

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JUNE 17, 2025

Supervisor Harthun called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

Board members present, Ringel, Wood-Smith, Harthun, Pattison, May.

Pledge of Allegiance.

May made motion to accept the agenda as presented with the addition of Anderson Road Fence. Supported by Wood-Smith. M/C.

Heard public comments. A request to attach the concern letter from Marianne Domako.

Ringel made a motion to accept May 2025 regular board meeting minutes. Supported by Wood-Smith. M/C.

No Treasurer Report.

Ringel made a motion to open a money market account for the tax accounts minimum of \$5,000.00. Supported by May. M/C.

Received Fire Chief Report.

Wood-Smith made motion to accept the proposal for the purchase of a Brush Truck 2025 F-350 and the needed accessories not to exceed \$120,000.00. Supported by May. M/C.

Wood-Smith made a motion to pay all bills listed including \$85.00 Bear Lake Vehicle Service, Steve Myers, \$90.00 Bauchham, and any other routine bills. Supported by May. M/C.

May made motion to accept Personal Plumbing Inc quote of \$2,546.04 to remove the backflow's preventers and install glycol feeders on both boiler systems. Supported by Wood-Smith. M/C.

Wood-Smith made correct the Manistee County Recycling Program Interlocal agreement term to read, starting January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026. Supported by May. M/S.

Pattison made motion to replace the Maidens Road Cemetery Water Well to the lowest bidder and to have a metal casings. Supported by Harthun. M/C.

Wood-Smith made motion to replace the meeting room copy machine not to exceed \$300.00. supported by Ringel. M/C.

Harthun made motion to accept A+Land Clearing estimate for the US 31 property of \$400.00 per visit once a month. Supported by Pattison. M/C.

Wood-Smith made motion to replace the Anderson Road Fence with a split rail fence on Chief Lake. Supported by Harthun. M/C.

The next regular Township Board meeting is Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 a.m. Submitted by Deanna Pattison Bear Lake Township Clerk.

Good morning, I am MD and have been a tax paying Bear Lake resident for over 30 years. I am here today to express my concerns over the current road conditions in our community.

We have had an influx of commuter horses and carriages on our roads, leaving horse feces all over. The local horse riders do respect the rules of safely riding the roadways; however the horse and buggies do not respect the neighbors who live here by leaving manure in front of our houses. It seems that local cities in Manistee County have been implementing that dog owners must pick up feces from their animals. What about the horses?

Out of respect for the neighborhoods that these horses travel through, on a daily basis, I

think they should respect the roads and either stop and clean up their mess or equip their horses with the necessary plastic bags and dispose of it on their own property.

This issue may be trivial to some people; however, they are not traveling through it every day. Their garages do not smell like manure, then bring the results into our homes. Certain roads that lead to their homes are well endowed with feces. As a licensed driver I pay a registration fee to use these roads, to my knowledge the horses do not. As a purchaser of fuel, I pay gas tax for the roads and I pay for license plates to have the privilege to travel these roads, again I believe that the horse and buggies do not.

I am here today simply to request that the Amish citizens respect the beauty of our community.

I would request that this Board contact the Amish Elders and or Bishop of this local group and that as a township board you request the assistance from their community to respect others and prevent the dropping of feces on our roads.

*Marianne Demko
June 17, 2025*