

Almira Township

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

June 10, 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, Lori Florip. Matt Therrien was excused.

IV. Additions/Deletions to Meeting Agenda: None

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

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Rineer, supported by Florip, to approve the consent agenda as presented. All ayes, no nays, Therrien excused, motion passed.

VII. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer MG Rineer provided the Financial Report for the end of May 2024. Mandy stated that summer tax bills are being prepared for mailing by the end of June.

VIII. **Brief Public Input:** Chase, from Honor Bank, apologized for parking lot mis-information date. He also stated that some landscaping will be done in the near future.

IX. County Commissioners

Commissioner Art Jeannot furnished a written report and asked for questions. Art answered questions about items in his report about Benzie County EMS and Almira FEMS expanding services and EGLE denying permits for Pointe Betsie Lighthouse.

X. Dept. Heads:

Tom Vinette, Chairperson of the Recreational Resources Committee, stated that the Rec. Committee held a meeting in May. Most of the items the Committee discussed were already on tonight's agenda.

Fire Chief Drury reported on call statistics, vehicles and equipment, training, grants, and community outreach.

XI. **Guests:** No one attended regarding information on the Billy and Erika Morse Trust

XII. Old Business:

A. **Master Plan:** Discussion took place. Clous read Resolution No. 06-2024 #1, Township Board Resolution to Adopt Master Plan Update. *Motion by Clous, supported by Rineer, to adopt Resolution No. 06-2024 #1, Township Board Resolution to Adopt Master Plan Update. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Florip, aye; Rineer, aye; Roper, aye; Therrien excused, all ayes, no nays, motion passed.*

B. **ARPA Projects:** Roper reported that the two park bathrooms will be started this week, and that he will contact the contractor regarding the townhall steps for an update.

Florip reported that the dog park plans and bids were ready for final review. Discussion took place. *Motion by* Clous, supported by Rineer, to accept the dog park fence bid from Hamberg Fence Company for no more than \$18,000.00. Roll call vote was as follows: Florip, aye; Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Roper, aye; Therrien excused, all ayes, no nays, motion passed. Rineer reported that the interior decorator is still working on ideas for the townhall.

- C. Website Quotes:** Rineer stated she had gotten only one updated quote on web site design from the previous contacts. Discussion took place. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Clous, to accept the quote for website update from Lala Projects. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Florip, aye; Roper, aye; Therrien excused, all ayes, no nays, motion passed.
- D. Social Security and Pension:** Clous gave an update and stated that the pension representative will be at the township office next week to discuss options.
- E. Recreational Plan:** The Recreational Plan is to be reviewed again by the Recreational Resources Committee members along with a review by a professional.
- F. Ransom Lake Grant:** A meeting took place with Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, EGLE, and residents regarding the wetlands issue at Ransom Lake. Possible options were discussed while looking at the wetlands. Options are listed under the New Business Item A of tonight's meeting agenda. Roper is to meet with Dallas, from Gosling Czubak, to find out if newly suggested trail routes would change any impact on the grant application.
- G. Red Door Lease:** Discussion took place with consensus that length of lease and rental rate not be changed. Lease termination time line to be changed. Rineer will bring this item back to next meeting with updated language.
- H. Cherry Capital Connection:** Discussion took place. *Motion by* Roper, supported by Rineer, to sign the Right-of-way Telecommunications Permit from Cherry Capital Connection. Roll call vote was as follows: Rineer, aye; Clous, aye; Florip, aye; Roper, aye; Therrien, excused; all ayes, no nays, motion passed. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Clous, to approve the Metro Act Permit Application from Cherry Capital Connection along with the \$500 application fee as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Florip, aye; Rineer, aye; Roper, aye; Therrien, excused; all ayes, no nays, motion passed.
- I. Townhall Paving:** This is to be done after the townhall steps are done.

XIII. New Business

- A. Ransom Lake Natural Area Wetlands:** Options presented at the meeting held at Ransom Lake were putting up signage to cut down the traffic in that area on a temporary basis or closing the area. Consensus of those at the Ramson Lake meeting was not to close down the area. Some changes in trail routes also took place at this meeting.
- B. Recreational Resources Committee:** Recreational Resources Committee is recommending that Chris Convissor be appointed to the Recreational Resources

Committee to fill a vacancy. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Florip, to appoint Chris Convissor to the Recreational Resources Committee. All ayes, no nays, Therrien excused, motion passed. Letter to Barry Jones had been sent regarding his not attending Committee meetings with no response from Barry. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Florip, to remove Barry Jones from the Recreational Resources Committee and to send him a letter stating he had been removed. All ayes, no nays, Therrien excused, motion passed.

C. Zoning Amendments: The Planning Commission had approved the Zoning Ordinance Amendments at their May meeting pending legal review. Discussion took place. *Motion by* Rineer, supported by Florip, to accept the Zoning Ordinance Amendments presented by the Zoning Administrator as approved by the Planning Commissioners also pending legal review. Roll call vote was as follows: Florip, aye; Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Roper, aye; Therrien, excused; all ayes, no nays, motion passed.

D. Park Paving: Roper presented a drawing of paving work that needs to be redone along with an estimate from Team Elmer's. Discussion took place. Roper is to get at least two more estimates and bring back to next meeting.

XIV. Extended Public Input: None

XV. Board Comments: Florip stated that the Lake Ann 5K run is to be held on Thursday, June 20th, and that the dog park will soon be started. Rineer stated that Memorial Day went well with lots in attendance despite the rain, that Lake Ann Elementary School held their field day at the park last Friday, and that the Fire/EMS Dept. went Lake Ann Elementary School today for W.O.G. day, (Way Out Games). Clous stated that absent voter applications for the August Primary Election have been mailed, and that the August Primary Election ballots should be mailed the end of June. Roper stated that he hopes that warmer summer weather was on the way and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

XVI. Adjourn: Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.