

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2023

TIME: 4:00 pm

PLACE: BEAR LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER

1. Call to Order: Supervisor Banker called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM with 7 public in attendance.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was said.
3. Roll Call of Officers: Bud Banker, Shriley Havens, Dawn Dannenberg, Jim Knight, and Bob Dixon were in attendance.
4. Adoption of Agenda: Add Frederic Fire Dept to Township Reports (G) Knight made a motion, supported by Havens, all aye, motion passed.
5. Conflict of Interest: Banker(N) Havens(N) Dannenberg(N) Knight(N) Dixon(N).
 - A. Adoption of CONSENT AGENDA: Minutes of Previous Meeting 10-10-2023, Special Meeting 11-2-2023, Dixon made a motion, supported by Dannenberg, all aye, motion passed.
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - C. Payment of Bills
6. Public Input: None.
7. Township Reports:

- A. Assessor Report: Supervisor Banker gave a verbal; The December Board of Review meeting will Be December 12,2023 at 1:00 PM.

STATUS UPDATE: On October 19, 2023, Governor Whitmer signed legislation expanding the disabled veteran exemption for properties of spouses of disabled veterans that were acquired by the surviving spouse after the disabled veteran's death. Specifically, MCL 211.7b(1)(b) was amended to provide that:

A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who, immediately before death, was eligible for the exemption under this section. An exemption under this subdivision continues as long as the surviving spouse does not remarry, and the exemption applies to any property used and owned as a homestead by the surviving spouse, including homestead property acquired after the decedent's death. (Emphasis added.)

MCL 211.7b(2) was also amended so that, beginning in 2025, veterans or their spouses no longer need to request the exemption on an annual basis. Specifically, MCL 211.7b(2) provides that "[a]n exemption granted . . . as to taxes levied on or after January 1, 2025 remains in effect, without subsequent reapplication, until it is rescinded [by either the disabled veteran or their spouse] or is denied by the assessor, as provided in section 7c." MCL 211.7c, also enacted on October 19, 2023, provides information regarding rescission and denial of the exemption.

- B. County Commissioner: Not in attendance.
- C. Sheriff Dept. Report: Deputy Farrier was in attendance. He gave a verbal and written report. He wanted to make the community aware on The Sheriff Dept website page you can go to online forms and fill out Property Check Request, this form is for the Sheriff Dept to do checks on your property while you are away.
- D. Fire Dept. Report: Chief Andrie was in attendance. He gave a verbal and written report. He thanked the board for holding a special meeting hold to ok funds for the new brush truck chassis. The truck is in Roscommon and then will be at CSI, he will have a bid on the completion

of the truck. SCBA equipment has come in. Chief gave the board a rough draft of a resolution between Bear Lake Township Fire/ Rescue and Coldspring Township Fire to review. Chief thanked Frederic Fire Dept Allen Ballard for a job well done on a call. Lt Sharon P from The Bear Lake Township Association presented a check of \$15,000.00 to donate to the Fire Dept for new SCBA equipment. Treasurer Shriley Havens donated a wreath she had won at the chicken bbq to the Fire Dept. to hang in the fire barn. Chief wanted to remind the community to clean their chimney, it is chimney fire season.

E. BLTIA Report: Not in attendance.

F. Hospital Report: Supervisor Banker gave a verbal report.

G. Frederic Fire Dept: Captain Allen Ballard was in attendance, gave a verbal report. They have 2 new ambulances. He will come up with a monthly report for the board. He thanked Bear Lake Township and The Fire Dept.

8. Old Business:

A. New Pickleball Courts: After seeking legal counsel in the matter of the utility easement right away, where the proposed area for new pickleball courts would be, the board denied the request for new pickleball courts, Dannenberg made a motion, supported by Havens, all aye, motion passed.

9. New Business: none.

10. Board Members Considerations and Correspondence:

A. Supervisor – Banker, gave an overview on the hospital.

B. Treasurer – Havens, closed out 4 Front XTRA and Huntington Fire Pumper XTRA , the funds were deposited into 4Front Fire/Rescue account, the clerk made a check out for the brush truck. Kalkaska schools annual summer tax collection resolution for the summer 2024 tax, for \$3.94 per parcel to be collected, need approval to sign the resolution, Knight made a motion, supported by Dixon, roll call Banker(Y) Havens(Y) Dannenberg(Y) Knight(Y) Dixon(Y), motion passed. There will be a letter mailed to you on Tips for Taxpayer from the Treasurer.

C. Clerk – Dannenberg, had 2 budget amendments, she's not adding or deleting monies from the budget, only moving funds to a category that were over budget from a category that was surplus. She also had concerns on election security and storage.

D. Trustees – Dixon, it's getting dark earlier out, please turn on your headlight.

Knight, attended a road commission meeting on concerns on Riverview Rd. He will be attending the next meeting on E.Bear Lake Rd black top crumbling.

11. Public Input: Cheryl, the election went smooth and her concerns on not having enough new election worker for the upcoming election year.

Nola, Thank Dawn on the election and how will it was organized as a new election work.

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Havens and supported by Dixon, all aye , meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.

