

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

DATE: AUGUST 10, 2021

TIME: 7:00 pm

PLACE: BEAR LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER

1. Call to Order: Bud called the meeting to order at 7:05pm with 15 public in attendance.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was said.
3. Roll Call of Officers: Banker, Havens, David, Knight, and Dixon in attendance, none absent.
4. Adoption of Agenda: With the addition of section 9, A Department of Veterans Affairs, B MTA Principals of Government, C Township Federal Procurement Conflict of Interest Policy, and D Township Insurance, a motion was made to adopt by Havens and supported by Dixon, all aye motion passed.
5. Adoption of CONSENT AGENDA: Motion made by Knight and supported by Dixon, all aye motion passed.
 - A. Minutes of Previous Meeting 7-13-2021
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - C. Payment of Bills
6. Public Input:

Jerry from the Recycling Board talked about the recycling trailers. He told us he will be attending the DPW meeting on the 18 to address the removal of the recycling trailers and attempt to get them back.

Bud explained the problems with the recycling and the trash that is left, he suggested the trailers be switched out twice a week.

Jerry suggested that red garbage bags be sold locally for ease of purchase and to help eliminate garbage.

Havens reported that garbage bags are being set out on East Bear Lake Rd. by the township property for pickup, which should not be happening, it should be in front of the residence for pickup and if it is not in a red bag they will not pick it up.

Public comment, they will not recycle without the trailer in place.

Jerry questioned the Board about Hillcrest Blvd and if the Township received any money to repair East Bear Lake Rd.

Bud responded that the Township does not receive money for county road maintenance. And that he talk to the County Road Commission about repairing Hillcrest Blvd. He was told an Environmental Study would need to be done before they would proceed. The study would be paid for by the township at the cost of \$17,000 which the township cannot afford.

Knight suggested that residence go to the Road Commission meeting, they do listen to the public and it can help move things forward.

Public asked if flashing lights can be put out by the Fire Department so cars will stop to let the emergency vehicles out on the road.

Deputy Chief Beth Redmond said they are very careful when pulling out on the road.
7. Township Reports:

A. Assessor Report: Sally gave to following report to the Board.

The July Board of Review (BOR) met on Tuesday July 20th at 6:00 pm at the Township Community Center. The board processed action on twelve parcels. The majority of actions involved PRE (Principal Residence Exemption)/"homestead" exemption(s).

Per statute, the BOR can make corrections to the PRE for the current year and the immediately three (3) years.

The PRE exemption relieves taxpayers of the 18.000 Mills of School Operating Tax. Taxpayers are generally entitled to claim only ONE exemption. Some special circumstances exist which allow more than one PRE-namely, when a conditional rescission is filed. A conditional rescission allows a PRE to remain on a former Michigan PRE while the property is for sale; is not occupied; is not leased; and is not used for commercial purposes. In order for a conditional rescission to be enacted, the property owner must have filed a new PRE for another Michigan property.

PRE's are audited annually by three entities: Bear Lake Township via the Assessing Office; the Kalkaska County Equalization Department; and the Michigan Department of Treasury. Each entity has the authority to deny existing exemptions for the current year and the immediately prior three (3) years. Denials are subject to significant interest and penalties. In addition, if a person claims a Michigan PRE and also a substantially similar exemption, deduction, or credit in another state, that person is subject to a penalty of \$ 500.00.

Denials can be challenged. Taxpayers have the right to appeal local denials (the assessing office and county equalization office denials) to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Appeals of a Department of Treasury Denial are appealed directly to the Department of Treasury.

If you believe someone is receiving a PRE exemption for which they're ineligible, contact one of the three auditing agencies, as identified above. Inquiries forwarded to my office remain confidential.

AMAR Update:

I am scheduled to meet with the AMAR auditor on August 18, 2021. I will keep you updated on the results.

B. County Commissioner: Not in attendance.

C. Sheriff Dept. Report: Deputy Tony Ngirarsaol gave a verbal and written report for the month of July. The Board asked for the reports to include addresses, mileage, hours, watercraft, ATV, and snowmobile.

D. Fire Dept. Report: Deputy Chief Beth Redmond gave a verbal and written report for Fire and Rescue for July. She reminded us about the 42nd Annual Chicken BBQ on Sunday September 5th from 11:00- 2:00 to raise money for expired gear. They are still in need of desserts, if you can help call Beth at 231-632-0892

E. BLTIA Report: Sam reported they had their annual meeting Saturday, they celebrated 60 years of existence. BLTIA spent \$4,400 in projects this year and 60 years ago they funded & built this building. BLTIA is always looking for projects or improvements they can help with.

F. Hospital Report: Bud attended the hospital meeting where they discussed last year's budget and approved this year's budget, He stated that the hospital is in good shape. Bud let us know that the hospital is requiring masks to be worn in all areas of the hospital.

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business

A. Department of Veterans Affairs: Bud Read a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs requesting the use of the hall to meet one on one with Veterans to discuss benefits and service they may be eligible for. The Board discussed and agreed to let the hall be used for this purpose on Wednesdays from 9 to noon.

B. MTA Principals of Government: MTA asked the Board to adopt MTA's Principals of Government document. The Board signed the MTA document.

C. Township Federal Procurement Conflict of Interest Policy: Bud explained we already have a similar policy in place. Motion to adopt made by Knight and supported by Havens. Roll call vote, Dixon, Knight, Banker, Havens, & David, all yes, none opposed, motion passed.

D. Township Insurance: Bud talked to Bryan about the board being sued for non-monetary amounts. Our insurance person will be coming to the September meeting to review.

10. Board Members Considerations and Correspondence:

- A. Supervisor – None.
 - B. Treasurer – Shirley said summer taxes are due on September 14th, after that they add 1% interest. Shirley explained if you are paying by credit card there is a 3% fee that is added by point and pay (we do not receive the fee) and there is a \$3 fee for using an e-check. Shirley will be in the office September 14th from 9am-5pm
 - C. Clerk – The Election went smoothly thanks to all the Election workers and their wonderful service. The next Election could be in November, I'll let you know if we get anything to vote on. My Deputy Dawn Dannenberg is here with me tonight to help me take notes for both of the meetings. She is a true asset to me and I thank her for working for us.
 - D. Trustees – Jim updated us on the Gypsy moths, they are increasing, if you find an egg mass scrape them off and put them in a bowl of salt water. He will have a report for the next meeting.
11. Public Input: Mr. Koch thanked the Board for helping the public through the SAD process. Sally said she is excited to see the benefits of Veterans Affairs using the hall to help our local Veterans, we have 5 that she knows of.
12. Adjournment: Motion made by Knight and supported by Dixon, all Aye, motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:53