

Bear Creek Township Board Meeting February 5, 2020

I. Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **Roll Call**

- a. Golding, Nowland, Hoffman, Keiser, Kendziorski
- b. Others Present: Al Welsheimer, Mitch Brown, Val Meyerson, Karla Buckmaster, Sheldon Buckmaster, Suzanne Kanine, Karen Cosens, Ann Ingles, and Sue Fantini

III. **Pledge of Allegiance**

IV. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. Minutes from three meetings: Regular BCT Board Meeting on January 8, 2020, Special Budget Meeting on January 13, 2020, and Special Budget Meeting on January 27, 2020.
- b. **Motion** by Nowland to approve all sets of minutes, 2nd by Hoffman. **Unanimous**

V. **Request from the Floor/Discussion**

VI. **Approval of the Agenda**

VII. **Unfinished Business**

a. **Library Report- Report by Val Meyerson**

- i. Meyerson reported that the library had a very busy year. They did some strategic planning and spoke with community members about what they would like to see in the future. Many community members requested services that the library already has, which encouraged the library to look into new marketing tactics. The library received a grant from the Community Foundation to create a new branding campaign. Their new mission statement reads: "Nurture knowledge, drive discovery, and connect community." The library is offering new services, which includes the "Library of Things", by which individuals can check out items such as a metal detector, exploration kits, cornhole, etc. They also started an adult summer reading program, which is a partnership between the Library and Beards Brewery. They will be using the hashtag #PetoskeyReads. The Library saw growth in circulation this year- they were up by 5%. There was a 7% increase in registered library users. Meyerson reported that Bear Creek represents about 1/3 of the library users. She noted that they pick up about 37 items a month on average from the Bear Creek Township Library Book Drop. In the future, Meyerson noted that we can look forward to seeing the Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit. The library received a grant to bring this exhibit to Petoskey, and we are one of 50 libraries in the country that have the privilege of showing this exhibit. The exhibit will be displayed in 2021. Meyerson noted that as of January 1st, the Library is completely fine free. There are no overdue fines, however there are still lost book fees. Meyerson noted that overdue fines started as an incentive for individuals to bring back books, but it seemed to do the opposite. People became hesitant to return books because they did not want to pay the fine. Now, people are more likely to bring back a late book knowing there will not be a fine. Meyerson noted that there is still a limit to how many books an individual can check out at one time. Individuals are still notified if they have overdue books. They receive one notification that books are due soon and two overdue notices. Meyerson also noted that they updated their technology plan and will be repurchasing computers for the public. Computer usage was down 15% last year, so they would like to buy less computers and open up more space in the Library. There is still fairly regular use of the computers that are there now and WiFi usage has increased. They made it easier to use the WiFi by taking away the password. However, users still have to accept the policy. Lastly, Meyerson noted that this is a millage year, and they are hoping to put the proposal on the August ballot, but would like all townships to put proposals on the ballot at the same election, so they may need to wait until November. Meyerson also noted a plan to connect with Crooked Tree this year to make it easier for people to use the Carnegie Building.

VIII. **New Business**

a. **2020 Poverty Guidelines**

- i. Keiser reported that in preparation for the March Board of Review, we will have to adopt the poverty guidelines for the Board of Review to follow.
- ii. **Motion** by Kendziorski to adopt the 2020 federal poverty guidelines. 2nd by Golding. **Unanimous**

b. **Wage Resolutions**

- i. Keiser reported that we will need to adopt the wage resolutions for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.
- ii. 3% increase on the Supervisor and Assessor salaries and a per meeting stipend for meetings attended that are not Bear Creek Township regular or special meetings.
 1. **Motion** by Kendziorski to approve a 3% increase on the Supervisor and Assessor salaries and a per meeting stipend for meetings attended that are not Bear Creek Township regular or special meetings. 2nd by Hoffman.

- i. Yes: Kendziorski, Golding, Hoffman, Keiser

- ii. No: Nowland **Passed**
- iii. 2% increase on Trustee salaries and a per meeting stipend for meetings attended that are not Bear Creek Township regular or special meetings.
 - 1. **Motion** by Hoffman to approve a 2% increase on Trustee salaries and a per meeting stipend for meetings attended that are not Bear Creek Township regular or special meetings. 2nd by Kendziorski.
 - i. Yes: Golding, Hoffman, Keiser, Kendziorski
 - ii. No: Nowland **Passed**
- iv. 3% increase on Treasurer and Building Secretary salaries and a per meeting stipend for meetings attended that are not Bear Creek Township regular or special meetings.
 - 1. **Motion** by Kendziorski to approve a 3% increase on Treasurer and Building Secretary salaries and a per meeting stipend for meetings attended that are not Bear Creek Township regular or special meetings. 2nd by Golding.
 - i. Yes: Hoffman, Keiser, Kendziorski, Golding
 - ii. No: Nowland **Passed**
- v. 4% increase on the Clerk salary and a per meeting stipend for meetings attended that are not Bear Creek Township regular or special meetings.
 - 1. **Motion** by Nowland to approve a 4% increase on the Clerk salary and a per meeting stipend for meetings attended that are not Bear Creek Township regular or special meetings. 2nd by Golding.
 - i. Yes: Hoffman, Keiser, Kendziorski, Golding, Nowland **Passed**

c. **K&M Tax Appeal**

- i. Keiser reported that K&M Properties is the D&W Plaza located on US 31 N Hwy. We will be working on a settlement agreement for this property. Currently, the assessed value is \$3,690,500 and the agreed state equalized value is \$3,100,000. The current taxable value for this property is \$3,254,512 and the stipulated taxable value would be \$3,100,000. The stipulated agreement amount would be for roughly \$150,000 less.
- ii. **Motion** by Keiser for Joel Wurster to sign the agreement to agree to stipulate with Koffman-McEntee, LLC to change the assessed value from \$3,690,500 to \$3,100,000 and the taxable value of \$3,254,512 to \$3,100,000. 2nd by Hoffman. **Unanimous**

IX. **Planning/Zoning Report- Report by Kendziorski**

- a. The Planning Commission heard three cases this month:
 - i. The first case was Kristi Schuil for a Special Use Permit at 2800 E Mitchell Rd. This case was postponed per applicant request.
 - ii. The second case was Robert Drost for a PUD Agreement Amendment at 2157 Howard Rd. This case was postponed per applicant request.
 - iii. The third case was Mark Grubaugh for a Special Use Permit and Site Plan Review Amendment- Contractor's Use at 1992 Harbor-Petoskey Rd. This case was postponed by the Planning Commission for further information.
 - iv. Keiser noted that Tammy Doernenburg is getting caught up on the Enforcement Report and has sent out a few letters.
 - v. **Motion** by Kendziorski to recommend approval of the Planning Commission Report. 2nd by Hoffman. **Unanimous**

X. **Fire Department- Report by Welsheimer**

- a. Welsheimer reported that they had a trailer fire on Cedar Valley Rd. There were 2 EMS calls and 15 fire calls. Welsheimer gave a summary of the annual report: Last year they serviced 460 kids in the fire prevention program. 8 businesses did fire extinguisher training. They installed 130 fire alarms. This year they also started selling 911 address signs (and have sold nearly 160 signs). They received a grant to purchase battery operated tools. Their average response time is 7.2 minutes (where the national average is 7.39).

XI. **Parks & Recreation Report- Report by Nowland**

- a. Nowland reported that they approved the grant for the Bear River Water Trail Plan and are looking forward to working with Emily Meyerson on this project. They are in the process of updating the Master Plan. Networks Northwest has submitted a proposal for the Master Plan as well.
- b. Keiser reported that Roy Harvey wishes to resign his position on the board. We will have to find a replacement for him. Keiser noted that Al Hansen may be interested.

XII. **Correspondence**

- a. Keiser noted that the Tribe is well underway in the process of building "Lume Cannabis" a marijuana retail establishment on tribal land in Bear Creek Township. The property is located on US 31 N Hwy near the Ace Hardware. Keiser has reached out to many federal and state offices for assistance, but has not received much feedback. However, Keiser just got in contact with Steve Eddy (the field inspector for marijuana outlets in our

region) and while Eddy was not aware of this issue, he has confirmed that he is looking into it. He believes that they may need local government approval of some kind.

i. Karla Buckmaster asked if the Tribe will be able to put that money in a bank.

1. Keiser does not think they would be able to.

XIII. Clerk's Business/Bills- Report by Kendziorski

a. Kendziorski reported bills in the amount of \$207,595.68. Preparations for the March election are going well. We are in the process of preparing ballots. Those will be mailed out Monday.

i. **Motion** by Kendziorski to pay the bills in the amount of \$207,595.68. 2nd by Golding.

Unanimous

b. We will need to make a budget amendment for the Clerk's budget for \$3,000 and the Supervisor's Budget for \$2,000. We did not amend the budget when we added the per meeting stipend this year.

i. **Motion** by Keiser to amend the budget for the Clerk by \$3,000 and the Supervisor by \$2,000. 2nd by Kendziorski.

Unanimous

XIV. Treasurer's Report- Report by Golding

a. The Treasurer's Report shows a balance of \$8,221,974.72 as of 1/31/2020.

XV. Building Department Report- Report by Golding

a. Golding gave a building department report as of January 31, 2020.

XVI. Sewer Business/Bills- Report by Keiser

a. Bills were reported for the amount of \$74,762.91.

i. **Motion** by Keiser to pay the sewer bills in the amount of \$74,762.91. 2nd by Hoffman. **Unanimous**

ii. Keiser reported that we are in the final stages of winding down the Springvale Bear Creek Sewer Authority. The bond has been paid off and each entity is in agreement with the legal documents that have been prepared. The key is that each unit will still bill and maintain the system as it has been for the last 42 years. This will be taken to each board over the next month or two. Without the sewer authority, we could handle the sewer as the Township Board or we could create a committee that could report to the board.

XVII. Request from the Floor/Discussion

a. Karla Buckmaster asked where the information comes from for the 2020 Poverty Guidelines.

i. Keiser explained that the guidelines come from the State of Michigan. Each unit of government must adopt a poverty guideline for the Board of Review. Most use the federal guidelines but you could adopt higher amounts if needed. If an individual qualifies under these guidelines, they would not need to pay property taxes. Most of the individuals that need this are connected to another assistance agency that can refer them.

b. Suzanne Kanine introduced herself as the appointed Emmet County Clerk and Karen Cosens introduced herself as the Emmet County Register of Deeds.

XVIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Kendziorski

Emma Kendziorski,

Bear Creek Township Clerk