

# MINUTES

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP  
ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024  
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING  
TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

Present: Cook, Schultz, Martel, Merchant and Windiate  
Absent: None  
Audience: 5

**A. REPEATING AGENDA:**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm followed by the pledge to the flag.
2. Minutes of August 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting were approved 5-0 with a correction. In Item D. 1, second line, remove "about sections referring to lot size, lakefront restrictions" and add "on various points". Minutes of September 5, 2024 Special Board Meeting were approved 5-0 with one correction. In #3, third line, change "3-0" to "3-2".
3. Correspondence, etc. 1. Certified letters were received from Star and Chestonia Townships noticing Public Hearings to be held regarding a proposed Jordan Valley ORV Ordinance. The Antrim Review September 12<sup>th</sup> edition reported that Chestonia approved their ordinance 3-2 to allow ORV'S in the Jordan River Valley. 2. Milton Township has changed their domain name to MiltonTownshipMI.gov. This improves on-line security. 3. Beckett & Rader Planning Report is available. 4. It's reported that there is a drone system available capable of flying a life vest to anyone in distress on the water. 5. A township resident has asked the Board to add bushes along the fence line at the North end of the cemetery. If not the Board, perhaps the property owner.
4. Agenda Content was approved as presented 5-0.
5. Citizen Comment was heard from Casey Wiggins about reducing the commissioners from 7 to 5. He is against the change. He also gave recognition to the Commission for their work, especially over the last year and half with the Zoning Ordinance rewrite. Jarris Rubingh reported work to begin on paving a new taxi way at the airport; the County is trying to get a Sobriety Court here rather than having to go to Traverse City; a reminder about the Public Safety Service Center issue on the November 5, 2024 ballot.

**B. CONSENT AGENDA:** All reports were accepted by consent.

**C. SPECIAL REPORTS AGENDA:**

1. From Jason Merchant no progress on the storage unit special use permit, and it has now been pulled by the applicant.
2. Windiate reported no FOIA Report for this month. Everything is caught up.
3. Cook's Financial Report can be found on-line.

**D. AGENDA FOR BOARD ACTION:**

No Old Business

New Business:

1. The **Motion** by Cook to approve Ordinance 2 of 2024 changing the membership number of the Planning Commission from seven (7) to five (5) members with an effective date 63 days after being published in a newspaper of general circulation within the township was seconded and passed 3-2, with Windiate and Martel casting the nay votes.
2. The **Motion** by Schultz to approve the Mutual Aid agreement as presented with the Township Ambulance Authority (TAA) and Torch Lake Township Ambulance with an effective date of September 18, 2024 was seconded and passed 5-0 roll call vote.

**E. AGENDA FOR BOARD DISCUSSION:** None

**F. AGENDA ITEMS INFORMATION ONLY:** Nothing this month.

**G. CITIZEN COMMENT:** None

**H. BOARD COMMENT:** Schultz is disturbed by lack of quorum for Planning Commission meetings. It's detrimental not having regular meetings. Feels it was right to take our Zoning Administrator's advice to reduce the membership.

Merchant asks that no glass be placed in the cemetery as decoration, etc.; landscaping around the grave sites has gotten out of hand. Makes it difficult to mow.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Kathy S. Windiate  
Township Clerk