

ALPENA TOWNSHIP – BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION – June 26, 2017 – 6 pm
MINUTES

The Alpena Township Board of Trustees met in Regular session on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 6 pm at the Alpena Township Offices, 4385 US 23 North, Alpena, Michigan.

Present: Supervisor Nathan Skibbe
Treasurer Laura L. Ellery-Somers
Clerk Karie K. Bleau
Trustee Norm Poli
Trustee Matt Dunckel
Trustee Nate Thomson

Absent: Trustee Cash Kroll

Others present: Attorney Tim Gulden

Media Present: None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Poli to adopt the agenda with additions. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Don Duvall of 117 Channel Road # 1 requests that the Township add a grass cutting ordinance to the blight ordinance. He informed the Board that the South Side clean-up day is scheduled for July 26th 5-7 pm. The South Bay Corridor group is collaborating with the Kiwanis Club for the Clean-up Day. Members of the South Bay Corridor group have sprayed weed killer on the Bi path. City of Alpena has offered the use of their sweeper to clean up the intersections after the clean-up day. He also requests that the Township use our sweeper to clean the Bi path. Past improvements to Frog Road were donated by local businesses and the DNR did the work. They are working on signage at the entrance to the park. They would like the Township's consent to install picnic tables at the park at the end of Frog Road.

Gary Partyka addressed the Board regarding some areas of concern in the South Corridor in relation to the number of vehicles that are around businesses.

MINUTES APPROVED: A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Dunckel to approve the minutes from May 22, 2017 as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Thomson to pay the bills as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery Somers, Trustee Dunckel, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Alpena Township - Planning Commission - Minutes - June 12, 2017, Personnel Committee minutes - June 5 & 19, 2017, Finance Committee Minutes June 8 & 22, 2017, Letter Regarding Recycling Surcharge Opt Out, Alpena Power Notice of Opportunity to Comment, NEMCOG – Joint Land Use Study, Alpena Agency – Township Insurance Bid, Charter Communications – Franchise Agreement. A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Dunckel to allow the Supervisor to sign the Franchise Agreement for Charter Communications pending attorney review. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. A motion was made by Clerk Bleau and supported by Trustee Dunckel to receive and file all correspondence. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Clerk Bleau informed the Board of Trustees that the audit of the phone services for the Township are complete and she believes that the Township is overpaying and duplicating services. Clerk Bleau has asked 1010 Technology to analyze the data and provide specifications for what is really needed so that we can seek bids from the providers of service and hardware. Bleau will advise the Board of the information received from 1010 Technology. A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Poli to table the phone audit and potential changes/specifications until the July 24th meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Ellery Somers requests the Board of Trustees permission to attend the MTA Conference for Treasurer's in Frankenmuth, MI on July 25th and 26, 2017. A motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Poli to pay for the conference, hotel and mileage for the Treasurer to attend the MTA Conference on July 25th and 26, 2017 in Frankenmuth and extend the same training offer to the new Trustees, Clerk and Supervisor. Trustee Poli recommends that the new Trustees, Clerk and Supervisor attend these conferences if possible. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Larry Clark of the South Bay Corridor group addressed the Board regarding the need for a new letter of support. Discussion from the Board revealed that the 2014 letter of support can stand with the current Board for the pre-engineering, design and survey for the Bi-Path extension. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Larry Clark of the South Bay Corridor group requests that the Board appoint a member of the Board of Trustees and an Alternate to the South Bay Steering Committee. A Motion was made by Treasurer Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Thomson to appoint Clerk Bleau as the liaison to the South Bay Corridor Steering Committee, with Supervisor Skibbe acting as the alternate. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution - Support Stopping Transportation of Oil under the Great Lakes via Line 5. A Motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Dunckel to support stopping transportation of oil under the Great Lakes via Line 5. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Supervisor

Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Nature Preserve - Allocation of Funds. A Motion was made by Clerk Bleau and supported by Treasurer Ellery-Somers to allow Supervisor Skibbe and Trustee Dunckel to function as the contact persons and fiduciary for the Nature Preserve for this year. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: Motion carried.

Alpena Biker Coalition - Request to be recognized as a Non-Profit in our Community. A Motion was made by Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Poli to recognize the Alpena Biker Coalition as a non-profit group in our community. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

MTA Principles of Governance. A Motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Thomson to participate in the Principles of Governance and put it on the web site. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Michigan Township Participating Plan - Board of Director Election Ballot. A motion was made By Trustee Dunckel and supported by Trustee Thomson to have Treasurer Ellery-Somers research the candidates and vote on behalf of the Board with preference to Kathleen Vichuanus. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

June as Bicycle Awareness Month Proclamation. A Motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Dunckel to support the June as Bicycle Awareness Month Proclamation in collaboration with the City of Alpena. Supervisor Skibbe and Mayor Waligora will sign the proclamation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MTA-PAC - Donation Request. Discussion revealed that this request is an individual donation request as the Township cannot donate.

Department Reports:

Building Dept.: Interim Building Official Jerry Bleau informed the Board the reports for Building permits are in the Board of Trustee members packets. He is available to answer questions. None of the Trustees asked questions.

Water Dept.: DPW Director Jerry Bleau addressed the Board regarding the proposal from C2AE for updating the water and construction standards. A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Dunckel to accept the proposal from C2AE to update the water & sewer ordinances and construction standards for \$2,500 for each portion – not to exceed \$6,000.00. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Dunckel, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion Carried.

First Amendment to Tower Space Agreement. A motion was made by Treasurer Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Thomson that the Board of Trustees approve the first amendment to the tower space agreement. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau,

Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Deputy Chief Dave Robbins informed the Board of the run reports for both stations – these are in line with prior months. Non-emergency transports are steadily increasing. Deputy Chief Robbins informed the Board that he has submitted three grant applications for AED units. Chief Robbins reports that he submitted a letter to the Chairman of the Alpena County Board of Commissioners stating our interest in an ambulance that the City of Alpena is retiring. He further reports that Mr. Habermehl stated that there is a great likely we will be eligible to receive the unit as they have not received any other requests. Deputy Chief Robbins is seeking funding for extrication gear for the department – he is investigating the costs and availability of the gear.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

DISCUSSION: None

CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Dunckel to move into closed session to discuss trial and settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation, because discussing the issue in an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the Township. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Thomson to move into open session. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Poli to authorize the Township attorneys and the Township Supervisor to pursue the proceedings recommended by the Township Attorney during the closed session, and to take such other actions as they deem will serve the interests of the Township and its citizens in the pending litigation. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Thomson to move into closed session to consider a confidential written legal opinion from the Township Attorney, which is material that is subject to the attorney-client privilege and is material that is exempt from disclosure by the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Roll call vote was taken. Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported Trustee Poli to move into open session. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Dunckel, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Treasurer Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Thomson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Karie K. Bleau
Alpena Township Clerk