**TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES APPROVED WITH CHANGES AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2022**

**TUESDAY, September 20, 2022**

**Community Services Building**

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

**Absent:** None

**Recording Secretary:** Veronica Beitner

**Audience:** 12

**A. REPEATING AGENDA**

1. *Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:* Meeting called to order by Supervisor B. Cook at 7:00 pm. Pledge of Allegiance said by all.

2. *Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting on August 16, 2022:* A5 – remove the word vote in the final sentence and replace with look. D4 – Add “Due to the resignation of M. Petersen.” D5 second sentence add the language “through fact findings Resolution 2022-13…” E1 – Martel spelled incorrectly. (M/S) B. Cook/K. Windiate motion to approve the Regular Board Meetings of August 16, 2022 with changes. No discussion. Passed 5-0.

*Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting on August 18, 2022:* (M/S) B. Cook/S. Schultz motion to approve the Special Board meeting of August 18 2022 as presented. No Discussion. Passed 5-0.

*Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting on August 31, 2022:* 4 – Approval of minutes should reflect motion made by S. Schultz and seconded by J. Merchant. (M/S) S. Schultz/J. Merchant move to approve the Special Board meeting of August 31. 2022 with changes. No Discussion. Passed 5-0.

3. *Correspondence and Announcements:* K. Windiate read correspondence from Connie Taylor on issue that is not on tonight’s agenda. Correspondence referenced appointment of R. Service to ZBA as an alternate. Raised Conflict of Interest concern.

4. *Approval of the Agenda:* B. Cook/J. Merchant to accept the agenda as presented. No discussion. Passed 5-0.

5. *Citizen Comment:* J. Rubingh, County Commissioner reported on meeting: Reported on Antrim County Road Commission meeting held earlier today. County garage still undergoing updates. Antrim County Sheriff Dept. will no longer oversee Animal Control. Antrim Creek Natural Area requested more advertisement with the County denying request.

**B. CONSENT AGENDA**

B. Cook stated Treasurer report reflects the ARPA grants as requested.

S. Schultz requests the Ambulance and Fire Department reports be pulled. Primary unit back in service. S. Schultz requests clarification on the Fire Department report regarding lift and medical assists noted. Fire Chief K. Lane clarified.

(M/S) B. Cook/S. Schultz motion to accept the Ambulance and Fire Department reports. No Discussion Passed 5-0.

**C. SPECIAL REPORTS AGENDA**

1. Planning Commission – J. Merchant summarized topic of Noise Ordinance as requested by the Board. Discussion to continue next month.

2. FOIA Update – K. Windiate reports that one report completed. One additional FOIA still open pending information from S. Kopriva, Zoning Consultant.

3. Financial Overview – Supervisor B. Cook reminds all to direct all questions to either himself or the Clerk’s office. Report can be reviewed in entirety on the Website or reviewed on the Torch Lake Township YouTube channel.

4. Julie Brown – Superintendent of Elk Rapids Schools – Thanks the Board for their service. Provided a handout regarding 20 mills non-Homestead Millage. Reviewed need for millage and consequences if not considered. Second millage request for Special Education Millage proposal (Restoration of .5 mill) reviewed with a handout provided. Questions from the Board addressed by Superintendent Brown. She provided additional details regarding Special Education services that support all students. Encourages citizens to contact her with any questions. Board asks for progress report on renovations. Superintendent Brown provided a favorable update regarding various aspects of the project.

5. Tom Joseph – Outline Aspects of Septic Inspection Ordinance power point presentation may be reviewed at the Township website or the Township YouTube channel. Referenced 2016 The Septic Question Project Report as well as the Milton Township Ordinance. Q&A ensued.

**D. AGENDA FOR BOARD ACTION:**

*Old Business* – None

*New Business*

1. Approval of legal firm associated with Barnes Park. Board discussion reviewed. (M/S) S. Schultz/B. Cook Motion to Approve the hiring of the Legal firm of Young, Graham & Wendling specifically to handle any Torch Lake Township Legal Advisory requirements associated with Barnes Park at $175 per hour. Discussion on motion: K. Windiate asks for clarification regarding concerns with Barnes Park answered by Supervisor Cook regarding enlargement of non-conforming lot. Passed 5-0.

**E. AGENDA FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

1. TLT, Fire Chief Kevin Lane provided details to the Board related to acquisition of New Fire Tanker Truck. Supervisor Cook provided a summary of options which include complete repairs on current unit and keep in service, evaluate short term purchase of older equipment which has a lifetime usage of 25 years or evaluate purchase of new equipment and funding options. Fire Chief states purchasing used are hard to find and expensive. Recommends getting a trade in value on older unit. Typically, these older units are sold to agricultural industry. Representative from Spencer Manufacturing, Steve Buckner present to answer questions which included defining ISO Scores and how they translate to individual homeowner’s rates. Board discussion included Fire Department Fund balance and anticipated costs in the next 5 years. Potential need for creation of Capital Replacement or Improvement funds establishment briefly introduced. Additional meeting to be scheduled to further address.

2. Rick Loy Easement Request outlined by Supervisor Cook. Easement would be along Township Cemetery line and be utilized for new construction drainage field. Discussion currently ongoing with the Township Attorney. Mr. Loy reviewed his request in detail to the Board and willing to pay for survey which will better indicate impact to area and road construction work that is pending. Deputy Supervisor Bill Petersen’s remarks and concerns shared by Supervisor Cook. Next steps include Supervisor Cook to contact Mr. Loy after consultation with B. Petersen and Todd Millar.

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

1. Developing a Multi-year Capital Plan for the Township to address the Township’s aging Fire Fleet and Ambulances. Supervisor Cook to establish a working session meeting to address replacement needs and potential costs.

**G. CITIZEN COMMENT** – B. Stridiron, spoke to recent election on Referendum #8. Passed with a vote of 375 yes to 204 no. Secondly, he spoke to proposed changes to Barnes Park and how the proposed number of campsites keeps changing. Wants it noted that our Township Supervisor is addressing this issue as are other individuals. Encourages citizens to submit concerns and comments to Supervisor Cook.

**H. BOARD COMMENT**

J. Merchant – asked for clarification of Commissioner Rubingh’s comments regarding his report. Additionally, he spoke to ongoing concerns regarding road traffic at intersection of US31 and M88.

S. Schultz proud of citizens that attended the Antrim County Board of Commissioners meeting and agenda item specific to Barnes Park. Would like to see a Recreation and Parks committee reestablished BY THE COUNTY

A. Martel – no comment

K. Windiate – Election coming up in November. Absentee ballots expected 9/29/22 and will be sent out once received. Absentee Voters that marked form for November will be sent ballot. Any questions, call the Clerk.

B. Cook – Thanks all guests for attendance and comments. Addressed B. Budros question regarding MCL publication notice. Was reviewed Attorney Todd Millar and founded to not have any conflicts.

**I. ADJOURNMENT** – (M/S) B. Cook/S. Schultz motion to adjourn at 9:22 pm. Passed 5-0.

**J. FUTURE MEETING AND HEARINGS**

Zoning Board of Appeals – Wednesday, September 21, 2022 – CANCELLED

Planning Commission Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm

Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:00 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals Wednesday, October 19, 2022

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