TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

ANTRIM COUNTY MICHIGAN

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 19, 2023 AS PREPARED 4-0.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

Present: Cook, Schultz, Martel, Merchant and Windiate

Absent: None

Audience: 15

1. **REPEATING AGENDA:**
2. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM followed by the pledge to the flag.
3. **Motion** to approve Minutes of November 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting as prepared passed 5-0.
4. Correspondence, etc. Nothing at this time
5. **Motion** by Cook to approve the Agenda Content as prepared was seconded and passed 5-0.
6. Citizen Comment: Comments in support of the Nakwema Trail were received from Jenni Hebert, Meg Ackerman and Denise Walker. Also asking for Board support for the project. County Commissioner Jarris Rubingh reported on the Commissioner’s Resolution to create a unified court system for Antrim County.
7. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Zoning Administrator and Fire reports were pulled for discussion. All other reports accepted by Consent. After discussion, **Motion** by Cook to approve Fire and ZA Reports was seconded and passed 5—0.
8. **SPECIAL REPORTS AGENDA:**
9. Planning Commission: Merchant reported Article 14 has been approved, as well as the Memorial Day event in 2024.
10. Clerk reported there are no new FOIA requests.
11. The Supervisor Report can be found on the township website.
12. TART Trail Update: Elizabeth Kalka from the Tart Trail plus representatives from the Top of Michigan shared updates from the plan. They are here tonight asking for Township support in having a trailhead here in the CSB parking lot. Action later on tonight’s Agenda.
13. Antrim County 2023 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan presented by Matthew Adamek, Emergency Service Coordinator. As of October 2023, the plan has been approved by the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division and FEMA. Local units of government now need to vote to adopt the plan. Once all Townships and Villages have voted to adopt the plan the Antrim County Board of Commissioners can vote to do the final adoption. A sample Resolution was included with tonight’s discussion.
14. **AGENDA FOR BOARD ACTION:**

 **No Old Business.**

 **New Business:**

1. **Motion** by Schultz to approve the 2024 Regular Board Meeting Schedule as presented was seconded and passed 5-0 by roll call vote.
2. **Motion** by Schultz to approve the Elk Rapids Public Schools Contract Agreement at $2.50 per parcel and Northwest Education Services Agreement as presented. **Motion** was seconded and passed 5-0 roll call vote.
3. **Motion** by Cook to appoint Marcie DeWildt to the Planning Commission, replacing Kevin Woodward, effective January 1, 2024 for the remainder of his term. Motion was seconded and passed 5-0 roll call vote.
4. **Motion** by Cook to approve the 2024 Road Work Schedule as presented was seconded and passed 5-0 roll call vote.
5. **Motion** by Cook to appoint Dan Swanson as Alternate #1 to ZBA, replacing Rita Service, effective January 1, 2024 for the remainder of her term. Motion was seconded and passed 5-0 roll call vote.
6. **Motion** by Cook that the Torch Lake Township Board supports the proposed Nakwema Trailway Bike Path as presented, with the Board not committing any financial resources to the Tart Trail project at this time. Motion was seconded and passed 4-1 roll call vote with Merchant casting the nay vote.
7. **Motion** by Cook to approve the revised ambulance wage structure effective with the first payroll in January 2024, based on years of service with TLTA as presented, with the elimination of current incentives of $.15 per year up to ten years of service, the $2.70 per-diem and the $26.00 on call wage rate as follows:

EMT Employees: From $20.00 to $22.50 Paramedics: From $24.00 to $27.00. Motion was seconded and passed 5-0 roll call vote.

1. **AGENDA FOR BOARD DISCUSSION:**
2. 2024-2025 Draft Budget Package for Board review; make suggested changes for the upcoming work sessions.
3. **AGENDA ITEM FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY:**
4. Reminder: Budget Work Sessions: Tentative schedule of times and dates was included in packet.
5. **CITIZEN COMMENT:** None.
6. **BOARD COMMENT:** Schultz commented on the first time she was having trouble getting tax bills to the citizens. If you have not received your tax bill, please contact the Treasurer. Windiate wished everyone Merry Christmas; for the future, Martel recommends we make some kind of historical record of what happened with the expansion of Barnes Park; Merchant was surprised by everyone’s support of the Tart Trail. Also, the Planning Commission meetings are moving to the 4th Monday of the month. Cook and Martel wished everyone a Merry Christmas! With no further business the **Motion** to adjourn at 8:55 was seconded and passed.

**These Minutes are respectfully submitted and are subject to approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.**

**Kathy Windiate**

**Township Clerk**