

Bear Lake Township Summer 2021

198 E Bear Lake Rd. NE - Kalkaska MI 49646-231-258-4871

DO YOU KNOW PURPOSE OF ANNUAL MEETINGS?

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORS

The annual meeting is different from other township meetings. It is a meeting of the township electors, not a meeting of the township board. Township board members participate at the annual meeting as electors.

The annual meeting must be held on the last Saturday of the township's fiscal year unless a majority of the membership of the township board votes to hold it on another day during the last month of the fiscal year. The time of day and location of the meeting are determined by the township board. (MCL 41.8)

The annual meeting is a meeting of a public body subject to all of the requirements of the OMA, including notice, meeting conduct, public comment and minutes.

The township supervisor moderates the annual meeting. If he or she is not present, another moderator must be elected by voice vote, with the clerk serving as moderator pro tem until the moderator is chosen. (MCL 41.97) The moderator presides over the meeting, regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order and makes public declarations of all votes passed. When any vote declared by the moderator is questioned, the moderator shall call for a poll or division, or rely on any other method provided for in the township by-laws or approved by a previous vote. (MCL 41.98)

Township Board Compensation

Township board members hold the four township offices of supervisor, clerk, treasurer and trustee. Those offices may be paid a "salary of the office," which the officeholder is legally entitled to receive as long as he or she holds that office. A salary of the office of trustee is set for the office, and each trustee receives the same salary, regardless of their length of service or experience. Electors at an annual meeting can only take binding actions when state law authorizes them to do so. The following are the significant remaining powers designated to electors at the annual meeting.

Altering salaries as established in a prior township board resolution. The electors at the annual meeting have the authority to alter salary resolutions adopted for each of the offices at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Each year that the township holds an annual meeting, the township board must tentatively set the salary of each board office (supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and trustee, (if trustees are paid a salary by a special resolution adopted at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting.) Each resolution must also fix the date in the next fiscal year on which the salary will take effect. (MCL 41.95) The approval of the budget does not constitute a salary resolution. It is the opinion of the authors and Attorney General Opinion 6422 of 1987 that the township board should adopt a separate resolution for each office. A salary resolution should be restricted to stating only the salary of the office, and not include other compensation to the person holding office.

The electors at the annual meeting may alter the amount of the salaries established by township board resolution. Unless the resolution will take effect with the start of the next term of office, the electors may only alter this resolution by approving a salary amount that is equal to or greater than the salary authorized the prior year, because an elected official's salary cannot be reduced during the official's term of office. (MCLs 41.95 AND 42.6A(6)) The township board does not have the authority to override the electors' decision on compensation made at an annual meeting. If the township board does not pass a salary resolution at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the electors, the electors have no authority to alter such salaries.

A township that currently holds an annual meeting of the electors by choice may discontinue the annual meeting by going through a complete fiscal year without scheduling an annual meeting.

Portions reprinted from Michigan Townships Association: Authorities & Responsibilities of Michigan Townships

Bear Lake Township

OFFICE: 231-258-4871

SUPERVISOR:

George "Bud" Banker Opt. 3

Cell: 231-624-1019

Hours: Monday 9 to 11 am

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Delanna David Opt. 1

Email: bitclerkddavid@yahoo.com

Hours: Wednesday 9 am to Noon

TOWNSHIP TREASURER

Shirley Havens Opt. 2

Email: shavensbltt@yahoo.com

Hours: July thru March

Tues. Wed. Thurs. 9 am to 1 pm

2nd Sat. of month 8 am to Noon

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES:

Robert "Bob" Dixon

Cell: 989-710-0093

James "Jim" Knight

Cell: 989-513-0138

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Sally Murray

231-499-7682

sallyannmurray8120@yahoo.com



TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Bear Lake Township Community Center the second Tuesday of each month and begin at 7:00 pm. **Winter Meetings are held at 4 pm from Nov. to Apr.** All other meetings or changes in the regular meeting will be posted on website and Twp. Board.

PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND!

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Bear Lake Township Fire Department—Year in Review

We all have faced several challenges and changes since our last newsletter. I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and healthy. Covid-19 has affected us all in some way. The fire department has adapted to these changes and is doing everything we can to keep our members safe while working at medical rescue calls when we serve you and our visitors.

Our campaign to recruit new firefighters has helped but we are not near where we need to be yet with our staffing numbers. We have a total of 9 people on the department. Last year's newsletter focused on the critical firefighter staffing shortage throughout the nation. We also implemented the help wanted sign and had an article in the newspaper. We will continue to do all that we can to recruit new firefighters. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about being a part of the fire department, please contact me.

We have reached the point after 26 years of very diligent use of taxpayer funding and the funding we receive from Bear Lake Township Firefighters Association, that we are going to have to ask the taxpayers for a millage increase in 2022 when our fire department millage is up for renewal. These are some of the reasons we have been able to operate for so long without an increase. Staying under budget for several years and being able to apply that leftover funding to our fund balance. The monies we received from selling our previous tanker, trailer, old Jaws of Life and participating in grants when possible. The monies from the firefighter's association, your donations and the support we receive at our fundraisers have been a tremendous help. We plan to have much more detailed information for you that we will present at future township meetings regarding a millage increase.

We lost one of our on October 4th, 2020, Retired Firefighter Rolland R. Sargent passed away unexpectedly. Rolland was a firefighter with the Bear Lake Township Fire Department from 1995 until 2005. Rolland loved the fire department and living in the township. Rolland gave so much of himself and his time above and beyond his duties as a firefighter. He was always willing to help in any way that he could. He helped build the addition and remodel the meeting room in the old fire station. Rolland made the ultimate sacrifice in the early morning hours of August 5th, 2005. The night the Bear Lake Township Fire Department caught fire the ceiling collapsed on Rolland and he received burns over 40% of his body. Rolland's service, dedication and sacrifices will never be forgotten by myself or the Bear Lake Township Fire Department. Rolland's wife Cindi and family know that they as well as Rolland will always be a part of our fire department family.

To mirror the Firefighters Association article, I would like to as well pay respect to the following people that we lost. These wonderful people dedicated their time and effort to the township and fire department in many ways. John Cochran, Bill Jackson, Bob Sakuta, Jody Mead and Brian Peacock.

If anyone has any questions regarding the fire department and our operations, I would love to hear from you. You can call me at 231-384-5785 or email me at mlaskowski2011@yahoo.com Fire Chief Mark A. Laskowski



ADOPT-A-FOREST

Do you enjoy exploring our township forests in your off-road vehicle? Volunteers are needed to participate in the Adopt-A-Forest program, which inspects the 20-plus two-tracks in our Township for garbage. Mini-training and a map will be provided. You must have the appropriate DNR Off-Road stickers to participate.

CONTACT: Jeff Shull, jshull12@icloud.com. For more information.



NEWS YOU CAN USE—FROM THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

I took over the assessing duties approximately one year ago. The prior assessor, Mike Van Horn, had worked for the township for more than 15 years. I am working toward familiarizing myself with the people and properties of Bear Lake Township.

A little bit about me: I grew up in Antrim County and currently call Traverse City home. I have a son and a daughter, both now adults. Despite the covid-19 pandemic, I managed to get married in August 2020. You'll note I have a new last name: MURRAY.

DID YOU KNOW:

- ◆ Disabled veterans that are 100% disabled are exempt from property taxes? We can process applications at our March, July and December board of review sessions.
- ◆ Certain transfers between specific family members are exempt from the uncapping of taxable value.
- ◆ The Principal Residence Exemption provides relief from the 18 mills of School Operating Tax. The filing deadline is June 1st. Property that is vacant and contiguous to your home site is also eligible for the exemption. The July and December boards of review can process retroactive claims for the current and immediately three (3) years for eligible individuals.
- ◆ I will be performing routine site inspections of properties on a rotating schedule. These site inspections are limited to the exterior ONLY.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sally Murray, Bear Lake Twp. Assessor



