

BLAIR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting

September 8, 2020

6:00PM

APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Blair Township Board of Trustees was held in person and via ZOOM on September 8, 2020, called to order by Supervisor Blonshine at 6:01 pm.

OPENING CEREMONIES: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL: Members present were Kucera, Wolfgang, Blonshine, Fitzpatrick, Fleis, Zeits and Campbell. Also in attendance were Emergency Services Director Eric Somsel, Fire Chief Bill Parker and fifteen (15) guests.

BRIEF PUBLIC INPUT: There was none.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Board member Wolfgang asked to add the following items to the agenda

New Business item I. Payroll Tax Deferral

J. Center for Tech and Civic Life Covid 19 Response Grant

Moved by Fitzpatrick second by Zeits to approve agenda with additions.

Yes: Fleis, Kucera, Fitzpatrick, Zeits, Campbell, Blonshine and Wolfgang. **No:** None. **Motion carried.**

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None stated.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL REPORT:

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Ron Clous reported that the commission has abolished the affordable housing trust fund and replaced it *with* a home rehab trust fund. He also reported on the Senior Center millage and stated that the county offices are open by appointment only.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Officer Karczewski gave his report.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION: Andy Marek reported on the construction project that will begin soon at LaFranier and Hammond and the issues with Bluff Road in Peninsula Township. He also spoke regarding the roundabout that will be built at River Road.

Wade Trim: No engineer present.

Operation Services Report: Report submitted.

Treasurer Report: Board member Campbell gave her report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from East Bay Township informing the board of their intent to amend their Master Plan.

Supervisor Blonshine reported that the first reimbursement from the state on the PFAS grant has been received. She stated that she should find out this week if the Township will receive the CARES Act grant money for hazard pay for Emergency Services employees.

Board member Campbell stated that a \$7,500.00 grant which is another part of the CARES Act was received. This money replaced the CVT Revenue Sharing that the Township receives but it restricted to COVID related expenses.

Supervisor Blonshine reminded everyone to read the Operation Services report which includes issues at the Iron Removal Plant, again.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

FUND	CHECK NUMBERS	TOTALS	REPORTS
Pooled Operating	#4171-4257	\$ 122,642.63	Emergency Services Report
Trust & Agency Fund	#1058	\$ 100.00	Water Dept. Report
Tax Account	#6586-6592	\$ 209,876.35	Minutes Regular Meeting
Payroll Check	#1575-1584	\$ 20,929.91	August 11, 2020
Direct Deposits/EFT		\$ 95,569.74	

Supervisor Blonshine wanted the minutes to reflect the following answer given by Andy Marek when she asked what benefit it was to GTCRC to take over a state road. His answer was “the commission will receive a substantial increase in revenue from the state on a road that they are already maintaining”.

Moved by Fitzpatrick second by Zeits to approve the consent calendar with corrections to August 11, 2020 minutes. **Yes:** Wolfgang, Fleis, Fitzpatrick, Blonshine, Campbell, Kucera and Zeits. **No:** None. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update on Tax Foreclosure Auction – Luanne Lane Property

Supervisor Blonshine and Board member Campbell explained that they have been in contact with the county treasurer, who has consulted with the county’s legal counsel, and they recommend because of pending legislation, that the Township let this property go to auction. The county treasurer will take out a surety bond so that if the property does sell the “dangerous building” will be demolished and the property cleaned up. If the property does not sell, the Township may have the opportunity to purchase it at a second auction.

Moved by Blonshine second by Fitzpatrick to take the advice of the county treasurer and county legal counsel and hold off on the purchase of the Luanne Lane tax foreclosed property. **Yes:** Fleis, Kucera, Wolfgang, Blonshine, Zeits, Fitzpatrick and Campbell. **No:** None. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Ceremony for Newly Elected Fire Captain

Emergency Services Director Somsel spoke regarding the interview committee and the candidates for this position. Chief Parker made the announcement that Dan Kreft was chosen for the position and introduced Dan's former Fire Chief Rick Royston who spoke in praise of Dan's ability and work ethic. Dan was then sworn in by the Clerk and his wife Rochelle and daughter Gabriella pinned on his bugles with some help from EMS Coordinator Grant Johnson.

B. Jason Torrey – 911 Surcharge Increase on November Ballot

Grand Traverse County Central Dispatch Director Jason Torrey spoke regarding the millage request that will be on the November ballot.

C. Hiring GIS for Station Study

Emergency Services Director Somsel reported that he has gathered some information on this subject but still needs more. He presented a proposal from a firm that could assist with this for approximately \$25,000.00. He is recommending we hire Cassie Przybylski as an independent contractor. Cassie has a Professional Certificate in GIS from MSU, and has the software available to obtain the needed information.

Moved by Wolfgang second by Blonshine to hire Cassie Przybylski as an independent contractor at \$20.00 per hour, up to \$2000.00, to obtain the information needed for this station study. **Yes:** Blonshine, Kucera, Wolfgang, Fleis, Zeits, Fitzpatrick and Campbell. **No:** None. **Motion Carried.**

D. Reporting Software Agreement

Emergency Services Director Somsel presented quotes from two different companies. He explained that the new software will replace both EMS Charts and Firehouse.

Moved by Wolfgang second by Fleis to approve the purchase of ImageTrend Reporting Software for Fire and EMS reporting. **Yes:** Fitzpatrick, Campbell, Fleis, Kucera, Blonshine, Zeits and Wolfgang. **No:** None. **Motion carried.**

E. In House Emergency Services Billing

Emergency Services Director Somsel presented his comparison on cost to hire someone versus staying with Accumend. He also presented his expected benefits of hiring someone to do billing in house.

Moved by Blonshine second by Fitzpatrick to approve hiring Kim DeLeon as a part-time employee to perform in house billing for Emergency Services. **Yes:** Zeits, Fleis, Blonshine, Campbell, Wolfgang, Fitzpatrick and Kucera. **No:** None. **Motion carried.**

F. Billing Software Agreement

Emergency Services Director Somsel presented quotes from the same companies he received quotes from for the reporting software and made his recommendation.

Moved by Wolfgang second by Fleis to approve the purchase of ImageTrend billing software for Emergency Services billing. **Yes:** Fleis, Zeits, Wolfgang, Blonshine, Kucera, Campbell and Fitzpatrick. **No:** None. **Motion carried.**

G. Discussion Regarding State Required “Designated Assessor”

Supervisor Blonshine stated that the county has not taken action on this yet, so it will be on next month’s agenda again.

H. Township Credit Cards

Board member Wolfgang stated that she has had Eric Darling removed as an authorized user and added Cindy Wicksall, deputy clerk as a contact for billing questions. The credit union would like to issue additional cards to us for the treasurer, clerk and deputy clerk. Board member Wolfgang feels this is unnecessary, as we have to two cards with just the Township’s name on them, that any employee can use.

Moved by Wolfgang second by Kucera to stay with just the credit cards we currently have, Nicole Blonshine, Bill Parker, Eric Somsel and the two in just the Township’s name. **Yes:** Fitzpatrick, Wolfgang, Zeits, Campbell, Kucera, Blonshine and Fleis. **No:** None. **Motion carried.**

I. Payroll Tax Deferral

Board member Wolfgang referred to the president’s August 8 memorandum directing the Treasury Department to defer the payment of the employee portion on Social Security Tax. This deferral is voluntary and the decision to defer is up to the employer. There are still unanswered questions about this deferral and board member Wolfgang said it could become a bookkeeping nightmare.

Moved by Blonshine second by Fleis to not participate in the payroll tax deferral. **Yes:** Kucera, Blonshine, Zeits, Wolfgang, Fleis, Fitzpatrick and Campbell. **No:** None. Motion carried.

J. Center for Tech and Civic Life Covid 19 Response Grant

Board member Wolfgang reported that the Center for Tech and Civic Life is offering grant money to local election jurisdictions to help ensure that they have the resources needed to safely serve every voter in 2020. She stated that she needs the board’s authorization to apply for this grant.

Moved by Blonshine second by Zeits to authorize board member Wolfgang to apply for the grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life. **Yes:** Blonshine, Campbell, Fleis, Kucera, Wolfgang, Zeits and Fitzpatrick. **No:** None. Motion carried.

Extended Public Input: There was none.

Adjournment at 07:33PM

Lynette Wolfgang
Township Clerk