**TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP**

**APPROVED REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES 4-0 WITH ONE TYPO**

**July 19, 2022**

**Community Services Building**

**Members Present:** J. Merchant, B. Cook, K. Windiate, S. Schultz

**Members Absent:** A. Martel

**Others:** None

**Recording Secretary:** Veronica Beitner

**Audience:** 16

**A. REPEATING AGENDA**

1. **Meeting called to order** at 7:03 pm followed by Pledge of Allegiance

2. **Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting on June 21, 2022:** (M/S) B. Cook/J. Merchant motion to approve as presented. No Discussion. Passed 4-0. **Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting on June 30, 2022: (**M/S) B. Cook/S. Schultz motion to pass with corrections. Item 5 change “paramedic” to “EMT-B”. Passed 4-0.

3. **Correspondence and Announcements:** Correspondence read from Leslie Lee regarding Walking Trail. Two correspondences for the Board from E. Burgess, 3621 Michigan Trail, Eastport and L. Lee in support regarding the walking/bike trails. Additional comment regarding the trails at the Nature Preserve, a question regarding why Torch Lake Township doesn’t have a curbside trash pick up day. Final question regarding mausoleums at the cemetery.

4. **Approval of the Agenda** - Remove item #1 from the Board Discussion due to absence of A. Martel. (M/S) B. Cook/S. Schultz motion to accept the agenda with changes. No Discussion. Passed 4-0.

5. **Citizen Comment** – Elizabeth Evans, 11941 Pearl Harbor, Eastport, MI read letter of support regarding paved walking trails. Denise Walker, M-88, Central Lake MI spoke to efforts regarding establishing a walking trail in the Torch Lake and Eastport area as well as referenced the Transportation section of the Master Plan. Two additional letters of support for walking/bike paths letters read from L. Moore Family and E. Burgess. J. Avair, M-88 Hwy, Eastport. Spoke to establishment of walking trails along with other community members as ongoing discussion as a group, Torch to Bay Trail Team. Letters of support read from community members E. Johnson and T. Richards. N. Bretz, Pearl Harbor, Eastport, MI provided historical information of family and ongoing support of bicycle/walking trails. Referenced recent Ride Around Torch group from previous weekend that numbered 500. J. Hettinger, 12582 Kessler Rd, Kewadin supports establishment of Bike/walking trail. J. Rubingh, County Commissioner provided updates to Hydrology Study and Flood Plane Management Study. Central Lake Township has given approval for preliminary studies for Mortensen Funeral Homes to add cremation services. Shanty Creek Corridor Road Project had official ceremony. Road Commission updates provided regarding generators. Sheriff Bean provided report of 911 incidents along with comparison to a year ago. Personnel updates reviewed and included retirement of T. Rawlings as Jail Administrator and appointment of S. Knight. Undersheriff Dean Pratt retired with new appointment of Kevin Hoch. Torch fest went well overall. 911 millage renewal of half million upcoming. Request for Proposals being sought to place a new tower to help in communication issues. S. Schultz added thanks on behalf of Board to retirees.

**B. CONSENT AGENDA**

All reports approved by Consent

**C. SPECIAL REPORTS AGENDA**

1. **Planning Commission** – No meeting.

2. **FOIA** – 2 new received in last month and closed. Update on ongoing request along with information still needed. 85% completed to date. Requestor has paid over $2,000 to date on request. Complete report to be provided at close.

3. **Financial Overview** – provided by Supervisor Cook and available in entirety on the website.

4. **TART Update** provided by Brent Boland, Executive Director of Top of MI Trails Council. Proposing that upon completion that biking would be feasible between Alpena and Suttons Bay. Nakwema Trailway is proposed name. Briefly touched on options for various connections such as Barnes Park to Torch Lake Village Day Park. Reiterated benefits of paved trails as addressed and supported in Public Comments as well as current funding available. Elisabeth Calcutt, Project Manager with Nakwema Trailway and Trail Development Director with TART Trails reviewed the Trail development process. Funding of trails typically are a 60/40 split between public/private funding. Brief review of options provided. Acme currently active with approximately 2 miles under development. Active segments in Charlevoix and Elk Rapids also under development. Preliminary work reviewed with handouts provided. Questions posed to guests include: Imminent domain for land owners, length of segments and funding. B. Boland addressed question regarding options to next steps and role of Top of MI Trailways. Mr. Boland encourages Board to focus on trail development specific to our community. Ms. Calcutt reiterated State Grant funding available to assist in financial costs. Discussion continued with review of projected trail path.

5. Update on Torch Lake Water Quality Project & Discussion with Board on Milton Septic Inspection Ordinance – Tom Joseph: Presentation provided by Torch Lake Protection Alliance. Spoke to Torch Lake changes which include algae on the bottom of lake and the Golden-Brown Algae. Reviewed Three Lakes Association which include Torch Lake, Clam Lake and Lake Bellaire and their studies of the progression of the algae. Torch Lake Protection Alliance conducted a study in 2020 which added to information. Today there exists a collaboration between Three Lakes Association, Torch Lake Protection Alliance and Torch Lake Conservation. Mr. Joseph provided additional historical reviews as well as continued needs and ongoing concerns. Spoke to Goal being a better understanding to Golden Brown Algae and efforts to address for any future incidents. Review of Financial needs in 2023 and 2024 provided in addition to review of fundraising efforts. Questions by Board included best way to distribute information. Torch Lake Protection Alliance has a Facebook that the public can join to keep abreast.

**D. AGENDA FOR BOARD ACTION**

**Old Business** – None

**New Business**

1. (M/S) J. Merchant/B. Cook Motion to approve Resolution 2022-10 supporting the efforts of TART in developing a Schematic Design for the Trailway through Torch Lake Township as presented. Supervisor Cook changed Resolution wording by eliminating the final “Whereas.” No further discussion. Roll Call Vote: B. Cook – yes, A. Martel absent, J. Merchant – yes, S. Schultz – yes, K. Windiate – yes. Passed 4-0.

2. (M/S) S. Schultz/J. Merchant motion to approve the Great Lakes Energy Permit Application as Presented. Clerk Windiate reviewed Metro Act of 2003. Roll Call Vote – B. Cook – yes, K. Windiate – yes, S. Schultz – yes, A. Martel – absent, J. Merchant – yes. Passed 4-0.

3. (M/S) S. Schultz/B. Cook motion to approve Budget Amendment Resolution 2022-11, Realignment of 2022-2023 Budget Dollars as presented. B. Cook reviewed need for budget adjustments and role of the Deputy Clerk. Review of the Clerk’s job duties provided. Full details can be found on meeting recording. Discussion included clarification of budget numbers. Roll Call Vote: K. Windiate – yes, S. Schultz – yes, A. Martel – absent, J. Merchant – yes, B. Cook – yes. Passed 4-0.

**E. AGENDA FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

Moratorium on Cemetery Monument Criteria/Design – moved to next month for Trustee A. Martel to be present.

**F. AGENDA ITEM FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY**

1. **Update EMS Policy Book** needs to be completed in next 30 days for review at August meeting

2. **Update to Grant Funding for Day Park.** No grant funding available for the running of day parks. Boat launch funding options reviewed by Supervisor Cook. Land improvements are eligible for funding.

**G. CITIZEN COMMENT**

J. Rubingh, County Commissioner provided update on feasibility of traffic light at M-88 and US 31 is not currently eligible due to lack of traffic at this time. Question from Board included option for a roundabout. Discussion ensued.

T. Joseph asked if presentation of Milton Township Septic Inspection Ordinance could still be reviewed. Will be added to next meeting as a separate discussion item.

**H. BOARD COMMENT**

K. Windiate reminds all of August 2, 2023 Election and reviewed distribution of new Voter ID cards.

S. Schultz reports that 2nd half of ARPA money received.

B. Cook urges citizens to vote on the Road Millage.

**I. ADJOURNMENT** (M/S) S. Schultz/J. Merchant motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Passed 4-0.

**J. FUTURE MEETING AND HEARINGS**

1. Planning Commission Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm

2. Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm

3. Zoning Board of Appeals – Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – CANCELLED

4. Zoning Board of Appeals – Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 7 pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Veronica Beitner and subject to approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.