

**Minutes from the
Almira Township Board Regular Meeting
October 10, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

Supervisor Vance Bates called the meeting of the Almira Township Board to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Almira Township Fire & EMS Facility.

Supervisor led the Pledge to the Flag.

Supervisor called for roll call. Members present were: Dawn Campeau, Mary Dort, Diana Nolan, Kirt Giddis and Vance Bates.

Additions/Deletions to Meeting Agenda by Board and Citizens: None

Approval of Meeting Agenda: *Motion by Nolan*, and supported by Giddis, to approve the meeting agenda as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

Approval of Consent Agenda: *Motion by Campeau*, and supported by Giddis, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approve minutes of Regular Board meeting held September 12, 2011 and Special Board meeting held September 19, 2011.
 2. Budget amendments for the month of October 2011: None
 3. Approve payment of check #'s 32657 – 32740. See check registers included in packet. Bills are available for examination upon request.
 4. Receive and File the following reports:

Benzie County Commissioners:	Included in Packet
Assessor:	Included in Packet
Zoning Administrator:	Included in Packet
Recreational Resources Committee:	No Report
Fire & EMS Department:	No Report
Planning Commission:	No Report
Veterans Memorial Committee:	No Report
 5. Miscellaneous: None.
 6. Receive and file the following correspondence:
 - Lake Ann Village Council Draft Meeting Minutes dated 9-13-11 and 9-24-11
 - E-mail from Todd Millar, Attorney dated 9-19-11
 - Letter from Benzie Bus dated 9-12-11
 - Letter from Fire & EMS Personnel Ad Hoc committee dated 9-19-11 with an attachment
 - Benzie County Road commission meeting minutes dated 7-18-11; 8-11-11; 8-25-11
- All ayes, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: *Motion by Nolan*, and supported by Bates, to receive and file the Treasurer's report. All ayes, motion passed. Copy will be filed in the Clerk's office.

Brief Public Input:

Amy Rosa questioned hearsay of a sexual harassment incident in the last sixty to ninety days and asked if the Board was aware of it.

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Rasa Baker asked if the Township had a policy regarding abandoned homes. Larry Poulisse commented on the findings of the ad hoc committee that was looking into the report writing requirements for Fire & EMS personnel.

Guests:

Carol Hines, Benzie County Council on Aging Chairperson, gave a brief overview of what they do, where they are and what services they help with.

Mark Roper, Benzie County Commissioner, reported on the following: County hired an administrator; Equalization directors are ageing interviewed; DHS Board interviews are also being held; health insurance issues and Frankfort building project issues with the County Building Department.

Old Business:

- A. Fire & EMS Members Resignations:** Carol Poulisse withdrew her retirement request and requested a leave of absence until May 1, 2012. *Motion* by Giddis, and supported by Campeau, to not accept the retirement of Carol Poulisse. Ayes: Dort, Giddis, Nolan and Campeau. Nays: Bates Motion passed. *Motion* by Giddis, and supported by Dort, to allow a leave of absence for Carol Poulisse until May 1, 2012. Ayes: Dort, Giddis, Nolan and Campeau. Nays: Bates Motion passed. Larry Poulisse withdrew his resignation and requested a leave of absence until May 1, 2012. *Motion* by Campeau, and supported by Giddis, to not accept the resignation of Larry Poulisse. Ayes: Nolan, Giddis, Dort and Campeau. Nays: Bates. Motion passed. *Motion* by Nolan, and supported by Campeau, to allow a leave of absence for Larry Poulisse until May 1, 2012. Ayes: Nolan, Campeau, Giddis and Dort. Nays: Bates. Motion passed.
- B. Veterans Memorial Signs:** Rasa Baker, member of the Veterans Memorial Committee presented information. *Motion* by Campeau, and supported by Giddis, to accept the proposal from d & d Signs in the amount of \$5,700. All ayes, motion passed.

New Business:

- A. Resignation from Fire & EMS Department:** Chief Morse presented resignation from Jim Bennett. *Motion* by Giddis, and supported by Bates, to accept the resignation of Jim Bennett from the Fire & EMS Department with our thanks. All ayes, motion passed.
- B. Lakefront Park Ordinance:** Trustee Nolan explained the need for this ordinance. *Motion* by Nolan, and supported by Bates, to adopt Ordinance No. 10-1 of 2011 as amended. Roll call vote was as follows: Ayes: Bates, Campeau, Dort, Giddis and Nolan. Nays: None. No one absent, motion passed. Supervisor declared ordinance adopted.
- C. Veterans Flag Holders:** After getting additional information that was presented to the Board, these broken ones will be returned to Benzie County.
- D. November 8, 2011 Election Items:** Clerk Dort presented information regarding the November 8, 2011 Election. *Motion* by Campeau, and supported by Giddis, to

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approve the election inspectors, meal allowances and evening meal for the election inspectors as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

- E. Health Insurance Refund:** Information presented was reviewed and discussed. *Motion by* Bates, and supported by Nolan, to refund fifteen percent (15%) of the health insurance refund check to the employee who also pays part of the monthly health insurance premium. All ayes, motion passed.
- F. Appointment to Recreational Resources Committee:** *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Bates, to appoint Janette Grice to the Recreational Resources Committee. All ayes, motion passed.
- G. Fire & EMS Pool Employee:** Chief Morse presented the recommendation. *Motion by* Bates, and supported by Dort, to approve Jennifer Koscielski to be added to the Fire & EMS Department pool roster. All ayes, motion passed.
- H. Medical Marijuana Moratorium Extension:** Trustee Nolan explained why the extension was requested. *Motion by* Bates, and supported by Campeau, to approve Resolution No. 10-1 of 2011 as amended extending the moratorium on medical marijuana land uses. Roll call vote was as follows: Ayes: Giddis, Dort, Nolan, Campeau and Bates. Nays: None. No one absent, motion passed.

Extended Public Input:

Chief Morse requested a special Board meeting to discuss a Fire & EMS personnel issue.

Larry Poulisse talked about pay for Fire & EMS calls, members purchasing uniforms for themselves, members that have quit, resigned or retired, and about the Fire & EMS Department getting rid of good people.

Carol Poulisse talked about Fire & EMS personnel being paid an hourly wage and questioned what the future might bring; volunteerism is gone and the Fire & EMS Department is a paid department now; expressed concern of losing volunteers; she has been hurt.

Jim Morse Sr. thanked Carol and Larry for their presentations. Jim also talked about the number of years he has been on the Fire & EMS Department as a member and as Chief; talked about paying volunteers for years in some manner or another.

Phil Johnson talked about the mix of personalities in departments; how he managed a Fire Department of full time, volunteer and part paid personnel; the complexity of a changing fire department; talk of circumventing procedures; personnel talking with the Chief if have complaints; the need in the Township for an ambulance; the well trained personnel on the Fire & EMS Department; how well the duty crew is working out; and that the Board should back up the appointed officials.

Bill Parker talked about the need for an ambulance in the Township; his concern with the talk of circumventing procedures; and personnel being a part of the Fire & EMS Department to serve the community.

Board Comments:

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Trustee Giddis stated that it was not his intent to circumvent anything and that he was not sure he said that word. He wanted to make use of personnel instead and was concerned about the number of personnel resigning and retiring.

Clerk Dort mentioned that the November election will have the Township using the electronic poll book for the first time.

Trustee Nolan thanked the community for coming to this meeting and invited them to come again. She also stated that the Board needs to approve the final site plan for the lakefront park before it goes to the Lake Ann Village Planning Commission.

Supervisor Bates stated that the Township's labor attorney was the one that stated that the pay point system was illegal and that it was setting up the Township for more liability so the Board moved to change the way Fire & EMS personnel were paid. A special Board meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2011 starting at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the Fire & EMS Personnel issue and the lakefront park site plan.

Adjourn: There being no other business the Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 6:50p.m.

Mary Dort,
Almira Township Clerk