

# BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

## APPROVED MINUTES

**DATE: JULY 07,2022**

**TIME: 7:00 pm**

**PLACE: BEAR LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER**

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1. Call to Order: Bud called the meeting to order at 7:02pm with 60 public in attendance
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Was said
3. Roll Call of Officers: Attendance Shirley Havens, Dawn Dannenberg, Bud Banker, Jim Knight and Bob Dixon
4. Introduction of speakers: DNR Tom Barnes and Colonel Scott Meyers, they each took time to introduce themselves. Each of them did a small introduction on the Expansion proposal DNR and Camp Grayling.
5. Meeting guidelines: Bud addressed the public on the guidelines
6. Public Input: A member of the public, what percentage will this increase the training land size? Colonel Meyers- a little over 50% increase. How long did you know before the June 9th press release? Barnes- We have been working on this since February.  
John Tompson: Asked about the military misuse of the land? Barnes- These lands are our lands; we do hold them accountable. Will there be notices if the lease is void for misuse? Barnes- No  
Lacey Stephan Grayling Township Supervisor: Wanted to let our community know he stands by and supports the people of Bear Lake Township.  
Robert Mitchell: Are we going to be able to use the lands in hunting season, when there is military in training? Colonel Meyers-We do have resources on social media, website and on Q100, to let the public know where they will be training. Were not shutting down you're hunting. Only impact zones get closed for safety.  
Nola Knight: What will you be doing to prevent PFAS contamination in our waters, will you be testing for PFAS? Barnes: No, we will not be testing the water. The military will have boundry zones away from any water's edge, they can only use chemical that are approved by the DNR.  
Iola Melvin: Are the trails that we use for walking and horseback riding be closed? Barnes: No, for information of trails closure you can contact the DNR and Camp Grayling to see where activity is.  
Beth Redmond: The Township board found out about this on social media and was not notified, why was there a lack of communication with our Township board? Barnes: I

am apologizing on behalf of the DNR, he didn't know why the Township didn't get notified.

Internet and cellphone coverage due to cyber jamming? Colonel Meyers: We operate under FAA regulations and frequency. There should be no problems with the cell phones.

Is the Bear Lake Fire Department going to get support or funding from the military to respond to military caused fires? Colonel Meyers: No. We do have contracts with the City of Grayling and Fredric Township because they are where active live fire rangers are. This will not be active live fire zones in Bear Lake Township.

Mike McNamara of Grayling, retired Michigan National Guard: Addressed and educated the public, in support of our township community.

Harvy Lock- We already here the noise from the artillery and bombs, will we be hearing artillery in our back yards? Barnes: What you hear now is what you're going to hear, it won't change. Colonel Meyers: These areas are not a live fire or small arms zones.

Greg: What is the impact on the wildlife and species in the area? Barnes: Camp Grayling has an environmental group, which works closely with the DNR. We do red flags areas where the military cannot train in those areas.

Dave Moore: Will there be other countries military training in the proposed area?

Colonel Meyers: Yes, we do have alley country that train with us.

Sherry Hoyt: Are you going to address the public and how if there is a problem?

Colonel Meyers: No, this is how the Government works.

Craig Valentine: DNR has done a good job with the habitat, now you're going to let the military bivouac and destroy the land? Barnes: We have not had an issue with military. Anybody can use these lands to go camping on.

Monty: Do you understand this will drive your property values down.

Hank Williams: When you use bivouac and exercises in the woods, what's the time frame? Colonel Meyers: It depends, wheeled vehicles and heavily camouflage soldiers will be moving around. If we're doing it right, you won't see us.

Greg David: Will you be using Humvee's to run up and down snowmobile trails in the winter? Colonel Meyers: No Humvee's, we will be using snowmobiles.

Are you going to put up structure? Meyers: No, tents with antennas.

Doug David: What happens when the lease is up, does it go back? Barnes: Sometimes it does, or it does gets renewed. Leases are under annual reviews.

Grace: Will the technology be jamming our cellphones? Colonel Meyers: No, it won't. Drone use will not be in their areas, we have ranges designed with airspace zones.

Jean: What is plan B if the DNR said no? Colonel Meyers This is over seen by Congress, there are very few areas like this that has 4 seasons to training in.

Public: Will you be the biggest training area in the U.S.? Meyers: Will have 302,000 acres. We will be in the top 10 military training camp.

**Charlie Weaver: When can we expect a readable map and when this will take place?**

**Barnes: This is only step 1, the earliest would be 2023.**

**Public: How is this going to effect Portage Creek area? Colonel Meyers: I don't think it's in the area.**

**Jim Dannenberg: Explain why you're expanding into the Deadstream Swamp? Colonel**

**Meyers: Not going to the Deadstream. We use the swamp, just like you do.**

**Kohn Fisher, Kalkaska County Board Commissioner: Addresses the public, He was blindsided, getting calls from the public. Not knowing anything about this. To Colonel Meyers and Barnes, you did miss a step here. Barnes: I'm out of the Grayling office unaware of what the higher ups are doing. I do apologize on behalf of the division.**

**Colonel Meyers and Barnes: If you have questions or concerns, please call the DNR or Camp Grayling. We are trying to be a community.**

**7. Board Members Considerations and Correspondence:**

**A. Each board member thanked DNR Tom Barnes and Colonel Scott Meyers for their attendance at the meeting**

**8. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm**

**Motion made by Dixon and supported by Havens**