

**KEELER TOWNSHIP
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
64151 TERRITORIAL RD. W.
HARTFORD, MI 49057**

MINUTES OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024

The Keeler Township Board Meeting called to order by Supervisor, Don Blackmond at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call of members present: Supervisor Don Blackmond, Trustee Jerry Morin, Treasurer Sharon Clupper, Clerk Angie Sexton, and Trustee Matthew Sexton. Five members were present constituting a quorum.

Jerry Morin moved to approve the agenda as presented. Matt Sexton seconded, and all were in favor.

Public comment opened at 7:01 p.m. Public comments closed at 7:02 p.m., upon hearing no public comments.

Jerry Morin moved to approve the December 5, 2023; regular meeting minutes as presented. Matt Sexton seconded, and all were in favor.

Guest of Board:

Tina Leary, Van Buren County Commissioner was not present.

Ric Boze, Van Buren County Road Commission. The commission hired Raymond Sanchez as the Right of Way superintendent. The Van Buren County Road Commission approved the 2024 Roadwork Budget. All townships submitted their 2024 roadwork budgets by the deadline this year.

Sheriff's Deputy John Horton reported that there were 55 calls for service in the month of December consisting of 26 traffic stops, two domestic issues, one trespassing, one civil dispute, one theft, five PD accidents, one wanted person, three animal problems, one injury accident, three EMS calls, three alarms, two suspicious situations, three general assists and one fraud. January there were 25 traffic stops, two general assists, two EMS calls, four alarms, three welfare checks, two domestic issues, one abandoned vehicle, one be on the lookout, one property damage, one civil dispute, two property damage accidents, three animal issues, one suspicious situation. Things are going well and things have been quiet.

Fire & Ambulance reports:

Sister Lakes Fire Department had one call in Keeler Township on January 24, 2024, for a semi versus a tree with no injuries. The department's had four calls total for the month. Two in Silver Creek, one in Bainbridge and one in Keeler with a average response time of 8:16 with ten responders on average per call.

Keeler Township Fire Department & Rescue, Chief Don Bogart spoke on behalf of the fire department. The department had a total of fifteen calls for the month of January. One fire call was an assist to Lawrence with the tanker for a barn fire. Fourteen EMS. The department's medical training for the month consisted of trauma. Fire training consisted of truck training.

Charles Concrete for the floor drain and grate work. Zack Poole has been released from medical leave for his foot injury. Everything is still going very well with VBEMS.

Treasurer's report- The beginning balance in the general fund for the month was \$191,574.01, deposits of \$27,022.04, interest of \$38.47, bills paid in the amount of \$34,744.10 ending balance of \$183,890.52. Matthew Sexton would like to see the CD amounts reflected in the Treasurer's report at the next meeting. Sharon will make sure that information is on there as well. Sharon Clupper also let the board know that AllPaid is unable to provide any refunds for Building permits issued more than 24 hours prior. Clerk Sexton informed the board that the yearly charge for QuickBooks Desktop would be increasing to \$635 a year. We could switch to QuickBooks Online for an introductory rate of \$45 a month or \$430 annually for a year and gain access for up to five users for transparency. QuickBooks Payroll Online Enhanced would be an introductory rate of \$40 a month and \$8 per employee. Jerry Morin moved to switch to QuickBooks Online and Payroll. Matthew Sexton seconded and a roll call vote of Sharon Clupper- support, Matthew Sexton- support, Don Blackmond- support, Jerry Morin- support, and Angie Sexton- support. Motion carried. Matthew Sexton moved to pay all bills and claims as presented. Sharon Clupper seconded, and a roll call vote taken of A. Sexton- support, Morin- support, Blackmond- support, M. Sexton- support, and Clupper- support. All were in favor. Supervisor Blackmond would like to have the township audit bid by other firms before the next audit.

Zoning Administrator Allyn Anthony had nothing to report.

Trustee Jerry Morin reported that the Planning Commission combined November and December meetings on December 12, 2023, and they continued reviewing the township current zoning ordinances.

Trustee Matt Sexton informed that there was nothing to report as the Zoning Board of Appeals did not have a meeting.

Old business

Inventory & Maintenance Policy for Township properties is still on hold.

Still no road tour scheduled of the township to complete a 5-year road plan.

There has been no movement on the Lakeshore Drive and Victory drainage issues.

ARPA Funding and Project Use- Midwest Energy Communications Agreement of Provision of Broadband Services between MEC and Keeler Township signed. Work is estimated to be completed by the end of 2025.

New Business

2024 meeting schedule: January 2, 2024, February 6, 2024, March 5, 2024, April 2, 2024, May 7, 2024, June 4, 2024, July 2, 2024, August 13, 2024, Due to Primary Election, September 3, 2024, October 1, 2024, November 12, 2024, Due to General Election, December 3, 2024.

Don Blackmond asked if the board would like to move the meeting time to 6:30 or earlier. Most agreed that the 7:00 p.m. still worked the best. Don Blackmond moved to approve the proposed 2024 meeting schedule and continue with the 7:00 p.m. meeting time. Angie Sexton seconded all were in favor. The motion carried.

Electrical Inspector Ken Simpson is retiring and has given notice that he will cease working for the township. Don Blackmond stated that he and Building Inspector Scott Saunders will begin looking for a replacement.

The floor for Public Comment opened at 7:46 p.m. Carl Davis noted that a home on 2nd St. has had vehicles and junk all over the property for the last 2-3 years and wanted zoning to address it. Another resident stated that a property on Oak St. has a portable storage container on it and wanted to know how long a resident had to remove it. A resident has 6 months to remove it. The resident on Oak will be building a structure over the container to enclose it. Hearing no other public comments, the floor closed at 7:51 p.m.

Correspondence: Don Blackmond received the annual RevShare from Van Buren County Road Commission. The formula for the amount each township receives is \$10,000 per township, 65% of the remaining balance is based on total road miles, 35% of the remaining balance is based on population. For 2024 Keeler Township will receive \$53,504.20. which is less than last year's total of \$54,106.17. Don Blackmond read the Van Buren County RevShare Funds Acknowledgement Agreement. Jerry Morin moved to authorize Supervisor Don Blackmond to sign the RevShare Agreement. Matthew Sexton seconded, and all were in favor and the motion carried.

Motion by Don Blackmond to adjourn and seconded by Jerry Morin. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Submitted by,

Angie Sexton, Clerk
January 10, 2024

The Keeler Township Board will meet on the following dates for the 2023 - 2024 fiscal year. All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the new Keeler Township Hall, 64151 Territorial Rd. W., Hartford, MI 49057.

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

New fiscal year for the Keeler Township Board

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Tuesday, August 13, 2024, Due to Primary Election

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, Due to General Election

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

If there are any changes it will be posted at the township hall and on the website.

Approved on January 2, 2024

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended,

MCL 41.72a(2) and (4) and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Keeler Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Keeler Township Board

Posted on January 5, 2024

Angie Sexton, Keeler Township Clerk