

**BEAR LAKE LAKE BOARD**  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday January 10, 2019  
6:00 p.m.  
Laketon Township Hall  
**MINUTES**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Kim Arter at 6:04 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:**

**ROLL CALL:**

- **Present:** Kim Arter, John Snider, Darrell VanFossan, Steve Johnson and Brenda Moore
- **Absent:** None
- **Also:** Representative of RLS Grant Jones, Recording Secretary Veronica West and four (4) area citizens.

**MINUTES:** John Snider moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2018 as presented. Darrell VanFossan supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. The minutes will be placed on file.

**REPORTS:**

- **2018 Treasurer's Report, Darrell VanFossan** - noted, he used the existing approved budget and added an actual cost column for the 2018 year, he reviewed each section and pointed out that for 2018, the total expenditures were \$9,762 under budget and noted that there were not audit expenses as the fund was included with the Laketon Township annual audit and the Township paid for that audit. It was also noted there was no need to use any of the \$9,590 budgeted for contingency. Also discussed the balance on hand, explaining that some property owners opted to pay the assessment in full rather than in the annual payments offered so the funds are sitting there for use in a future budget year. (This is a five year project with the final year being 2022.)

The board allowed a question from the audience - The question asked was regarding the attorney fees and why they were over \$6,000 initially and then only budgeted for \$1500 each year of the five year project. The board explained the need for more of the attorney's time and expertise in the initial set up of the lake board as the reason noting much less of his time would be needed in subsequent years of the project.

John Snider moved to accept the treasurer's report and place it on file. Steve Johnson supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

- **Restorative Lake Sciences Annual Update/Report:** Grant reported that RLS is actively looking for oil digesting bacteria for application to the lake and working on getting the field schedule set up for the 2019 season. Survey and sampling dates will be dependent upon air and water temperatures. Darrell VanFossan asked when the core samples would be taken and Grant indicated that would probably be in early June. Brenda Moore commented on the water quality monitoring in the the spring and fall looking for trends and treatment effectiveness and Grant noted they actually gather these samples 3 times - spring, summer and fall.

**COMMUNICATION:**

- **2019 Regular Meeting Schedule** - Kim Arter commented that she checked prior meeting minutes and when the motion to set meetings for the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6 pm, there was not end date - so the meetings will continue for 2019 on that schedule. There was discussion noting meetings can be cancelled if there is no business to attend to that month.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Treasurer's Reports:** Darrell VanFossan asked the board to determine a frequency for treasurer's reports; quarterly, monthly, annually or bi-annually. John Snider stated he felt quarterly would be adequate unless something unusual were to present itself. Brenda Moore agreed verbally and the others indicated agreement with positive nods of the head and Darrell agreed to provide quarterly treasurer's reports going forward.

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Completed County Drain Projects:** Brenda Moore, the Muskegon County Drain Commissioner, talked about some completed projects upstream of Bear Lake, most notably the Ribe Drain and she is planning to invite members of the BLLB board to come tour the completed projects, probably in the spring when the weather improves. Brenda Moore also commented on receiving a small Grant from WMSRDC (West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission) to plant 2200 trees in County Drain areas. Kim Arter also noted she has been working on compiling a list of projects that have been done that impact Bear Lake to show all the investment that has gone into the watershed.
- **Aerated Lake Tour -** Darrell VanFossan noted they also need to tour Indian Lake in Dowagiac, MI. In the spring to see a whole lake aeration system in operation. Grant noted the systems get turned on April or when the ice is off. He commented on needed to be very close to the compressor to hear it. Steve Johnson suggested taking video with a cell phone to show residents as concern about the noise levels has been voiced by residents at several meetings. Brenda Moore also suggested the video contain conversation at normal levels when near the compressors for a gauge as to the level of noise they produce. Steve Johnson also asked if the compressors run 24/7 or if they are on some sort of schedule. Grant stated they run 24/7. There was also discussion of the electric usage and bills, which would be paid for by the BLLB/special assessment and John Snider suggested asking for a rate break from the electric company, noting he believes they have programs for conservation projects. There was also discussion of people to reach out to at utility companies; Rich Houteman at Consumer's Energy or Johnathon Winters at DTE Energy.
- **501c3 group Bear Lake Preservation Association of West Michigan -** John Snider asked about recent activity and participation in the group. Darrell VanFossan reported on a recent meeting that had several new attendees and commented that they are working on their first project - and educational brochure for lake front property owners. The sent out a fundraising letter at the end of 2018 and did get some participation. Brenda Moore suggested the group connect with the Community Foundation for funds as they have several grant funding cycles. Darrell VanFossan stated he and another member have met with Emma Torresson of the Community Foundation and will definitely be following up with the Community Foundation in the future regarding potential funding opportunities.

**ADJOURN:** Brenda Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. John Snider supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm

Respectfully Submitted:  
Veronica West  
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Bear Lake Lake Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_.