

Kearney Township Board Regular Meeting  
4820 Aero Park Drive, Bellaire, MI 49615

January 2, 2024

**Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Niepoth, Murray, Valuet, Hagood and Alger.

Conflict of Interest: None.

Motion by Murray, supported by Hagood, to approve the agenda, as presented, carried.

Motion by Murray, supported by Alger, to approve the December, 4, 2023 Township Board Meeting minutes, as presented, carried.

Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, to approve payment of the bills, as presented, totaling \$37,204.51, carried.

Old Business:

Proposed draft Master Plan reviewed and discussed. Agreed a copy should be forwarded to consultant from NEMCOG, Denise Cline, who is currently working with the Planning Commission on a redraft of the Township Zoning Ordinance, for review.

New Business:

Matthew Adamek, Antrim County Emergency Services Coordinator, provided background information and answered questions regarding the 2023 Antrim County Natural Hazard Mitigation Agreement. The County has requested all Antrim County Townships adopt the Agreement. Adamek advised the Board that the Township would not be eligible for certain grants, in the event of an emergency, if a Hazard Mitigation plan is not in place. Board members advised that additional time is required to review the lengthy Agreement.

Proposed 2024/2025 Budget worksheet reviewed. Discussed potential salary/wage increases and need for larger generator at the hall. The generator would enhance the Township's ability to serve as a site for residents to go in the event of an emergency.

Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, to allow Treasurer to sign Agreements with Northwest Education Services and Bellaire Public Schools for summer property tax collection, as presented, carried.

Motion by Murray, supported by Hagood, to adopt Guideline Resolution for Poverty Exemption, Resolution No. 01-02-2024, carried. Roll Call: All in favor.

Valuet distributed KCI proposal to print required Notice of Early Voting Postcards to Township voters. Motion by Hagood, supported by Murray, to approve KCI to prepare and send out early voting postcards, carried.

Alger distributed Planning Commission draft minutes from December meeting and discussed the need for a step by step written procedure for enforcing the Township Zoning Ordinance. Valuet mentioned the letter to the Township Board, received from resident, Eric Sturdy, regarding short term rentals in an R-1 district at Shanty Creek and read the Planning Commission recommendation regarding the letter in the Planning Commission draft minutes. Valuet recommended the letter and attachments be forwarded to the Township Attorney. The Board disagreed. The Supervisor discussed the need for the HOA's at Shanty Creek to address the issues raised in the letter and he planned to attend the next HOA meetings.

Public Comment: Audience members voiced various concerns and information regarding short term rentals including that there is a failure by the Township to apply the Ordinance consistently; a MSU Extension webinar is online that discusses issues in other parts of Michigan and the novel ways these issues are being addressed; and some Townships are controlling the number of short term rentals and impose a charge for having same.

Officer Reports: Treasurer: a CD at Alden State Bank was rolled over with a 5.1% interest rate, for a total of three CD's at Alden State Bank at 5.1%. Clerk: distributed draft Social Security Number Privacy Policy for Board consideration; Accounting Services retained to complete W2s/1099s/year end reports for 2023; Accounting Services provided quote for monthly payroll/payables/reconciliations/financial reports; and Networks Northwest eNews and Par Plan Newsletters received.

Supervisor: attending Ambulance Authority meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> and updated Board on staffing retention issues at the Ambulance Authority.

Motion by Murray, supported by Valuet, to adjourn meeting at 8:49 p.m., carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle D. Valuet, Clerk