**TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING**

**ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**APPROVED AT THE JULY 20, 2021 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**June 15, 2021**

Present: B. Cook, J. Merchant, A. Martel, K. Windiate

Absent: None

Audience: 32

**A. REPEATING AGENDA**

1. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance at 7:02 PM by Bob Cook.

2. Approval of minutes of Regular Board Meeting on May 18, 2021. (M/S) B. Cook/J. Merchant move to accept with corrections. CORRECTIONS: B. Consent Agenda, Line 5 “Planning Commission” should be “Deputy Supervisor.” H. Board Comment Line 6 “Nickel” should be “Nichols.” Passed 5-0. Special Board Meeting on May 28, 2021 minutes approved with corrections. BC/SS. CORRECTIONS: Item #3 on line 3 remove the word “to.” Passed 5-0.

3. Correspondence received regarding Township Governance. Move to Board discussion for review.

4. Approval of Agenda Content – B. Cook moves to make the following changes: New Business, delete Item #9 Park Attendant pay. Add Probationary Firefighter new hire candidate James Hunter. (M/S) BC/KW. Passed 5-0. A. Martel requests clarification regarding citizen comments towards agenda items. Can they respond? B. Cook: not at the time but can at Public Comment. S. Schultz added latest MTA article speaks to his question and best practices states to respond at time of public comments from the audience and the Board.

5. Citizen Comment: Barbara Budros spoke to being subject of an agenda item (New Business #1). Bill Stridiron spoke to agenda New Business #1 and distributed handout with permission from Supervisor. Denny Thorley spoke to Township Accounts Payable process. Jarris Rubingh, Township County Commissioner reported on County’s new product of repairing cracks. Jerry Kulka addresses New Business #6 and Township Board decision to stream Township meetings live on YouTube. Karen Bargy, County Commissioner for Milton Township and southern part of Torch Lake Township introduced herself to community.

**B. CONSENT AGENDA**

All reports accepted by consent except the Zoning Administrator’s Report. A. Martel asks for clarification on last month’s minutes. Jackie Petersen says there are no concerns and encourages him to come in and speak with her. (M/S) B. Cook/J. Merchant to accept Zoning Administrators Report. No discussion. Passed 5-0.

**C. SPECIAL REPORTS AGENDA**

1. EMS new equipment Lucas and Lide-Pack Presentation – Thanks all taxpayers for paying for latest equipment and the Board for approving.

2. Planning Commission Report by Jason Merchant. Last meeting was short due to absent members. Items needed to be postponed including a rezoning application. Special meeting has been set for June 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm

3. No new FOIA reports per K. Windiate.

4. Financial Overview – A. Martel requested a more detailed report which is presented tonight by Supervisor Cook and attached to packet. Summary of report and noted highlights explained by Supervisor Cook. Discussion ensued.

5. Special Report by Casey Clement of NW Michigan Health Department – Eden Shores Water Supply Issues involving well casing requirements. Provided resources with contact information for those interested. Questions regarding Community Wells options and process addressed by Presenter and her colleagues.

**D. AGENDA FOR BOARD ACTION**

No Old Business

New Business

1. B. Budros –Discussion began with Mr. Cook reviewing process and information which was obtained from the MTA as well as Legal Counsel for MTA. Supervisor Cook apologies to Barb Budros for any misunderstanding with item 1 on last month’s Agenda. S. Schultz addressed Mr. Stridiron’s letter that went to the Clerk’s office. K. Windiate agrees with S. Schultz and reiterates need of Board process to review and approve any contracted work. A. Martel provided his summary of discussions as well as recommendation. J. Merchant asks for clarification of current Ordinance and Township research work process. Further discussion ensued. (M/S) B. Cook/S. Schultz **Motion** that the Board retroactively approves a payment and hereby states, future boards are not bound to address this error of action as precedence. Roll Call Vote: B. Cook – yes, K. Windiate-yes, J. Merchant-no, S. Schultz-yes, A. Martel-yes. Motion passed 4-1.

2. (M/S) B. Cook/K. Windiate **Motion** to Dissolve the Day Park Advisory Committee- Torch Lake Township Approved by Torch Lake Township Board on July 16, 2019. Discussion led by B. Cook regarding resignations of Committee Members. Further discussion ensued. Roll Call Vote: A. Martel – yes, K. Windiate – yes, J. Merchant – yes, S. Schultz – yes, B. Cook – yes. Motion passed 5-0.

3. (M/S) B. Cook/J. Merchant **Motion** to accept the creation of the Advisory Committee for Wm. K. Good Day Park as presented. Attachment provided for review. A. Martel questions elimination of quorum. Open Meetings Act reviewed by B. Cook. Discussion ensued. Roll Call Vote: A. Martel – no as it does not require a quorum, K. Windiate – yes, J. Merchant – yes, S. Schultz – yes, B. Cook – yes. Motion passed 4-0.

4. (M/S) B. Cook/S. Schultz **Motion to** appoint the following individuals to the Advisory Committee for Wm. K. Good Day Park as follows: J. Merchant (representing North land side), Bill Petersen (South end), Virginia Hawkins (Village), Bob Hawkins (Village), Rita Service and Brittney White as Voting Members and Bob Cook as a non-voting member representing Torch Lake Township Board. Terms of Two Years, Effective June 16, 2021. Discussion ensued. Roll Call Vote: A. Martel – no due to conflict of interest between Rita Service and Township Supervisor B. Cook, K. Windiate – yes, J. Merchant – yes, S. Schultz – yes, B. Cook – yes. Motion passed 4-1.

5. (M/S) S. Schultz/B. Cook **Motion** to refuse the purchase of 2021 Foreclosed Properties in Torch Lake Township which allows “Rights of First Refusal” offered by Antrim County Treasurer. Parcels listed in letter from County Treasurer which is attached, dated May 28, 2021 as follows: 1. #05-14-336-005-00, 2. #05-14-415-024-00, #05-14-415-068-75. Discussion: S. Schultz reports these parcels are found to be of no value to the Township. Roll Call Vote: A. Martel – yes, K. Windiate – yes, B. Cook – yes, J. Merchant – yes, S. Schultz – yes. Motion passed 5-0.

6. (M/S) B. Cook/S. Schultz **Motion** to Approve Beckett & Raeder Contract to Review and update Torch Lake Township Ordinances at a cost of $23,400 and to be completed by May of 2022 or sooner with the Supervisor monitoring the progress of the Contractor and providing updates to the Board. Discussion ensued and led by B. Cook. Current status of review and process commented on by K. Windiate and J. Merchant. Opposition remarks offered by A. Martel. Roll Call Vote: K. Windiate – yes, A. Martel – no because we are violating our own policy by buying something that is over $5,000 and was never budgeted. At this time, we have a way of doing much of this without having a professional group come in, J. Merchant – yes, S. Schultz – yes, B. Cook – yes. Motion passed 4-1.

7. (M/S) B. Cook/K. Windiate **Motion** to Adopt Ordinance No. 2021-03, The Torch Lake Township Fire Lane Ordinance and have the Clerk Publish Notice of Adoption in the Paper within 15 days. Discussion opened with B. Cook review of parking issues at the Nature Preserve and inclusion of Fire Chief K. Lane in developing Ordinance. Draft completed by Planner/Zoning Administrator. Roll Call Vote: K. Windiate – yes, A. Martel – yes, J. Merchant – yes, S. Schultz – yes, B. Cook – yes.

8. (M/S) B. Cook/J. Merchant **Motion** to increase the hourly rate for Linda Woodward for the Scanning Project from $14.00 to $15.00 effective June 1, 2021 that is retroactive. Discussion led by B. Cook. Motion passed 5-0.

9. (M/S) B. Cook/S. Schultz Motion to hire James Hunter as Firefighter pending all the appropriate background checks starting May 26, 2021 in the probationary rate per hour. Discussion ensued. Motion passed 5-0.

**E. AGENDA FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

1. Public Dock Road Jurisdiction – B. Cook went to Antrim County Road Commission Board meeting earlier today. Road Commission will place No Parking signs that TLT purchases. Antrim County stated they are not interested in initiating any changes at this time as of result of recent survey other than moving large rocks along a resident’s property which is not a Torch Lake Township issue. Traverse Bay Road end and access to lake addressed with discussion including letter from Burt Thompson, Engineer-Manager with Antrim County Road Commission. B. Cook to continue reviewing.

2. Rezoning – A. Martel asks about Torchport Rezoning and how this was relayed to Planning Commission. Review of this process offered by B. Stridiron per A. Martel’s request. Further discussion and clarifications ensued.

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

1. Recap of Memorial Day Activity. Two (2) emails received and one verbal conversation regarding early morning noise and beach touch in. Overall, everyone was very cooperative.

2. Discussion related to Torch Lake Ambulance Authority Relationship. B. Cook offered updates with beginning discussion to generate a savings.

3. Conversation with Central Lake Police Chief. Preliminary discussions have begun which include Bill Petersen, S. Schultz to discuss possible collaboration for Ordinance Enforcement Officer.

4. Golden Beach Road work update provided which reflects that the Antrim County Road Commission received a quote that was higher than original quote amount. B. Cook asks Commissioner Jarris Rubingh to add additional comments regarding other project work options.

**G. CITIZEN COMMENT**

Jerry Kulka spoke to role of Planning Commission and reports there is a Special Meeting to be held on June 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Bill Stridiron spoke favorably with working with Beckitt & Raeder. Deb Graber asks that a status of Cemetery be added to upcoming agenda as well as clarification of Fireworks permit and fee schedule. Dave Barr disagree with decision to pay Beckitt & Raeder $23,400 for work, requests update with the cemetery and that Supervisor Cook comments and apology tonight be included on the website. Mr. Cook concurs. Denny Thorley thanks Board members for their work. Ron Budros spoke to Memorial Day events at Torchport, requests clarification of camping permits given to Torchport. Karen Bargy spoke to disappointment in direction taken into Nature Preserve and the Fire Lane.

**H. BOARD COMMENT**

S. Schultz - no comment

K. Windiate - (M/S) K. Windiate/B. Cook **Motion** to reapprove Principles of Government and abide by them. Passed 5-0.

A. Martel - no comment

J. Merchant - no comment

B. Cook - no comment

**I. FUTURE MEETING** **AND HEARINGS:**

Special Planning meeting Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Planning Commission Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm

B. Cook/S. Schultz **Motion** to adjourn at 10:25 pm

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Veronica Beitner