we have recently discussed. The first is for Krause Rd for a complete rebuild for \$550,300. The second is for Atkins Rd for a rebuild of the portion east of Maplewood for \$261,100. The third is for Fochtman Drive for a crush and shape with 4" of pavement and a rebuild of the cul-de-sac for \$368,800. We should look to get our contracts in before the contractors get their schedule filled for the summer. We will also have an additional \$75,000 in expenses between crack sealing and Division Rd. We are about \$350,000 under budget this year, so for a two year total, it is without our reach to complete these projects. In addition, Karla Buckmaster has submitted a request for a guard rail on Kolinski Rd. The board discussed the letter that Buckmaster submitted; rather than completing only one guard rail, the board would prefer to complete all guard rail locations within Bear Creek that would be grant funded.

Motion by Golding to approve the road contracts for Krause Rd, Atkins Rd, and Fochtman Drive, on condition that the Atkins Rd project be complete by July 1, 2023. 2nd by Urman.

Passed

During the planning commission meeting in November, the Planning Commission discussed a rezoning on Howard Rd, and the feasibility of sight distance on that property for R-2 uses. The road commission went out the next day and found that the location would need 650ft for an approval of a commercial driveway. This parcel only has 520ft. There are options going forward: To complete a speed study to lower the speed limit and to install a flashing light on Lears/Howard. The board would like to pursue a flashing yellow light on Howard Rd facing north/south and a flashing red facing west to Lears. The board is hoping that the tribe could help pay for this with the safety grant money.

Click Rd Property- Design Build

Keiser noted that the architect will have something for the board in January.

Blight

Keiser shared that we have five pending cases. The property on Pickerel Lake Rd and Duane Coveyou's property on Howard Rd have both completed some clean up, but not enough to be in compliance with the ordinance. David Coveyou's property on Howard Rd has blighted vehicles. The property on Greenwood Rd has had some work completed and will be reinspected. The property on Mishe Mokwa is now in compliance and is complete.

Sewer Lift Station #2 Upgrades

Keiser has been working with Gosling Czubak as they continue to work on plans. They will be meeting with EGLE next week to report on the proposed design to get input from them.

New Business

2023 Appointments

Keiser shared the appointments that expire at the end of 2022. He recommended the following appointments: To the Construction Board of Appeals: Sean Meyer, Art Shaw, Ken Cooper, Chip Ironside, and Steve Boettger. To the Fire Board: Denny Keiser and Joe Hoffman. To the Harbor Springs Area Sewage Disposal Authority: Denny Keiser. To the Library Committee: Joe Hoffman with Connie Golding as the alternate. To the Local Revenue Sharing Board: Denny Keiser. To the Parks and Recreation Committee: Tom Urman, David Farris, and Dan Goldsmith. To the Planning Commission: Emma Radatovich, Mitch Brown, and Judy Mays. To the Board of Review: Jerry Houts, Mark Hramiec, Brad Meyer, and Mitch Brown as the alternate.

Motion by Hoffman to make the 2023 appointments: To the Construction Board of Appeals: Sean Meyer, Art Shaw, Ken Cooper, Chip Ironside, and Steve Boettger. To the Fire Board: Denny Keiser and Joe Hoffman. To the Harbor Springs Area Sewage Disposal Authority: Denny Keiser. To the Library Committee: Joe Hoffman with Connie Golding as the alternate. To the Local Revenue Sharing Board: Denny Keiser. To the Parks and Recreation Committee: Tom Urman, David Farris, and Dan Goldsmith. To the Planning

Commission: Emma Radatovich, Mitch Brown, and Judy Mays. To the Board of Review: Jerry Houts, Mark Hramiec, Brad Meyer, and Mitch Brown as the alternate. 2nd by Urman. **Passed**

2023 Meeting Schedule

Keiser shared the 2023 meeting schedule.

Motion by Golding to approve the 2023 meeting schedule. 2nd by Urman. **Passed**

Sewer Appeal- MB Roofing (446 Creekside)

Keiser explained that MB Roofing has an office and contractor's warehouse. The sprinkler system caused their 3rd quarter sewer bill to be unusually high, even though their sprinkler system isn't going into the sewer. For next year, they will be installing and paying for a deduct meter for the system. At this time, Matt is requesting a refund of \$2,563.18, which is the overcharge caused by the sewer system.

Motion by Golding to issue a sewer refund of \$2,563.18 to MB Roofing. 2nd by Urman. **Passed**

Library Report

Keiser shared that Golding attended the library board meeting. He also shared that he and Radatovich met with Ann and Val at the Library to see what they could do to calm things down after the September board meeting. The library was supposed to write a letter to Bear Creek Township and a letter was never written. Also, the library was supposed to add a spot on the library agenda for townships to be able to speak and that did not come to fruition. Last month at the library board meeting they talked about pronoun name tags and why they need them. Meyerson said that they have been wearing nametags with pronouns for over a year. Hoffman was unsure why they need these nametags with pronouns. Keiser read the joint statement that Radatovich and Keiser wrote about staying in a neutral position. The board agreed to sign this letter, requesting that the library stay neutral. Meyerson came up and apologized about not writing a letter and was unaware that they were supposed to write a letter. They were under the understanding that they just needed to lie low and let the waters cool down. Meyerson said she is more than happy to write a letter and get that to the Bear Creek Township board.

November Election Report

Coats shared that the November election went very smoothly. We had a total voter turnout of 63.84%. However, we had very high in-person voter turnout this election- even more than the 2020 November general election! Keiser asked how the stand up voting booths worked. Coats responded that they worked well.

Priority Health Insurance Premium

Keiser shared that we needed to renew our Priority Health policy. The board agreed to renew this policy.

Phone System Upgrade

Coats shared that our current phone provider has been bought out by another company. We currently have Charter servicing our office phones, Verizon servicing Al, Bryan, and Wayne's phone, and AT&T servicing Joe's blight phone. This would consolidate to one provider with new office phones. Keiser shared the quote from BSB. The board has some questions for Ron, our BSB account manager.

Motion by Golding to approve the new phone plan with BSB Communications. 2nd by Hoffman. **Passed**

Planning and Zoning Report

Keiser reported three planning cases this month. The first, PPUDP22-02 Coseo Properties, was not discussed, as there was no new information. The second, Case PREZN22-04 Ron Budnik for a rezoning, was approved. It was the intention of the Planning Commission that if the road commission approved a driveway for an R-2 use, then the recommendation is to approve. If the road commission does not approve sight distance, that the case be sent back to the Planning Commission. The road commission deemed that this would not have sight distance. The third case, PSUP22-024 for The Manthei Corporation for a special use permit, was approved. Bryan Burns explained how a concrete batch plant works. Keiser noted that the county is working on updating the zoning ordinance to make it more user friendly. Keiser asked about creating a single zoning section for just multi-family. Hoffman shared that stacking at drive through restaurants should be increased to cut down on the lines potentially.

Motion by Golding to accept the planning report, and to return case PREZN22-04 to the Planning Commission. 2nd by Urman. **Passed**

Fire Department Report

Welsheimer reported that they completed EMS credits. There were 35 calls in November. One firefighter was injured on November 15th, 2022. They did shop with a hero last Saturday with over 30 kids. RBCFD participated in the Santa Claus parade and open house.

Parks and Recreation Report

Keiser shared the Spring Lake Park upgrades and drawing that Beckett and Raeder provided. Keiser also noted that a SPARK grant is available that we could apply for. The grant would be for about \$550,000. If we don't receive this grant, we can apply for a Passport Grant in February. Keiser read the resolution for the Sparks Grant.

Motion by Urman to adopt the resolution of authorization for the Sparks Grant for Spring Lake Park. 2nd by Hoffman.

Roll Call: Urman, Golding, Hoffman, Keiser

Yes: Urman, Golding, Hoffman, Keiser

Absent: Radatovich

Passed

Keiser spoke about the Click Road property on the Kayak launch.

Correspondence

Keiser has been talking to Mary Mitchell at the county and she brought it to Keiser's attention that there is a blight grant available for clean up but there is one stipulation- that the amount you use will be put as a lien on the property. Keiser doesn't see that it will be useful in Bear Creek Township.

Clerk's Business/Bills- Report by Radatovich

Coats reported bills in the amount of \$180,835.45.

Motion by Golding to pay the bills in the amount of \$180,835.45. 2nd by Hoffman.

Passed

Coats shared that the Luttrell bill came in higher than the board approved, by an additional \$2,600.19.

Motion by Golding to approve the overage on the Luttrell bill for an additional \$2,600.19. 2nd by Hoffman.

Passed

Treasurer's Report- Report by Golding

The Treasurer's Report shows a balance of \$9,582,852.35 as of 11/30/22. Golding reported that we are no longer accepting post marked tax bills. Golding also requested to renew the investment accounts.

Motion by Hoffman to pay \$1,200 to renew our investment account contract. 2nd by Urman.

Passed

Building Department Report

Building dept reports were shared through 11/30/22. Conklin reported that the building department has been very busy. Conklin also reported that Golding and Conklin are going to go through the policies and procedure this winter when the building department slows down. Keiser remarked that Conklin is doing a great job for the township. When the board first hired a full-time building inspector, the hope was for Conklin to also complete some township maintenance. However, the building department has been so busy that Conklin does not have time to complete any maintenance.

Sewer Business/Bills

Keiser reported bills for the township sewer in the amount of \$164,732.57.

Motion by Keiser to pay the township sewer bills in the amount of \$164,732.57. 2nd by Golding.

Passed

There are six sewer service permit applications this month. The first is for 303 Sunset for 1 REU. The second is for 1911 Marshview Dr for 0.5 REU. The third is for 1570 Parmenter Ct. for 1 REU. The fourth is for 1568 Parmenter Ct. for 1 REUs. The fifth is for 1567 Parmenter Ct. for 1 REU. The sixth is for 1565 Parmenter Ct. for 1 REU.

Motion by Keiser to approve the sewer service permits as follows: 303 Sunset for 1 REU, 1911 Marshview Dr for 0.5 REU, 1570 Parmenter Ct. for 1 REU, 1568 Parmenter Ct. for 1 REU, 1567 Parmenter Ct. for 1 REU, and 1565 Parmenter Ct. for 1 REU. 2nd by Golding.

Passed

Request from the Floor/Discussion:

Meyerson brought pamphlets about the holocaust exhibit at the library; the exhibit will be available to view through February 14, 2023.

Other Business: None

Adjournment: 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Coats

Elizabeth Coats, Bear Creek Township Deputy Clerk