

# Almira Township

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2024

I. Supervisor Roper called the meeting to order at 6 pm at the Almira Township Hall 19639 Maple Street, Lake Ann

### II. Pledge to the Flag Recited

### III. Roll Call

*Present: Tammy Clous, Mandy Gray Rineer, Mark Roper, Matt Therrien, Lori Florip*

IV. **Additions/Deletions to Meeting Agenda:** Under New Business change: Item D: Fire/EMS Support Letter to Fire/EMS Supports Letters.

V. **Approval of Meeting Agenda:** *Motion by Clous, supported by Rineer, to approve the meeting agenda as amended. All ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.*

### VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

*Motion by Rineer, supported by Clous, to approve the consent agenda as presented. All ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.*

### VII. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer MG Rineer provided the Financial Report for the end of February 2024. She stated that she had settled with the County and taxes now need to be paid directly to the County.

VIII. **Brief Public Input:** John Mead, Benzie County Probate Judge, gave a presentation on the various duties of his position.

### IX. County Commissioners

Commissioner Art Jeannot submitted his written report and was not in attendance at this meeting.

### X. Dept. Heads:

Tom Vinette, Chairman of the Recreational Resources Committee, stated that the Committee did not have a February meeting due to lack of a quorum. The youth baseball group has met and are getting registration forms, fees, volunteer sign up rosters, and coaches lined up for this season.

Fire Chief Drury reported that for the month of February, the Department responded to a total of 16 incidents, including 7 ambulance requests in Almira Township, 2 ambulance requests in the Village of Lake Ann, 2 vehicle accidents, 1 CO alarm, 1 false dispatch, 2 assists to Inland Township FD, and 1 assist to Benzie County EMS.

### XI. Guests: None

Meeting recessed at 6:11 p.m. for public hearing.

Public Hearing opened at 6:11 p.m.

Dallas Wirtz, representative from Gosling Czubak, made a presentation on the Ransom Lake Natural Area 2024 Michigan Natural Resources Recreational Passport Grant. Amy Carmien asked when the grant announcement would be made. Chase Pasicznyk asked about when the

funds would be available through State funding budget approval. Dallas stated that the grant application is due April 1, 2024, DNR has a time period to ask questions about the grant, DNR makes grant decisions late November/early December, and DNR makes grant announcements in December.

Public Hearing closed at 6:44 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 6:44 p.m.

## **XII. Old Business:**

- A. Master Plan:** Planning Commission met with Mathew Cooke, from Networks Northwest, at the Planning Commission's March meeting to discuss the comments given during the open comment period and the corrections that still need to be made to the draft Master Plan. Public Hearing has been set for the April 2, 2024 Planning Commission meeting, with Township Board approval at the Township Board meeting scheduled for April 8, 2024. Final draft of the Master Plan should be available about March 16<sup>th</sup> for the Planning Commissioners and Board Members to review before their meetings.
- B. ARPA Funds and Townhall Steps:** Roper still waiting for information on townhall steps. AARP fund projects are being worked on, designs and costs are being collected.
- C. Website Quotes:** Rineer stated that she has is still waiting on the third bid that the Board requested she get. Most contacts have stated they are too busy to give a quote.
- D. Social Security and Pension:** Clous stated that she has not heard from the Social Security Office, but she has contacted another clerk who has worked on this type of issue to see if that clerk has additional contact information and how that township handled this issue.
- E. Recreational Plan:** The Recreational Plan needs to have a public hearing scheduled at a Recreational Resources Committee meeting and then go to the Township Board for final approval. This process is needed to apply for future DNR grants.

## **XIII. New Business**

- A. 2024 Elections:** Clous informed the Board that the State of Michigan will most likely not be reimbursing all voting jurisdictions for the August 2024 and November 2024 elections. She says it sounds like the State of Michigan wants the jurisdictions to start combining voting locations instead of holding individual voting locations for the nine (9) days of early voting. Benzie Township Clerks will be having a meeting with the County Clerk this Friday to discuss this. Clous would like to know what Almira Board members think about issue before the County meeting on Friday. Consensus is that Almira will continue to hold their own early voting and if other jurisdictions want to combine with Almira that could be discussed.
- B. Appoint Land Division Alternate:** *Motion by* Clous, supported by Florip, to appoint Mandy Gray Rineer as the alternate to the Land Division Committee. All ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- C. Fire/EMS Personnel:** Chief Drury would like the Board to approve Angelika Diehl as a member of the Fire and EMS Department on a part time basis. *Motion by* Rineer,

supported by Clous, to approve Angelika Diehl as a member of the Almira Twp. Fire and EMS Department on a part time basis. All ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.

- D. Fire/EMS Support Letters:** Chief Drury explained the letters he would like support for. Discussion took place. *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Florip, to approve submitting the letter of support to U. S. Senator Peters' office. All ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed. *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Clous, to approve submitting the letter of support to State Representative Coffia. All ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- E. General Appropriations Act:** The General Appropriations Act Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Resolution 03-24 #1 was read. *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Clous, to adopt General Appropriations Act Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Resolution 03-24 #1 as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Therrien, aye; Rineer, aye; Clous, aye; Florip, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.
- F. Millage Renewals:** Rineer informed the Board that the Park millage and the Fire/EMS millage need to be voted on again. Discussion took place. A special meeting to discuss rates and length of millages is set for Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Township office. Rineer will have ballot language options prepared for discussion.
- G. Regular Meeting Dates:** Regular Board Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Resolution 3-24 #2 was read. *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Therrien, to adopt Regular Board Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Resolution 3-24 #2 as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Florip, aye; Rineer, aye; Therrien, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.
- H. Ransom Lake Boardwalk and Trail Improvements Recreation Passport Application through the DNR:** *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Therrien, to proceed with the application for the Ransom Lake Boardwalk and Trail Improvements Recreation Passport Grant through the DNR. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Therrien, aye; Florip, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- I. Resolution of Committed Funds for the Recreation Passport Application:** Resolution 3-24 #3, Michigan Natural Resources Recreation Passport (MNRRP) – Development Grant for Ransom Lake Boardwalk and Trail Improvements was read. *Motion by Clous*, supported by Therrien, to approve Resolution 3-24 #3, Michigan Natural Resources Recreation Passport (MNRRP) – Development Grant for Ransom Lake Boardwalk and Trail Improvements. Roll call vote was as follows: Florip, aye; Therrien, aye; Rineer, aye; Clous, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, no one absent, motion passed.
- J. Approval of CIP:** This item has already been addressed in Section 8 of the General Appropriations Act as cost center number 401.

**XIV. Extended Public Input:** Chief Drury mentioned that the nine days of early voting was an unfunded mandate that was a challenging time for both the election workers and department personnel. Troy Hinds, Manager of Benzie County Road Commission, talked about what roads the County and Township would be working on this year. Chase Pasicznyk, Honor Bank, stated

that the bank is going to hold public meetings regarding different types of fraud that are taking place.

**XV. Board Comments:** Therrien talked about ballot language where lots of details are not included in what appears on the ballot. These details can cause unintended consequences once implemented. Clous thanked all the election workers for getting through the past election and will be working on the next two elections this year. Roper stated that the 2024 elections are/will be costing the Township more than other elections due to the nine days of early voting. Roper also thanked Rineer, Clous and Dort for covering while he was away.

**XVI. Adjourn:** Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

DRAFT