

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

5/25/2021

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Laureto at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held via ZOOM due to the Leelanau County declared State of Emergency.

Roll Call – L. Houtteman, D. Lewis, and J. Peppler were present via ZOOM from their homes in Glen Arbor Township, P. Laureto and T. Laureto were present via ZOOM from the meeting room at the Glen Arbor Township Hall. Several members of the public were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The agenda was presented and amended. **Motion J. Peppler, support D. Lewis to approve the agenda as amended. Motion unanimously carried.**

All board members stated they had no conflict of interest with any items on the agenda.

Public Comment: Joe Valenti and his wife Karen, residents on Day Forest Road, commented on the increasing amount of traffic at the DNR Boat Launch. They said that parking of vehicles with boat trailers is an increasing issue on Day Forest Road. The vehicles block driveways and cause sight issues. They are afraid that someone is going to be hurt. Property owners in the area are frustrated. They requested that the Township Board review the matter and look for alternatives. They felt an ideal alternative would be to have boaters park at the National Park lot on the NW corner of Little Glen. They said that the Glen Lake Association has run the launch well but with the popularity of the area parking has become a problem.

Jerome Prescott, Day Forest Road, supported the comments of Mr. Valenti and said that he personally witnessed at least 6 near misses last summer. He said that there are several blind spots along Day Forest, and it makes it hard for residents to get out of their driveways. He asked the Township to work for a resolution on the parking issue.

Minutes of the 4/20/21 Regular Board Meeting were presented. **Motion D. Lewis, support J. Peppler, to approve the minutes of the 4/20/21 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.**

Treasurer's Report – The total cash on hand by Fund as of 4/30/21 is:

General Fund	\$ 876,412.67	Park Debt Service Fund	\$115,950.56
Emergency Services Fund	\$2,905,720.00	Fisher Lake SAD Fund	\$ 54,546.76
GLFD Debt Service Fund	\$ 5,762.59	Tax Collection Fund	\$ 7,880.55

Supervisor Laureto asked Treasurer Houtteman about the bank fees involved with the Sweep account. Houtteman said that bank charges are low and that there is a fee for the Sweep account, but that it has not increased or decreased in the last 2 years. He said he would investigate what is going on with the sweep funds.

Clerk's Report – The General Fund expenses for the period May 13 – May 21, 2021, were \$11,950.93 and the April Payroll was \$13,406.29. **Motion P. Laureto, support D. Lewis, to approve the payment of General Fund expenses and payroll. Motion unanimously carried.** The Clerk also reported that a \$2,400.00 invoice for work on the EGLE dredging permit was received. The 5-year EGLE permit has been received. The payment will be made from the Fisher Lake SAD Fund. **Motion P. Laureto, support T. Laureto, to pay the invoice from the Fisher Lake SAD fund. Motion unanimously carried.**

Clerk Laureto reported that the Emergency Services bills for May 12 – May 21, 2021 totaled \$35,327.13 and the payroll for April was \$86,956.46. **Motion P. Laureto, support J. Peppler, to approve payment of the Fire Department's bills and payroll. Motion unanimously carried.**

Emergency Services Advisory Commission Report – In DePuy’s absence P. Laureto made the ESAC report. ESAC revisited the Community Paramedic Program and encourage the Chief to explore the program as part of his 5-year plan.

Chief Ferguson told ESAC that upon it’s last inspection, the mechanic determined that the frame of Engine 211, which is owned by and housed in Empire, is badly rusted making the truck unsafe to use.

The department has finished classroom training on the boat and has started on-the-water training. Chief Ferguson discussed training with the Coast Guard. He said the Coast Guard has a new helicopter which is much larger than their old one. He is concerned that our Boat may be too small for the new helicopter to hoist rescued individuals off the boat. There may be problems with too much rotor wash.

Fire Chief Operations Report – In Chief Ferguson’s absence P. Laureto reported that the GLFD has hired one full-time firefighter/paramedic and one part-time paramedic. The department had 32 calls in April. One part-time EMT has nearly finished Fire School in TC and a Firefighter/EMT has completed the Paramedic course in TC. Ferguson is still waiting for new garage doors for Station 2 in Empire.

Zoning Administrators Report – Submitted in writing

Monthly Assessors Report – Submitted in writing

Correspondence – The April correspondence is available in the Township Office for review.

Unfinished Business

1. Clerk Laureto updated the Board on the Cemetery Ordinance and Bylaws. She has been working on both documents which will be fairly similar to the Park and Recreation Board Ordinance and Bylaws. She will have the documents to the Board for their review prior to the June meeting.

John Peppler said that currently there is a very enthusiastic and active cemetery committee. They were at the cemetery today cleaning things up for a Memorial Day program that is planned for 10:00 a.m. Friday May 28th. He encouraged all Board Members to attend. Peppler also reminded Board Members that he emailed copies of the most recent survey of the cemetery to everyone about a week ago and asked Board members to look it over as we will need to discuss this at a future meeting.

New Business

1. Clerk Laureto said she was asked by the Glen Lake Community Library to announce that the library trustees voted to have Cynthia Taggart replace Ann Davey as a trustee from Glen Arbor Township. Ann resigned after many, many years of service. The other GLCL board members from Glen Arbor Township are Bill Batterson, Trustee, and Douglas Lake, Advisor.
2. Clerk Laureto reminded the Board that Aspen Wireless has installed video equipment for the Township over the last couple of years. She said there is a video feed at the Park that allows individuals to monitor activities going on at the Park. The cameras are connected to a network video recorder which runs the feed. We have had trouble over the last couple of years keeping the feed live and active; it regularly goes out. The Chairman of our Park and Recreation Board contacted Aspen Wireless about the issues at the Township Park and learned that the video recorder is not reliable. Aspen recommended we purchase an updated network video recorder which they said has been much more reliable. Aspen sent a quote for the new recorder. To have discussion **P. Laureto motioned, J. Peppler seconded, that we approve the quote for \$1,047 for an upgrade to the network video recorder.** Discussion ensued and several questions were raised. **P. Laureto withdrew her motion and J. Peppler withdrew his second.** T. Laureto will schedule a meeting with representatives from Aspen Wireless, obtain answers to board member questions, and report back next month.

3. T. Laureto introduced the topic of reopening the office to walk-ins and asked Clerk Laureto to review the current guidelines. She said that MIOSHA and MDHHS have relaxed the COVID restrictions so that we can have 50% of capacity in the Township Hall and workers who were able to work remotely are now able to return to work. We are now able to return to in-person meetings. 50% capacity of the Hall is 233 persons. The assessor will be returning to the office tomorrow and will be on site each Wednesday.
Motion T. Laureto, second J. Pepler, beginning June 1 the Townhall offices will be open, we will resume in-person meetings in the Township Hall, and smaller committees can meet in the meeting room. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Park Board Report: Clerk Laureto shared the ordinance and bylaws with Park Board members, and everyone was pleased with them. We are still looking to add two individuals to the Board. There is a new outdoor ping-pong table with paddles and the new shed has been installed. May 29th at 3:00 p.m. there is a work bee scheduled at the Park.

Planning Commission Report: J. Pepler reported that the Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing on a proposed zoning change at 7:00 p.m. on June 3rd. The proposed change is to allow residential structures to be constructed in the business district. That meeting will be held via ZOOM due to noticing requirements. The regular planning commission meeting will follow the public hearing at 7:30 p.m..

Public Comments:

Jane Becker said that so many things happened during the Pandemic that people have adapted to things such as ZOOM. She believes that ZOOM has increased participation in a lot of different ways. She was wondering if a hybrid situation has been thought of or if hybrid meetings are even allowed under Michigan law.

Jerome Prescott asked if there could be a collaboration between the DNR and the Township on limiting the number of vehicles at the DNR boat launch.

Board Member Comments:

John Pepler commented to the people who spoke about the parking situation on Day Forest Road saying that he agrees completely with the description of the situation but that since it is a DNR launch site we do not have much power to regulate it. We may be able to make some suggestions.

Pam Laureto also spoke to the issue of Day Forest Road parking. She said she made several calls seeking information. The Leelanau County Road Commission said that parking is legal in the road right-of-way except for when the snowplow is operating. She spoke with LCRC about speed limits and learned that if there is a posted speed limit less than 55mph then the Michigan State Police, who oversee speed limits, have already done a study and set the posted limit. She also spoke with the Township's zoning administrator who will begin driving down Day Forest Road to gather documentation of violations to our Zoning Ordinance. She referred the public to the Township's Parking Ordinance which is posted on the Townships website. She stated that the ordinance does allow for parallel parking on roadways but lists several situations in which parking is prohibited.

Supervisor Comments:

Supervisor Laureto reminded residents of the May 29th Township wide clean-up day. Waste management will be picking up items along their regular routes throughout the Township. Residents must have their items out by 7 a.m. Our pick-up does not allow for tires but the County sent a note stating that they still have room for more tires at their tire recycling event being held at the Glen Lake Schools. Call the county to make a reservation.

Supervisor Laureto said that the State has completed their Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements (AMAR) and 93 of 1240 Townships had a perfect score. Glen Arbor Township was one of those and was highlighted by the presenter. Laureto said congratulations go out to our assessors Polly and Tim Cairns and said that Polly and Tim are very diligent with details. He congratulated the Cairns' saying it is quite an accomplishment to be in the top tier.

T. Laureto commended the Fire Department for their work in responding to the fire at LaBear stating that within 30 minutes we had several departments and several pieces of large equipment on scene to aid our department. GLFD employees from all 3 shifts showed up to help put the blaze out and the fire was out by 9 a.m. He said commendations go to our fire department and the leadership of Chief Ferguson.

T. Laureto said that he would like to talk about the old shed in our parking lot at a future meeting.

T. Laureto plugged all the events coming up this weekend; 10:00 am Friday, May 28th, for the Memorial Day service at the Glen Arbor Cemetery, 8:00 – 12:00 noon on Saturday May 29 the Township wide clean-up day, and a work bee at the Township Park from 3:00 – 5:00 pm on Saturday.

Motion T. Laureto, second D. Lewis, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Laureto
Township Clerk

APPROVED