

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Special Board Meeting
Township Hall and via Zoom

Tuesday June 17, 2025

16 Present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 10:00 am by Fletemier
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Roll Call of Board Members – Brozovich, Fletemier, Almose, Shoemaker, and Nichol all present.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda – **Motion** to adopt agenda by Shoemaker, supported by Almose. Motion carried.
- V. Conflict of Interest – Brozovich, Fletemier, Almose, Shoemaker, and Nichol all answered no in roll call.
- VI. Public Comment – None
- VII. New Special Business
 1. Budget modification for FY 2024-25 due to the Brush Truck repairs. Nichol inquired why we would not use the Township Improvement Fund as it has over \$300,000. **Motion** by Fletemier to pass the Blue Lake Township General Budget Modification Resolution #061720265-01 for the 2024-2025 FY and will use account# 206-336-970.000 Fire Fund Capital Outlay, supported by Shoemaker. Roll Call: Brozovich, Shoemaker, Almose, Fletemier all yea. Nichol, nay. Resolution passed.
 2. Fire Chief Discussion and Action – Fletemier began the discussion with the fact that Chief is working a second job at Paradise Township. Fletemier met with the Chief on June 5th. Fletemier also called Shoemaker in as a witness on the advice of Council, but the Chief was unaware. Fletemier believed the Chief should have informed the Board as well as the Officers as it would have changed his decision regarding the new salary schedule. Almose: decision to hide the fact that he took other employment. Concern about how much time out of the township. Shoemaker: part of leadership that he keep his officers informed. Chief: 24 hrs/day for 17 days; 96 hrs/month. Never was it an issue of what I did on my days off. Two Board members knew as well as one officer about my job which is less time than what has been worked at my job downstate. Nichol: read a memo to the Board (it is attached and salary was corrected to less \$12,000 – not \$13,000 as was stated). Public comments: Clark: your data is only ½ of the data; it does not take into account responsibilities. I've been here 8 years, and we have a great fire department. Greer: every firefighter will defend the Chief. No requirements for secondary employment. I do not see the fire department has suffered in any way. Be very careful how we move ahead. Eldona: There is no non-compete clause. We have a fantastic Chief. BLT's responsibility is public safety. Newberry: Supports what Nichol said in the documents passed out. The Chief has done so much for us yet at every turn the Chief is harassed. This Board does not listen to the public, leave the man alone and let him do his job. Shaw: a question of integrity/honesty/trust. It wasn't presented truthfully. Clark: with regard to Mary's comments: the Chief has been undermined at every turn. I love Randy and am thankful he works here. But he really refuses to work with the Chief. Brozovich: The 17 days is a real hard point. A lot of stuff here that the board should be giving direction on. We are expecting more than everything. What did we, as the board say he should have done. The salary was set, we don't have a real good standing point. Keep the salary and offer Brierley the job. There were many more comments that have not been written here. Fletemier called for any further comments; Greer: Chief is well aware of his

fiscal responsibility. The FD was turned into a democracy. That hamstrings him for his job. **Motion** by Nichol to offer Brierley the Chief's position (an at-will employee) at \$23,000 +runs, supported by Brozovich. Roll call: Almose, Shoemaker, Fletemier all no. Brozovich, Nichol both yes. Motion fails. Fletemier calls for a short break. Resume meeting at 12:03 pm. Fletemier goes over a number of options for the path forward. Fletemier states he disagrees with the path forward; feels too much ill-will between the Chief and the Board that there is no path forward.

1. Denied at \$23,000 +runs
2. Chief
3. Co-Chief
4. Contract with other townships
5. If there is nothing then the Board meets with the Assistant Chief and Command and decides Assistant Chief will be Chief.

Fletemier talked with 3 of the 5 officers when they called and complained. How to make the Fire Department work better? The Public answered: Respect the Chain of Command and give clear examples. Fletemier: The Assistant Chief and Captain, not sure the Chief can work with them. The Chief answered he works for the public good, can get along with everyone. ***Almose leaves at 1:01pm *** Shaw: Forcing relationships does not work. Suggests facilitating between Chief, Assistant Chief, and Captain. Discussion: the Board agrees that two members of the Board will facilitate, and the goal is to complete the task in six months. All Blue Lake Township firefighters/Command will meet with designees. **Motion** by Fletemier to hire Phillip Brassey-Brierley as the Blue Lake Township Fire Chief at a salary of \$23,000 +runs; a paid at will employee, support by Shoemaker. Roll call: Shoemaker, Fletemier, Brozovich, Nichol all yes. Almose absent. Motion carries. **Motion** by Brozovich to appoint Nichol and Fletemier as facilitators to the Blue Lake Township Fire Department to resolve concerns. Supported by Shoemaker. Motion carries. The Supervisor will send notification, in writing, of the motion to all Blue Lake Township Fire Department personnel and copy Board members.

VIII. Board Member Comment and Input – None

IX. Adjournment – Next meeting: Regular Board Mtg 7/9/2025

1. **Motion** to adjourn at 1:51 pm by Fletemier, supported by Shoemaker, motion carried.