TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING AS PREPARED 5-0

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

Present: Cook, Schultz, Martel, Merchant and Windiate

Absent: None

Audience: 3

REPEATING AGENDA:

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 followed by the pledge to the flag.
2. **Motion** to approve Minutes of October 17, 2023 with changes was seconded and passed 5-0. In item A. 5, add the names of the sheriff, Kevin Hoch, undersheriff George Lasater and County Commissioner Jaris Rubingh. At the end of #5 change the word Township “office” to “CSB Parking Lot”. **Motion** to approve Minutes of October 19, 2023 as prepared was seconded and passed 5-0.
3. Correspondence, Announcements: 1. Clerk shared results from the November 7, 2023 Special Election, with 89 voting Yes and 68 voting No. The Bond proposal did not pass for the Central Lake School District. 2. Also shared was the 2023 Season Recap from the Chain of Lakes Water Trail.
4. **Motion** to approve Agenda Content was seconded and passed 5-0 as submitted.
5. Citizen Comment: EMS Director Mike Bertram thanked Treasurer Schultz for taking care of the Medicare application and On-Call visitation. He also thanked the entire Board for their continued strong support for the EMS department.

B. CONSENT AGENDA: **Motion** to approve as presented was seconded and passed 5-0.

C. SPECIAL REPORTS:

1. There was no Planning Commission meeting in November.

2. Clerk reported there were no new FOIA requests.

3. The Supervisor’s Financial Overview can be seen on the Township website.

D. AGENDA FOR BOARD ACTION:

1. No Old Business.

2. New Business: Motion to accept agreement presented for collection of 2024 Summer School Property Taxes of $2.50 per parcel with Central Lake Public Schools was seconded and passed 5-0. At this time the Treasurer has not heard back from Elk Rapids regarding this item.

E. AGENDA FOR BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. Update on Barnes Park given by Supervisor Cook who shared the **Motion** made at the Antrim County Board of Commissioners meeting on November 16, 2023. It reads “Should the County decide to add campsites or otherwise expand Barnes Park Campground in the future, it will seek Township approval prior to undertaking any addition of campsites or expansion of the campground”. This is basically what Torch Lake Township wanted them to do. They have also submitted a Special Use Permit and the Zoning Administrator has responded but we are waiting for their reply. They have also reduced the number of campsites from 116 to 93.

2. Regarding a Wage Study of EMS wages between 7 agencies: Kalkaska has raised their rates for both EMT and Medics by $5 per hour. This led to TAA increasing their rates as well and they will be meeting in November to review benefits and wages again. These are our two biggest competitors for EMS employees. Torch Lake Township needs to consider taking action to adjust our rates in the face of this competitive change. We cannot afford to lose any people. We will look forward to discussing this in December.

F. AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

1. Road Work Update: Handouts looking at road work done in 2023 and proposed work for 2024

2. Proposed Budget Work Session dates. Currently scheduled for January 2, 2024, January 10th, January 23rd and January 30th at 6:15 PM.

G. CITIZEN COMMENT: NONE

H. BOARD COMMENT: Schultz wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving. Tax bills will be mailed out November 27th Windiate for her favorite team, GO BLUE! Martel will make us a venison snack!; Merchant also wished a Happy Thanksgiving; Cook thanked Schultz for the beautiful decorated Christmas Tree.

I. **Motion** to adjourn at 8:10 was approved.

J. FUTURE MEETINGS AND HEARINGS:

1. Planning Commission December 12, 2023 7PM

2. Regular Board Meeting December 19, 2023 7PM

3.ZBA December 20, 2023 6PM