

Township of Arcadia Board Meeting

August 10, 2023

Arcadia Township Hall

3422 Lake Street, Arcadia, Michigan 49613

Township Board Meeting Minutes - Proposed

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call. Present:** Paul Brown, Supervisor; Brad Berkshire, Treasurer; Laurie Mason, Trustee; Tracy Catlin, Clerk. **Absent:** Jojo Chacon-Lontin, Trustee
3. **Motion** to approve the agenda with two additional items (speed limit sign and animal control information) by Trustee Mason, 2nd by Clerk Catlin. AIF, passed.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Status quo is as expected. Summer taxes have been received for 25% of the township's parcels. Due date is September 14, and the township office will be open on that day from 9 to 5 for those wishing to pay their taxes in person. **Motion** to approve Treasurer's report by Clerk Catlin, 2nd by Trustee Mason. AIF, passed.
5. **Clerk's Report/Listing of the Bills.** **Motion** by Treasurer Berkshire to approve Clerk's Report/Listing of the Bills, 2nd by Trustee Mason. AIF, passed.
6. **Motion** by Clerk Catlin to approve 7/13/2023 Board Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Trustee Mason. AIF, passed.
7. **Correspondence.** None.
8. **Planning Commission.** No meeting was held this month.
9. **Fire Department.** Wes Hull noted that July and August are very busy months for the fire department. In July they had 9 medical runs and 3 fire runs. In addition, there were two fire trucks at the fireworks for Arcadia Daze, a truck in the Onekama parade, and plans are for medical coverage at the upcoming Minnehaha event.
10. **Historical Commission.** Ed Howard announced that the next meeting will be Tuesday 8/15 at 7 pm at the museum and that there is an opening on the commission for anyone interested. He described their funding arrangement associated with the Manistee County Community Foundation. They also hope to restart the museum's biannual newsletter this fall. Furthermore, an events committee has begun plans for topics to be determined, including shipwrecks. Arcadia Daze museum interest was very active.
11. **Cemetery Committee.** No report.
12. **Marina Committee.** Dredging of the channel has been completed. Seasonal boating activity continues to be brisker than last year.
13. **Parks and Recreation Committee.** Matt Catlin noted that a meeting was held on 7/24/23. Mike Matteson's work is appreciated for paint/stripping the parking lot at Sunset Station. Fishing dock repairs were discussed. The next meeting will be Monday 8/28/23 at 6 pm.
14. **Manistee County Commission Report.** No report.
15. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – requested as the items were raised.

16. New Business - None at this meeting.

17. Old Business

a. Short-Term Rental Ordinance now in effect. Registration began on August 1; four registrations received so far. No cost to register. If not registered, it may be difficult to obtain an STR license next year. Question was raised regarding management companies, which can be addressed if the issue arises by contacting the board.

b. **PUBLIC HEARING regarding Lake Weed Project.** This was an opportunity for attendees to express their questions, objections and/or support regarding this project. Rick Butyn of Progressive AE was present to answer several questions about the nature of chemicals used to treat invasive plant species in the lake and the immediate and residual effects of using these chemicals. Discussion ensued about alternative ways of handling this problem and the approaches of other communities to lake weed issues. Included were the evaluation of effectiveness through vegetation surveys as well as the fundamental difference between lake management as the root problem and weed treatment. Costs of a 5-year versus 7-year continuation plan were compared. Supervisor Brown noted that the community drives the action of the township board, and encouraged members of the community who are interested in devising different approaches to this issue to gather information and propose alternative plans.

Following a thorough hearing of public comments, the board discussed its 3 options: 5-year plan, 7-year-plan or no plan at this time. Clerk Catlin moved that the board adopt the **August 10, 2023 Resolution approving 2024-2030 plans and cost estimates within the existing special assessment district, and scheduling public hearing on proposed special assessment roll for September 14, 2023,** 2nd by Treasurer Berkshire. Trustee Mason aye; Treasurer Berkshire aye; Clerk Catlin aye; Supervisor Brown aye. AIF, passed.

c. Sunset Station Update. Our hoped-for grant to revamp Sunset Station according to the design agreed upon over the last couple of years was denied. Although this is a disappointment, the state (EGLE) agency we work with is already preparing a list of other potential grants. The parks and recreation committee will sort out the best approach to a phased plan that will still allow for some beach work to be done before next summer. They are interested in potential grant writers for this purpose.

Motion by Treasurer Berkshire to direct the Parks and Recreation Committee to continue to explore grants for phased plans to improve Sunset Station, working with GEI and township volunteers, 2nd by Trustee Mason. Clerk Catlin aye; Supervisor Brown aye; Trustee Mason aye; Treasurer Berkshire aye. AIF, passed.

d. Manistee County Contract Renewal. The board expressed satisfaction with these services to date, especially related to zoning compliance enforcement. **Motion** by Clerk Catlin to approve the Manistee County Planning Department contract, 2nd by Trustee Mason. Clerk Catlin aye; Trustee Mason aye; Treasurer Berkshire aye; Supervisor Brown aye. AIF, passed.

e. Recycling. Ideas were reviewed by Trustee Mason with a goal toward reducing noise at the recycling bins during certain times of the day. These will be revisited at a later date.

f. Speed Sign Update. Trustee Mason spoke with the sheriff, and we are still on the list.

g. Animal Control. Trustee Mason noted that in the event of a dog bite, either 911 should be called

or the dispatch number, 231.723.3170

h. Kelly Campbell announced the Farm Worker Appreciation project, currently underway at the PVCC, Trinity Lutheran Church and Arcadia United Methodist Church. This effort is to recognize and appreciate those workers who harvest the cherries, apples, peaches and other crops that we enjoy so much in this area. Donations are sought in the form of money, new socks (adult and child size), new or gently used blankets, jackets, sweatshirts, blue jeans, and new or gently used children's clothing. Donations are being accepted through August 20, 2023.

i. Wes Hull announced that he occasionally uses a speed gun, not a hair dryer, to clock the speed of vehicles on Lake Street. Some of those speeds exceed the limit.

18. Motion to adjourn by Clerk Catlin, 2nd by Treasurer Berkshire. AIF, passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.