

**Minutes from the
Almira Township Board Regular Meeting
September 12, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

Trustee Giddis called the meeting of the Almira Township Board to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Almira Township Fire & EMS Facility.

Trustee Giddis led the Pledge to the Flag.

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

Additions/Deletions to Meeting Agenda by Board and Citizens: Under Old Business add Item D. Recreation Millage

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

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

1. Approve minutes of Regular Board meeting held August 8, 2011 and Special Board meeting held August 29, 2011.
2. Budget amendments for the month of September 2011: None
3. Approve payment of check #'s 32547 – 32656. 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:	No Report
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 8-9-11
 - E-mail from Marilyn Dezelski dated 8-15-11
 - Fresh Wind Christian Community Note received 9-12-11All ayes, motion passed.

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

Brief Public Input: None

Guests:

Carol Navarro, Benzie Conservation District gave a presentation about the Emerald Ash Borer Community Action Plan.

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Mark Roper, Benzie County Commissioner, reported on the following: State discussing doing away with personal property tax; alternating way State purchases land. County budget is available for review; had to borrow from delinquent tax fund to balance this budget; Benzie Bus project is 90% done and an open house is planned in November; two members of the County recreation committee are working with the Point Betsie Lighthouse Friends on improving parking area(s); Mark also gave an EDC update; and the Bob Blank law suit is scheduled to be heard in Appeals Court in 2012.

Gene Mayo, Benzie County Emergency Management, informed the Board of grant cycle changes in Homeland Security grants; grants are getting more competitive; he requested a letter of support to increase his hours in his Emergency Management position at the County level. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Giddis, to have the Fire & EMS Chief write a letter of support and that it be reviewed by the Board before being submitted. All ayes, motion passed.

Carol Poulisse read her letter of resignation and talked about why she was resigning.

Larry Poulisse read his letter of resignation and talked about why he was resigning. There were no additional remarks from the Fire & EMS Chief about these letters of resignation.

Sue White blessed the Poulisse's for being on the department and stated this was a computer issue and to not accept either resignation.

Rick Drewyour commented that a lot of years of experience would be lost with these resignations.

Phil Feiger stated that the State doesn't really care who fills out the computer report.

Diana Nolan stated that there was a need to work something out.

Gene Mayo stated that the computer documentation is done towards standardized reports for State reporting.

Kent Gray suggested a committee be set up to investigate this.

Amy Rosa stated that someone should look at all resignations from the last year, is there something wrong with management?

Motion by Giddis, and supported by Campeau, to establish an ad hoc committee to look at the requirements. All ayes, motion passed. Kirt Giddis, Mary Dort, Craig Johnson, Jennifer Koscielski and Jim Morse Jr. volunteered to be on this ad hoc committee.

Motion by Campeau, and supported by Nolan, to table the Poulisse's resignations until getting a report from the ad-hoc committee. All ayes, motion passed.

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Carol Poulisse talked about the history of the ambulance service and would like some history items to be on display at the Almira Historical Society Fire Barn.

Ann Beaujean, Chairperson of the Almira Citizens for Preservation, presented information asking for a time line for the lakefront park project, could we set up some meetings and asked where the project is currently at. A committee of members from the Board, Citizens group and Recreational Resources Committee was set up to work on upcoming issues and progress with lakefront park.

Old Business:

- A. Veterans Memorial Signs:** Trustee Giddis stated that the additional proposals were not available yet. No action was taken.
- B. Payroll Issues:** Discussion took place regarding the information presented and additional information was requested. This issue will be put on next meeting agenda that is scheduled.
- C. Fire & EMS Officer Positions:** The Officer positions were reviewed. *Motion by* Dort, and supported by Nolan, to appoint Steve Adams as Assistant Chief with it being reviewed in January of 2013. Ayes: Giddis, Dort and Nolan. Nays: Campeau. Absent: Bates. Motion passed. *Motion by* Nolan, and supported by Giddis, to appoint Anthony Wolff as Captain with it being reviewed in January of 2012. Ayes: Dort, Giddis and Nolan. Nays: Campeau. Absent: Bates. Motion passed.
- D. Recreation Millage:** Clerk Dort informed the Board that if the Township had an issue on the November ballot, the Township would be paying for the entire election. If the Township did not have an issue on the November ballot, the schools would be paying for the election. Trust Giddis also expressed some concern he had from residents about the additional millage being asked for. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Nolan, the remove the recreation millage request from the November 2011 ballot. All ayes, Bates absent, motion passed

New Business:

- A. Non-Charter Township Resolution:** Resolution No. 9-1 of 2011 was read by Trustee Giddis. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Giddis, to adopt resolution 9-1 of 2011 as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Nolan, aye; Dort, aye; Campeau aye; Giddis aye. No nays, Bates absent, motion passed. Trustee Giddis declared the resolution adopted.
- B. Treasurer's Old Computer:** *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Nolan, to declare the Treasurer's computer and surplus and to dispose of it. All ayes, Bates absent, motion passed.
- C. New Transformer for Park:** Trustee Giddis has talked with Cherryland Electric about setting a new transformer in the park. The cost would be \$3,800 plus additional expenses for setting the meter, any upgrades to the electrical panel and asphalt repair work. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Nolan, to add the transformer to the park with the Veterans Memorial Committee paying \$1,000 and

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the balance will come from the park and general funds to cover the \$3,800. All ayes, Bates absent, motion passed.

D. Resignation from Fire & EMS Department: *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Giddis, to accept the resignation for Ryan Walters from the Fire & EMS Department with regrets. All ayes, Bates absent, motion passed.

E. Fire & EMS SOP Change: Chief Morse presented the information. *Motion by* Campeau, and supported by Giddis, to approve the change to the SOPs as amended. Under the applicant section the second bullet point under Qualifications will now read as follows: Reside in coverage area or within a reasonable distance from coverage area. All ayes, Bates absent, motion passed.

Extended Public Input:

Mark Roper thanked the Board for setting up the ad hoc committees.

Board Comments:

Trustee Nolan informed the Board that the Planning Commission was sending the mass assembly ordinance back to the Board. She also stated that work could be done about looking into required grant information.

Clerk Dort stated the November election would see the electronic poll book being used for the first time and that she needs to train the election inspectors on it.

Trustee Giddis stated that the pile of scrap metal in his front yard had all be taken to the recycling place and earned the Veterans Memorial fund just under \$1,000.

Adjourn: There being no other business Trustee Giddis adjourned the meeting at 10:22p.m.

Mary Dort,
Almira Township Clerk