

Almira Township

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2025

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 add: M. Cemetery Clean Up

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

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

VII. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Rineer provided a financial report for the end of March 2025.

IX. County Commissioners:

Commissioner Art Jeannot had not furnished a written report but talked about the County taxation Board to be meeting, Commissioner Warsecke resigning at the end of April, and discussed Economic Development Council possible partnerships.

X. **Dept. Heads:** Tom Vinette, Recreational Resources Committee Chairperson, updated the Board on the status of the Recreation Plan, which is in the public input/survey stage. Chief Drury reported that for the month of March the Department responded to a total of 34 incidents. He also reported on vehicles, equipment, grants, training, and personnel.

XI. **Guests:** Jim Bowers, Benzie County Road Commission Vice Chair, talked about the bond proposal for the new Road Commission facility and answered questions.

VIII. **Brief Public Input:** None

XII. Old Business:

- A. **ARPA Projects:** The BS&A software conversion has been started, the two new park restrooms should be finished and open around the first of May, township hall basement floor looks great and some painting of walls has been done, tennis court areas are to be resurfaced this spring with pickleball courts being lined, cement work and picnic tables for the dog park to be put in once the weather improves.
- B. **Ransom Lake Bridge:** Roper and Therrien met with Jennifer Flynn from SEEDS last week to discuss what work SEEDS might be able to help with. Roper is to meet with Gosling Czubek representative Dallas to discuss bridge design this week.
- C. **Committee Appointment:** Clous stated that she had gotten a verbal statement from Christina Steele that she would like to be reappointed to the Recreational Resources Committee. *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Therrien, to reappoint Chirstina Steele to

the Recreational Resources Committee pending a written statement of her interest to continue on the Committee. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.

XIII. New Business:

- A. Road Brining:** Benzie County Road Commission Road brine proposal for 2025 was reviewed and discussed. *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Therrien, to approve the road brine proposal from Benzie County Road Commission as presented authorizing the Clerk to sign. Roll call vote was as follows: Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Florip, aye; Therrien, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, motion passed.
- B. Designee Zoning Administrator:** ZA Preston submitted a letter requesting that the Board assign a Designee ZA who can take the duties and powers of the ZA in her absence. Discussion took place. *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Clous, to accept the proposal from ZA Preston to assign a Designee ZA to act in the ZA's absence. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.
- C. Fire and EMS Personnel:** Chief Drury submitted his requests with discussion taking place. *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Therrien, to accept the resignation of Mike Sutherland from the Fire & EMS Department. All ayes, no nays, motion passed. *Motion by Clous*, supported by Rineer, to approve Isaac Mead-Renius as a member of the Fire & EMS Department pending back ground check. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.
- D. Depository Letter:** Treasurer Rineer read her depository letter to the Board for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.
- E. Road Paving:** The Benzie County Road Commission Local Road Construction Authorization was reviewed and discussed. *Motion by Clous*, supported by Therrien, to approve the Local Road Construction Authorization for part two of Maple Grove Subdivision. Roll call vote was as follows: Therrien, aye; Florip, aye; Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, motion passed.
- F. Clean-up Day:** Discussion took place. *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Clous, to have the fee for clean-up day be \$30.00 per load, with collected fees to be divided and given to the Veteran's Memorial Committee, Almira Fire & EMS Association, and the township. Roll call vote was as follows: Florip, aye; Clous, aye; Rineer, aye; Therrien, nay; Roper, aye; four (4) ayes, one (1) nay, motion passed.
- G. Recreational Resources Request:** Tom Vinette, Recreational Resources Committee Chairperson requested to spend funds for a booth at the Lake Ann homecoming event in July. They would be doing this booth with the Benzie Conservation District. Discussion took place and Rineer will check with the Historical Society to see if this will be allowed and what, if any, fee would be charged.
- H. Benzie County Debris Plan:** Debris Management Support Plan was provided to the Board by Benzie County Emergency Management Coordinator Rebecca Hubers. Discussion took place. Roper is to contact Rebecca to discuss this information.
- I. Library Cleaning Contract:** Quote from Sleeping Bear Cleaning Care, LLC was reviewed and discussed. *Motion by Rineer*, supported by Clous, to add library cleaning to be done by Sleeping Bear Cleaning Care, LLC twice a year. All aye, no nays, motion passed.

- J. Opt Out of a Designated Assessor Agreement:** Discussion took place regarding the information provided by Benzie County Equalization Director, Brianne Lindsay. Roper is to get clarification from Brianne.
- K. Tree Damaged by Storm:** Roper explained what had happened and where the tree is located. Roper is to talk with Lake Ann Grocery owners regarding this tree removal.
- L. Door Lock System:** The three bids were reviewed and discussed. Board would like Roper and Clous to talk with users of each of these systems to find out likes and dislikes.
- M. Cemetery Clean Up:** Three bids had been received and were discussed. *Motion by* Therrien, supported by Rineer, to accept the bid from Weston's Property Service as presented. Roll call vote was as follows: Therrien, aye; Rineer, aye; Clous, aye; Florip, aye; Roper, aye; all ayes, no nays, motion passed.

XIV. Extended Public Input: Chief Drury stated that the US 31 road construction work detours have started. This road construction project is to be done in 2025 and 2026. Chief is working with Inland Township Fire for a plan to help cover areas during this time.

XV. Board Comments: Rineer thanked the Fire/EMS Dept. and Township Office staff for their support over the past month with her father's health issues and passing. Roper stated that he would be out of the office the first two weeks of May due to family health concerns.

XVI. Adjourn: Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.