

Township of Arcadia Board Meeting

June 8, 2023

Arcadia Township Hall

3422 Lake Street, Arcadia, Michigan 49613

Township Board Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call. Present:** Paul Brown, Supervisor; Jojo Chacon-Lontin, Trustee; Brad Berkshire, Treasurer; Laurie Mason, Trustee; Tracy Catlin, Clerk
3. **Motion** to approve the agenda by Treasurer Berkshire, 2nd by Trustee Mason. AIF, passed.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Berkshire reported status through May 31, 2023. Just now the annual audit is beginning. Summer tax bills will be mailed on July 1, 2023. **Motion** to approve Treasurer's report by Trustee Chacon-Lontin, 2nd by Clerk Catlin. AIF, passed.
5. **Clerk's Report/Listing of the Bills. Motion** to approve Clerk's report/Listing of the Bills by Treasurer Berkshire, 2nd by Trustee Chacon-Lontin. AIF, passed.
6. **Motion** to approve 5/25/2023 Special Meeting Minutes by Clerk Catlin, 2nd by Trustee Chacon-Lontin. AIF, passed.
7. **Correspondence.** FOIA request for original township permanent zoning ordinance from 1977 was completed.
8. **Planning Commission.** Public hearing on proposed zoning map changes took place on June 1, 2023.
9. **Fire Department.** Wes Hull reported 3 medical runs and 1 fire run. Water tanks at cemeteries were filled, outdated medical supplies replaced. He will proceed to purchase a hose washer for a cost of approximately \$600, as that is covered by the fire department budget.
10. **Historical Commission.** No report.
11. **Cemetery Committee.** No report.
12. **Marina Committee.** No report.
13. **Parks and Recreation Committee.** First meeting of new members was held to determine where to focus their efforts. Input from the community is sought regarding things people see that need to be attended to or repaired. Plans include placing more benches around the township and making some updates to Finch Park. A lifesaver ring has been placed at Sunset Station and the kayak launch has been repaired. There will be a life jacket station near the bathrooms at Sunset Station provided by Manistee County; the Lions volunteered to maintain it if needed, although that work might also be provided by the county. Regular Parks and Recreation Committee meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of each month at 6 pm in the township hall.
14. **Website Committee. Motion** by Trustee Mason to disband this committee, as it has made an excellent start and is now being maintained by Clerk Catlin, 2nd by Treasurer Berkshire. AIF, passed.
15. **Manistee County Commission Report.** No report.
16. **Public Comment on agenda items** – to be requested as the items are raised.
17. **New Business**

- a. Recognition of Pride Month. **Motion** by Trustee Chacon-Lontin to recognize, support and endorse the 2021 Township of Arcadia Resolution in favor of Justice and Diversity, 2nd by Treasurer Berkshire. AIF, passed.
- b. Golf Cart Resolution. The ordinance allowing golf carts to be used on the streets of Arcadia expired some years ago. Trustee Chacon-Lontin researched the state statute allowing townships of our size to regulate this activity. A resolution was prepared in line with this statute and similar to other townships of this size. **Motion** by Treasurer Berkshire to adopt Resolution to Allow Use of Golf Carts on the Streets and Highways of Arcadia, in compliance with relevant statute(s) of the State of Michigan, 2nd by Trustee Mason. Trustee Chacon-Lontin aye; Clerk Catlin aye; Supervisor Brown aye; Trustee Mason aye; Treasurer Berkshire aye. AIF, passed. (Note: The relevant Michigan statute with which golf cart drivers must comply will be posted on the Township of Arcadia website.)
- c. Lake Weed Project. The most recent 5-year project was completed this week. The board will begin the process of investigating whether to repeat this 5-year plan, propose a 7-year plan, and/or develop a different approach to controlling the weeds in the lake. This is funded through property taxes paid by owners of water frontage. Public input is encouraged regarding this process. **Motion** by Treasurer Berkshire to initiate process of determining the next lake weed control project, including its duration, 2nd by Trustee Chacon-Lontin. AIF, passed.
- d. First Annual Farmworker Appreciate Event: Sunday, August 27, 2023, from 1 to 3 pm at PVCC. This event includes the efforts of the Lions, PVCC, the Lutheran Church, among others, and is to honor and support these workers who are vital to our community. This family event will include a dinner, for which 200 people are expected. Donations will be appreciated. The event will be published in the media.
- e. Local Business Development Discussion. The township of Arcadia is often just too big or just too small to qualify for certain public funding designed to enhance the vibrancy of our area. Supervisor Brown suggested the development of a working group to focus on this issue; please e-mail him if interested! Also there will be note on the website.

18. Old Business

- a. Big Apple. There is a new Manistee County enforcement person who will make an attempt to resolve this matter.
- b. Update on Sunset Station. An informative and well-attended meeting was held on June 6 with the engineers who designed the plan for an update. We are all waiting for a state decision on funding. Once this is clarified, the board will begin in earnest to decide, with public input, how to proceed – most importantly, how to pay for it. Final and specific design details (e.g., parking spaces, traffic flow) will be determined once financing is settled.
- c. STR Property Registration Ordinance. The Planning Commission completed its work on zoning changes and has forwarded them to the county for its review. In the meantime, the board can act on a registration ordinance, as we wish to gather information about where there are STRs in our community. **Motion** by Trustee Mason to adopt Short-Term Property Registration Ordinance, 2nd by Treasurer Berkshire. Trustee Chacon-Lontin aye; Clerk Catlin aye; Supervisor Brown aye; Trustee Mason aye; Treasurer Berkshire aye. AIF, passed.

d. Dredging Update. Dredging is underway and can be observed from Sunset Station. Good news – they might be able to excavate to 12 feet instead of 9 feet, as long as they do not hit rock. The project should take about 5 days, starting tomorrow (June 9). Much appreciation was expressed for Ross Kladder’s work with the State of Michigan and with the Army Corp of Engineers for getting this vital matter arranged and now in process.

e. Tree Update. 31-1/2 trees have been cut down; 8-1/2 to go, along with light trimming. Hopes are that this will be finished by next Friday. Some trees were taken off the list when requested by homeowners who want to handle the matter themselves. The company, Smitty’s, will be grinding the stumps in the fall. The Arcadia Lions have volunteered to plant trees to replace those which were cut down and would like a committee to be formed for replanting, included non-Lions.

19. Public Comments. Some concerns were expressed about diminished reception on Verizon phones. One person mentioned that a “booster antenna” helped with her cell reception.

20. Motion to adjourn by Treasurer Berkshire, 2nd by Trustee Chacon-Lontin. AIF, passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.