

Almira Township

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024

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: Item L: Clean Up Day

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

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Therrien, supported by Rineer, to approve the consent agenda as amended by adding the Annual Library report. All ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.

VII. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer MG Rineer provided the Financial Report for the end of March 2024.

VIII. **Brief Public Input:** Derek Smith urged the Board to go to a bid process for clean up day. Art Jeannot stated that he had petitions for anyone wanting to sign them regarding putting solar panels and windmills being regulated at the local level on the ballot.

IX. County Commissioners

Commissioner Art Jeannot stated that the County Commissioners amended the County budget to allow for three (3) more corrections officers to be hired at the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department will have a millage proposal on the ballot this year. Art also stated that the Headlee Taxation Board members should be approved at the next Commissioners meeting.

X. Dept. Heads:

Tom Vinette, Chairman of the Recreational Resources Committee, stated that the Rec. Committee has made some progress on projects. Chirstina Steele has complied a material list for constructing six (6) dug outs which could cost between \$6,000 and \$8,300, the dog park has been staked out and Lori Florip will be getting quotes, the Recreation Plan is being compared to the draft Master Plan by Martha Redick. Tom also stated that he will be checking out a bridge/walk way over some wet land area in Leelanau County that was put in by a local Youth Group.

Fire Chief Drury reported that for the month of March, the Department responded to a total of 19 incidents. He also reported that the engine is in South Dakota for the warranty paint work, all of the equipment was removed from the engine before it left for warranty paint work, the station generator is scheduled for annual service work this week, 1 SCBA was repaired under warranty work.

XI. **Guests:** None

XII. Old Business:

- A. Master Plan:** Public Hearing hopefully will be at the May Planning Commission meeting.
- B. ARPA Funds and Townhall Steps:** Roper stated that bids for the new park bathrooms are due April 9th by 3 p.m., and discussion took place regarding scheduling a Special meeting to open these bids. The Special meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, April 17th, at 9:30 a.m. at the Township office.
- C. Website Quotes:** Rineer stated that the current provider is phasing out this part of their business so more changes will be coming.
- D. Social Security and Pension:** Clous stated that she has not heard from the Social Security Office, nor another Township Clerk who she had contacted.
- E. Recreational Plan:** The Recreational Plan is being compared to the draft Master Plan.
- F. Millage Renewals:** Resolution 4-2024 #1 was read by Therrien. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Clous, to adopt Resolution Submitting to a Vote of the Electorate a Special Millage Renewal for Fire & EMS Equipment and Apparatus Replacement, 4-2024 #1 as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Rineer, aye; Clous, aye; Florip, aye; Therrien, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed. Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Resolution 4-2024 #2 was read by Rineer. *Motion by* Clous, supported by Rineer, to adopt Resolution Submitting to a Vote of the Electorate a Special Millage Renewal for Improvements, Maintenance, Operations, and Developments at All Township Recreational Facilities as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Therrien, aye; Florip, aye; Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Roper, aye, all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed. Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.
- G. 2024 Elections:** Clous stated that some Benzie County Township Clerks would be consolidating elections after the last Township Clerks meeting at the County.
- H. Ransom Lake Grant:** The Recreational Passport Grant through the DNR has been submitted.

XIII. New Business

- A. 210 Tanker Funds:** *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Clous, to rescind the motion made at the March 13, 2023 meeting. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Therrien, aye; Florip, aye; Roper aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- B. Recycling Site Lease Renewal:** Discussion took place. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Clous, to sign the two (2) year Site Lease Renewal contract with Benzie County Recycling. Roll call vote was as follows: Florip, aye; Therrien, aye; Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- C. Computers:** Discussion took place. *Motion by* Roper, supported by Rineer, to purchase one computer for the radio room at the Fire Dept., and one computer for the Assessor. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Therrien, aye; Rineer, aye; Florip, aye; Roper aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- D. Depository Letter:** Rineer read the letter stating that the Township will continue using Honor Bank, Huntington Bank and Michigan Class as the Almira Township depositories for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

- E. Maintenance Tools:** Discussion took place. *Motion by* Roper, supported by Rineer, to purchase an electric chainsaw and an electric weed whacker for less than \$2,500.00. Roll call vote was as follows: Florip, aye; Rineer, aye; Therrien, aye; Clous, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- F. Maple Grove Paving:** Discussion took place. *Motion by* Therrien, supported by Rineer, to approve the contract with the Benzie County Road Commission to pave areas in the Maple Grove Subdivision in the amount of \$107,700.87 and to have Supervisor Roper sign the contract. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Therrien, aye; Florip, aye; Roper, aye, all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- G. Assessor Mapping and Adobe:** Discussion took place. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Clous, to purchase on-X and Adobe professional software. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Florip, aye; Therrien, aye; Rineer, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- H. Office Generator:** Discussion took place and Roper is to look into hooking the office up to the Fire & EMS Dept. generator.
- I. Insurance for Department:** Discussion took place. Additional information should be coming per Chief Drury. Roper stated that he has been doing some comparisons. More information and discussion will take place at the Special Meeting scheduled for April 17th.
- J. Brush Truck Repairs:** Chief Drury explained what issues needed repair with discussion taking place regarding options.
- K. Purchase Hose and Gear:** *Motion by* Clous, supported by Rineer, to purchase two (2) sets of gear, hoses and fillings spending up to \$11,500.00. Roll call vote was as follows: Therrien, aye; Rineer, aye; Clous, aye; Florip, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- L. Clean Up Day:** Rineer stated that Township Clean Up Day will be on May 4, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Township Park. She explained what previous costs and gate fees had been with discussion taking place. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Therrien, to set the gate fee at \$30.00. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Florip, aye; Rineer, aye; Therrien, nay; Roper, aye; four (4) ayes, one (1) nay, no one absent, motion passed.

XIV. Extended Public Input: Art Jeannot just wanted to remind people that he has the petitions he discussed earlier in the meeting if anyone would like to sign them. Chase, from Honor Bank, stated he has contacts for web site designers and computers; suggested leasing equipment to others when equipment is not being used; look into security for server room; might look into purchasing items that other grant receivers might be not needing. Derek Smith wanted to check on the dates for the millages.

XV. Board Comments: Therrien stated that he is not in favor of NMC annexing Benzie County and adding an over 2 mil tax increase to Benzie residents.

XVI. Adjourn: Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.