**Almira Township**

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

**I.** Supervisor Roper **called the meeting to order at 6 pm** at the Almira Township Hall 19639 Maple Street, Lake Ann

**II.** **Pledge to the Flag Recited**

**III. Roll Call**

*Present: Tammy Clous, Mandy Gray Rineer, Mark Roper, Matt Therrien, Lori Florip*

**IV. Additions/Deletions to Meeting Agenda:** Under New Business add: B. Michigan CLASS; C. Park Benches; D. Website Quotes; E. Fire & EMS Resignations; F. Benzie Conservation District; G. Noise Ordinance; H. Zoning Administrator Hours

**V. Approval of Meeting Agenda:** *Motion by* Therrien, supported by Rineer, to approve the meeting agenda as amended. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.

**VI. Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Motion by* Rineer, supported by Therrien, to approve the consent agenda as presented. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.

**VII. Treasurer’s Report**

*Treasurer MG Rineer provided the Financial Report for the end of September-2023.*

**VIII. Brief Public Input:**  Troy Hinds, Manager of the Benzie County Road Commission presented the Board with a financial packet covering the previous few years.

**IX. County Commissioners**

Commissioner Art Jeannot presented a written report and asked for questions. Art also stated that the County had received a $400,000 grant to pave the trail from Beulah to Thompsonville with a material that snow mobiles can ride on.

**X. Dept. Heads:**

Tom Vinette, Chairman of the Recreational Resources Committee, wanted to remind residents that it is hunting season so please wear your orange while outside. Tom will be working on the subcommittee regarding Ransom Lake and will be meeting with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to review ideas. Jerry Morse will be working on the subcommittee regarding the dog park. Jerry Morse stated that he and a second Committee member, Christina, walked the park to get ideas for location of the dog park, bathrooms, and concession area. Jerry stated that the bathrooms and concession area were a bigger project than what the Committee had expertise on and was beyond the Committee’s scope. Jerry stated that he is working on getting some specialized help with the dog park and would like to have a subcommittee meeting on 10/25/2023 before the Regular Recreational Resources Committee meeting. Jerry also stated that the Board should leave pickleball and tennis courts both on the current courts.

Chief Drury reported that for the month of September, the department responded to a total of 25 incidents including: 17 ambulance requests in Almira Township, 1 grass fire, 2 residential fire alarms, 1 motor vehicle accident, 2 assists to Inland Township, 1 assist to Long Lake Township, and 1 event standby (Ironman). Two members will be taking Firefighter I & II training in December. Trunk or Treat will be held at the station on October 31st.

**XI. Village report:** No report, and is to be removed from future agendas.

**XII. Guests:** None

**XIII. Old Business:**

1. **Mistwood Greens:** All twelve units that had been offered have been sold. Thanks to Lakaila Streeter for all your great work so far. Lakaila presented information on the rest of the property for the Board to review.
2. **Master Plan:** Clerk Clous received an email from Mathew Cooke from Networks Northwest stating that the 2020 census information still has not been delivered. Mathew should be sending her a timeline to follow to get the Master Plan approved without this information.
3. **Townhall Steps:** Updated plan drawings were presented with discussion taking place. *Motion by* Clous, supported by Therrien, to have Brian Ross stamp the drawings and for Roper to work on getting bids for the project. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.
4. **ARPA Funds:** This will be discussed at the Special Meeting already scheduled for Wednesday, October 11th at 10:00 a.m.
5. **Tennis/Pickle Ball Resurfaced:** Resurfacing the courts will cost between $25,000 and $30,000 depending on other options that need to be decided. Discussion took place with the consensus that Roper is to contact HENCO to get our name on the list for resurfacing work and to have HENCO present drawings of how lines on one (1) tennis court and three (3) pickleball courts would be after the resurfacing is done.

**XIV. New Business**

1. **November 7th Election:** Clous presented the recommendations from the Township Election Commission. *Motion by* Therrien, supported by Florip, to approve the recommendations from the Township Election Commission for the Precinct Election Inspectors; the Absent Voter Counting Board Election Inspectors; the Receiving Board; and to allow for the purchase of two meals for inspectors spending up to $400.00. Roll call vote was as follows; Clous, aye; Therrien, aye; Rineer, aye; Florip, aye; Roper, aye. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.
2. **Michigan CLASS:** Rineer informed the Board that this is an investment company that Benzie County uses along with some of the other townships in the county. Discussion took place. *Motion by* Therrien, supported by Florip, to get the Township enrolled in Michigan CLASS and report back at the next meeting on options offered. Roll call vote was as follows: Florip, aye; Therrien, aye; Rineer, aye; Clous, aye; Roper, aye. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.
3. **Park Benches:** Rineer stated that the Township had previously purchased bench brackets in bulk and had not used them. The Lake Ann Village Council is looking to put some more benches in Burnett Park and she suggested that the Township sell to the Village two (2) sets of bench brackets at a total cost of $398.40. Discussion took place. *Motion by* Clous, supported by Therrien, to allow the Village of Lake Ann to purchase two (2) sets of bench brackets at a total cost of $398.40. Roll call vote was as follows: Florip, abstained; Rineer, aye; Clous, aye; Therrien, aye; Roper, aye. One abstained, four (4) ayes, no nays, motion passed.
4. **Website Quotes:** Rineer stated that she would like to see the website updated and she had talked with one designer at this point. She asked the Board for how they would like to proceed with this topic. Discussion took place with consensus that Rineer be authorized to move ahead with this subject and to get a total of three quotes.
5. **Fire & EMS Resignations:** Chief Drury had presented the Board with resignation emails from both Scott and Sasha Moore. *Motion by* Therrien, supported by Rineer, to accept the resignations of Scott and Sasha Moore, with regrets. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.
6. **Benzie Conservation District:**Roper explained this request with discussion taking place. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Therrien, to have Roper sign a letter of support for the Benzie Conservation District to the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program Committee. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.
7. **Noise Ordinance:**ZA Preston presented the Board with proposed changes to the Noise Ordinance, Section 4. Discussion took place. *Motion by* Clous, supported by Florip, to approve the Noise Ordinance amendments as presented below:

***Proposed Amendment (13 September 2023) of Noise Ordinance, Section 4***

Noises and sounds, which are determined to be violations of this ordinance, include, without limitation, the following:

(a) Playing or using a radio, phonograph, compact disc player, tape player, television, musical instrument, sound amplifier, or other electronic or mechanical sound producing device in such a manner or with such volume that it unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of any reasonable person of normal sensitivities.

(b) Yelling, shouting, hooting, singing, or sounding or using any horn, siren, whistle or bell, or making other noise that because of its volume, frequency, or shrillness unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of any reasonable person of normal sensitivities or unreasonably annoys or disturbs the well-being of any animal.

(c) Sounding or using any horn, siren, whistle, bell or other warning device on a boat or motor vehicle in a manner that unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of any reasonable person of normal sensitivities, unless the sounding or use of such horn, siren, whistle, bell or other warning device and the manner of such sounding or use is authorized by the state motor vehicle code or other state law.

(d) Revving up the engine of a motor vehicle or boat in such a manner or with such volume or frequency or at such time of the day that it unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of any reasonable person of normal sensitivities.

(e) Keeping one or more dogs that bark continuously over a lengthy period of time that unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of any reasonable person of normal sensitivities.

All ayes, no nays, motion passed.

1. **Zoning Administrator Hours:** Roper stated that he would like to see the ZA in the office every day and has talked with Kate about this. The currently proposed hours for the winter would be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m. with an additional four (4) hours added on Mondays during the summer. Discussion took place with the consensus being that Roper was her supervisor and hours could be changed as needed.

**XV. Extended Public Input:** Art Jeannot stated that he had heard that Honor Bank was getting more competitive with interest rates if Rineer wanted to also check that out. He also stated that he had talked with our local state representatives about the nine (9) days of early voting and the concerns that the local clerks were having. Tom Vinette stated that about 50% of Herendeene Lake is covered with an invasive plant species. Bill Haggard thanked the Board for working so well together, good job.

**XVI. Board Comments:** Rineer stated concerns with the Ragnar group and their lack of communication with the Township, many of the same concerns as last year that were not addressed. Clous stated that the new election drop box has been installed and a security camera showing it has been installed also. Therrien stated that he will not be at the November meeting. Florip stated that it is great to have ZA Preston at the Planning Commission meetings. She also stated that she has watched Lakaila Streeter work and is highly impressed with her. Florip stated that the November Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled. Roper thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**XVII. Adjourn:** Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.