Supervisor Mark Roper called the meeting of the Almira Township Board to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Almira Township Fire & EMS Facility.

1. Supervisor led the Pledge to the Flag.
2. Supervisor called for roll call. Members present were: Mark Roper, Mandy Gray Rineer, Tammy Clous, Matt Therrien, and Ann Beaujean.

Moment of Silence taken in Honor of Daniel Beechraft.

1. Supervisor Roper and Planning Commission Chairperson Nolan presented the time line of the process of this ordinance leading up to this point.
2. Open public Hearing at 7:11 pm.

The Township Board was presented with written correspondences from individuals on this matter.

Maryanne Turovaara stated that she was speaking on behalf of herself as well as Mr. & Mrs. Vogt, Mr. & Mrs. Vreibel, Mr. & Mrs. Minicucci, Mr. & Mrs. Unger, Mr. & Mrs. Kline, Mr. & Mrs. Lavrack, Mr. Muehlmann, Ms. Thompson and Ms. Harris. These individuals feel that 30 days a year is plenty of time to celebrate any occasion and that fireworks are a disruption to others. Bonnie Visser spoke stating her biggest concern with fireworks is the fire hazard that they may cause. Judy Koch spoke reiterating her concerns in her letter to the board. She presented various section of her letter, but stated that her main concern is the individuals who suffer with PTSD. Mary Dort had a question on if we did a consumer permit would it resemble the professional permitting process. Dale Flaherty spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance presented to the board by the Planning Commission. Jeremy Clous presented the board with a petition containing 25 signatures of individuals who wish to have no ordinance regulating fireworks. He also spoke that he feels that other times to celebrate an occasion other than the National Holidays is needed because there may be an event to celebrate that is not near a National Holiday. He also asked that if the board felt the need to pass an ordinance that we at least allow an exception. He also had individuals whom he spoke with that did not want an ordinance, but felt bullied or intimidated by others in the community and wished not to sign their names to anything. Susan Arnold stated when she sees a firework she knows that someone is celebrating something. There are many reason to celebrate and would like to see allow ability for other times to celebrate other than just the Holidays. Dale Dort had a question on if these fireworks were classified as a projectile and would fall under the DNR regulation of not being able to be discharged within 450 feet of a residence. Jim Brady questioned the amount of debris this caused versus the standard debris that is along roads and property. He also asked if there had been any personal injuries because of these types of fireworks. He also stated where is this going to stop with regulations. He doesn’t see this as an enforceable ordinance. He also sees this as a potential loss of revenue for people in the Township due to people wishing not to vacation here. He is very much opposed to more regulations. Ted Keskey says the lake is a firework magnet, feels that the restrictions that we are proposing are minimal. However he sees that the lake is the primary area for this problem. Joni Keskey stated the as a member of the planning commission that they worked long and hard on this ordinance and trued to align our ordinance with surrounding ordinances. She feels that 30 days per year is plenty of time to celebrate with fireworks and that people need to be considerate of their neighbors. Mary Dort asked could the ordinance be made to just pertain to those living on the lake or certain zoning areas. Dave Maxson, member of the planning commission, stated that when they were asked to come up with an ordinance that Matt Therrien said to keep it simple and Mark Roper asked for it to be consistent with surrounding areas. He says that the ordinance that was presented to the Board is the ordinance that was asked for. He asked that if we change this ordinance in any way that we take public input on the changes. Dale Dort asked if the Ann Lake Association could do anything with this, as in make their own regulation. Jeremy Clous asked if this ordinance would cover the Village Residents as well or would they have to adopt their own. Jim Brady asked what class of fireworks the ordinance would cover. Maryanne Turovaara asked how the board vote would go, can it be a split vote and still enact an ordinance or would it have to be unanimous. She also asked if someone could recuse themselves from voting and what and how could someone do that. Dave Maxson says the problem is primarily a lake issue not a rural issue. The main people who shoot off fireworks are visitors to the community so they are not the voting or tax paying individuals. Jeremy Clous asked if there could be a restriction to an acreage size of those allowed to display fireworks. Dale Flaherty, in reference to the question on a village ordinance, stated that their attorney says to keep any village ordinance aligned with the county as to keep prosecuting and enforcement uniform. Dale Flaherty asked for a count on the number of people in support of an ordinance and those who wish to not have an ordinance. Tammy Clous stated that 40 people wish to have some sort of restriction on firework while 35 people wish to have no ordinance at all. Motion By Therrien and supported by Rineer to close public hearing at 8:03 pm. All ayes motion passed.

**Adjourn:** There being no other business the Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:03p.m.

Tammy Clous

Almira Township Clerk