

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!

#####

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



NOTES FROM THE CLERK

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for their support while I have been learning this job as Township Clerk, I have very big shoes to fill. I would especially like to thank Shirley Havens for being so patient and helpful, Carol Rosenberg for sharing her endless knowledge, keeping me going when it gets tough and also my wonderful Election Inspectors. I have hired a new Deputy Clerk, Dawn Dannenberg. We have been training together for several weeks now and she is doing a wonderful job. If you are in the office, stop in and say Hi.

Delanna David, Township Clerk

TREASURER REPORT:

This past 1 1/2 years has been a challenging year for everyone. During the Covid-19 Pandemic the township office continued to function as usual. Office hours were held as usual and business continued. I really appreciate the tax payers who visited the office to pay their taxes in person, complied with the orders that were in place as social distancing, mask wearing, and I truly appreciate that. We had a limit of 1 person in the office and some sat in their cars and waited their turn. Thank you.

We were having some difficulties with the mail system as everyone else, but it all worked out.

The township held elections and a thank you to Delanna, Twp. Clerk and her election crew for doing such a great job.

I will be mailing the Summer 2021 tax bills by the 1st week of July, so if you have any changes to be made please let me know so we can make corrections. We will begin printing the 3rd week of June.

I am working with BSA software so taxpayers will be able to go online to their website and check status of tax payments. Information will be included with your summer tax bill. You can also call the office anytime for information, always happy to assist you.

Shirley Havens, Bear Lake Twp. Treasurer

2021Notes from the Bear Lake Association

Whether you live on the lake or not, everyone of us who enjoy the lake can help keep it beautiful and clean. There are so many ways to participate; all of them easy. We have listed some of the items below but just using common sense is the best way to help.

- The 2019 Boating Law which prohibits the launch or transport of watercraft unless they and the trailers are free of aquatic organisms, including plants and much more.
• Remove all fireworks and all debris from the water.
• Do not feed the ducks or geese—they bring swimmers' itch.
• Do not bathe yourself or pets in the lake—soap chemicals are toxic to lake life.
• Keep all high-speed boating far away from the shoreline—help prevent erosion.

IF YOU LIVE ON THE LAKE:

- Septic tanks should NOT be "out of sight, out of mind". Keep them functioning well—have them cleaned and inspected regularly. Poor systems leak toxins into the lake.
• No beach fires—the carbon remains leach into the water, which is toxic.
• If you fertilize, use one with ZERO phosphate—it's like steroids to aquatic plants and algae.
• RAKE THE LAKE—removing organic material (e.g. leaves, twigs) helps reduce weed fertilizer and algae.
• No high-speed boating before 11 am and after 7:30 pm. It's the law!
• AND help protect our loons by staying 200 feet away from them.

One more item, we have a new, enforceable noise ordinance. You can find the details in the township website at bearlaketownship.org>>>Boards & Minutes>>>Township Board>>>Ordinances.

The Bear Lake Association monitors the quality of the water through regular testing and treatment of invasive plants. We appreciate donations to the Bear Lake Association of any amount to help us continue our mission to maintain and, perhaps, improve the quality of the water.

Please visit our website for much more information: www.bearlakeassoc.com or contact us through email: bearlakekalkaska@gmail.com

Bear Lake Township Improvement Association News

Your Bear Lake Township Improvement Association was established 60 years ago to support the township through projects which maintain and improve the well-being of the residents, its beautiful lakes, pristine rivers, and expansive forests. This mission became more vital as the COVID virus began to impact our area. The BLTIA board decided quickly to focus resources critically needed by our residents. A majority of financial support went to the Bear Lake Christian Church's Share Shack. The Share Shack provides non-perishable grocery items to anyone in need. As the need grew, the Share Shack was expanded to accommodate a larger inventory. BLTIA responded by donating money to purchase building materials for the addition.

Although some volunteer activities were curtailed, we continued to support the Fire Department by providing snacks and drinks for the firefighters and purchased a gas meter that is used to detect gas leaks. At the south entrance of the Community Center, flowers appeared in the planters in early spring and a new, colorful, aluminum sign, designed by and installed by the BLTIA. We think it looks great and hope you do too.

The annual Meeting is on Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 10:00 am. Details about the format will be forthcoming this summer.



Bear Lake Township Firefighters' Association - OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

2020 was unlike any other year for our Firefighters' Association. We experienced the passing of key supporters in numbers that were unprecedented for us. This includes John Cochran, Bill Jackson, Bob Sakuta, Jody Mead and Deputy Brian Peacock. We mourn their loss and recognize their contributions will not be easily replaced.

There were no Fire Association events in 2020 and we are hoping that 2021 will be a more normal year. We are planning a **Community Yard Sale on Saturday, June 5th** at the Community Center parking lot. There will be forms available at the Fire Department or Community Center during business hours if you are interested in participating. Spots will fill up fast; so please don't delay.

The Annual Chicken BBQ is also tentatively scheduled for Labor Day Sunday, September 5th. This will be dependent on the state of our community health and recommendations from officials at that time.

There will definitely be a need for new volunteers to help with both of these events. If you have any interest in helping, please contact a member of the Association or the Fire Department and we will find a job that matches your talents. Teenagers are also welcome; it is never too early to start volunteering! Prize items will also be needed as our local business are struggling as well to recover from last year. Please contact a member if you are interested in donating prizes.

Quotes for the brick wall are in progress and we hope to complete the wall this year. Bricks are still available to purchase if anyone wants to be a part of the initial wall. Please contact any member of the Association or Fire Department for details.

Please follow us on Facebook at Bear Lake Twp. Firefighters Association to keep up with developments. Thanks to you all.



Smokey the Bear IS BACK

Smokey the Bear has been repaired and is standing tall on the lawn of the Fire Station, giving you FIRE BURN ALERTS for the area.

It is updated as needed due to fire danger warnings. It is a good tool for the community as when it is safe to burn and when it is not.

Stay Safe! Stay Alert!



Bear Lake Twp. Clean-Up Day

Annual Bear Lake Township CLEAN-UP DAY is scheduled for June 12th from 8 am to Noon. Located at the Blue Bear Trail Head, M-72 and Sunset Trail.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED: THIS NEWLETTER, LAST PROPERTY TAX BILL, PROOF OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP or UTILITY BILL, etc.

First load is free, each additional load will be \$5.00 (a load is considered to be one (1) pickup truck, utility trailer or equivalent).

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF WORKERS AND TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEERS.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

Limit of two (2) major appliances, refrigerators and freezers must be tagged "FREON FREE". Household rubbish, building materials (nothing over 6') - furniture—chairs—couches—mattresses—carpeting (cut to 6' length and tied) - scrap metal, etc.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

Household garbage—Tires—Batteries—hazardous chemicals—Paint—Oil—Explosives—Yard waste—Brush—Asphalt—Broken Concrete—Glass—Burn Barrels filled with trash—Hot Tubs.

WE ASK THAT IF YOU ARE BRINGING BUILDING MATERIALS THAT ARE ACCEPTED, PLEASE SECURE MATERIAL IN CONTAINERS OR BAGS FOR SAFETY AND FASTER UNLOADING. **NO LOOSE MATERIALS.**

Just a reminder: Workers are Volunteers, so help with whatever you are able, to make things move quickly. Thank you!

This is a courtesy to the property owners and to help maintain our woods from debris, your cooperation is appreciated.

Yearly Recycle

Bear Lake Township also has a recycle bin located at the community Center for Homeowners. Please observe the signs on what can and cannot be placed in the recycle bins. Do not discard garbage or leave boxes etc. on the ground if they do not fit in the bin. Someone has to clean that up! Thank You!

You can also Recycle at the:

Kalkaska County Recycle Center
Island Lake Rd.—231-384-1304

8 am to 4:30 pm (closed Friday) Sat. 8 am to Noon

