

VILLAGE OF BEAR LAKE COUNCIL

Bear Lake Village Hall

12016 Russell Street

Bear Lake, MI 49614

June 19, 2025

6:30 p.m.

UNAPPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Bear Lake Council was called to order by President Pro Tempore Janene Gee at the Village Hall at 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL:

President: Shelly Lynnes (ABSENT) **Council:** Heather DeRidder, Janene Gee, Rodney Gee, Daniel Heiss

Treasurer: Tracy Gary **Clerk:** Becky Cline **Staff:** Jake Cline

GUESTS: **In Person:** Wanda Evans, John Virga, Arvin Jay Krause, Bill Beaver
Phone: None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

R. Gee/ DeRidder made the motion to adopt the agenda and add "Water Shed Alliance Update" under Planning Commission.

Ayes: DeRidder, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Lynnes

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS (3 minute maximum per person): None

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Application received for PROTEC Membership- **Tabled**

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

- 05/28/25 VC Monthly Meeting
DeRidder/ R. Gee made the motion to approve regular meeting minutes from May 28, 2025.

Ayes: DeRidder, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Lynnes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Sequoyah Update- Tracy
The water bills were finally sent out for April's billing. There were a lot of errors which have now been corrected for July. The next billing cycle should go smoother. Tracy had to learn to enter in payments as those are now entered using the Sequoyah system.

The deadline was missed for getting the overdue water bills to the county to be added on the tax bills as a special assessment. Shut off notices will need to be sent out now instead in accordance with the Village's Water Ordinance. Tracy said there are 5 or 6 accounts that are very overdue. Tracy also reported that she is not going to be charging late fees for the bills that went out in June and the bills that will go out in July.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Village Council Member Application- Wanda Evans

R. Gee/ Heiss made the motion to appoint Wanda Evans to the open Village Council seat as Village Trustee until November 2027.

Ayes: J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss **Nays:** None **Abstain:** DeRidder **Absent:** Lynnes

REPORTS:

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Jake Cline

The DPW Manager's Report for June is attached.

- Jake reported that Kerby's Excavating has bought Ken-Jac Pumping. The park porta potty will now be taken care of by Kerby's. He will make sure that his employees are keeping it clean.
- Jake will sweep the streets and repair pot holes before 4th of July.
- Shelly will submit for a road closure permit for US 31 with MDOT for Bear Lake Days when she gets back in town.

Heiss/ DeRidder made the motion to approve moving forward with Paradigm Electric to repair light issues in park bathroom to not exceed \$5,000.

Ayes: DeRidder, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Lynnes

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tracy Gary

Fund Balances and Equipment Rental Reports are attached.

BILLS TO BE PAID: Becky Cline

R. Gee/ Heiss made the motion to approve June 2025 Clerk's Report and to pay the monthly general bills before they are late.

Ayes: DeRidder, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Lynnes

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

PARK: Janene Gee & Rodney Gee

- **Grant- Update**
The new playground equipment will be shipped on August 13. It will be delivered by semi-truck. The council will be responsible for unloading the equipment. The white posts currently around the play area will need to be taken out. Webuildfun will be installing the equipment and adding wood chips. There is room in the grant budget (\$4,000) that Janene could ask Sarah at the Foundation about using for forks for the tractor for unloading the truck. All the wood edging will be taken out and plastic edging will be put in all around the playground area. A pine tree that is in the playground area will need to be taken down between now and August. Tracy will talk with a friend of hers that owns a tree cutting business to see if he would be willing to donate his time and equipment to take the tree down for the Village.

WATER: Rodney Gee & Daniel Heiss

The water main break on Lynn Street that occurred in the beginning of June has Rodney concerned for the other water pipes in the Village. There are potentially fractures along the main on Lynn Street.

- **Water Ordinance Update – Property Owner and Tenant/Occupant Responsibility Issue – Forms and procedures for tenant billing. – Still waiting on Randy**
- **Wolf River Golf Park Water Hook Up**
The time line got pushed out since engineers did not realize the short time line on the project. It is expected to be at least 4 weeks out yet. Little River Casino and Wolf River are aware of the situation.

STREETS, TREES, SIGNS, LIGHTS, SIDEWALKS, BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT: Daniel Heiss & Rodney Gee

- **MDOT Update- Jake and Shelly had a virtual Teams meeting to go over project details.**

A tree split on the corner of Lynn and Stuart that needs to be taken down.

Due to age and storm damage of many trees in the Village, the council discussed the Village's tree replacement program. It is a program in which the Village will purchase a tree for home owners to plant on their own property.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT: Janene Gee

- **Bear Lake Area Nature, Art & Historical Trail**
 - **Update**
Janene is meeting with SEEDS on June 30. SEEDS will be at the trail blazing it and training for 3-4 days.
- Janene asked the council their thoughts on allowing the sound garden equipment in the small park between Bear Lake Soap Co. and Niizh Makwa Traders. They discussed potential issues.

EVENT UPDATE: None

BEAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: Bill Beaver

Bill dropped off a copy of the annual Bear Lake Improvement Board report.

PLANNING COMMISSION: John Virga

- **Village of Bear Lake Planning Commission Monthly Update**

John presented Michelle Swanson's application to serve on the Planning Commission to the council. They discussed potential conflicts of interest due to her involvement on other boards. They agreed to accept her application with the understanding that she will abide by the Village of Bear Lake Planning Commission Ordinance Section 5: Conflict of Interest.

Heiss/ R. Gee made the motion to vote to approve Michelle Swanson as Member and Secretary for Bear Lake Planning Commission for a 2-year term.

Ayes: J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss **Nays:** None **Abstain:** DeRidder **Absent:** Lynnes

- John shared the proposed irrigation system plans for the landscaping and flower pots at the Bear Lake Swim Beach and McCarthy Park/ Phillips 66 area. The Planning Commission is working on this project with Tammy Puite. The projected budget is \$800. Meg is talking to Triginta and Promoters about splitting the cost of the project. The council inquired what the electrical usage would be for the year and the potential issues that could arise from using Village resources on private property.
- John is working with Jim Reed on a development plan for the old bank building downtown. The current proposed plan is for the first floor to be used as a commercial space and the floor above to be used as living area. It is believed that grant funding could cover up to 60% of the cost to rehab the building.
- Jason Care is organizing a sidewalk survey in order to prioritize sidewalk repairs.

John said Shelly wants the Planning Commission's #1 priority to be the Master Plan.

He also stated they are working on a community survey as one hasn't been done in three years. He would like a council volunteer to work with for short, relevant questions that people would be encouraged to reply to. It was suggested that actionable options be included in the survey that are grant-eligible improvements that the Village could pursue.

- **Water Shed Alliance Update**

Yellow turtle crossing signs were placed at multiple locations. John also put a container for storm drain testing in the park to gather data.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY VILLAGE COUNCIL TOPIC (3 minute maximum per person):

- Jay Krause had park money for Tracy. He reported that the inspector came by and recommends fixing the hatch on the dump station. He also stated the road in the park is looking good.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

DeRidder/ Heiss made the motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Ayes: DeRidder, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Lynnes

Next Village Council Regular monthly meeting is July 17, 2025 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Cline

Clerk, Village of Bear Lake

June 2025 DPW Managers report

- Wells Daily
- Tower Weekly
- MOR June 6
- Water Samples June 5
- CCR submitted to EGLE, Health dept and posted on bulletin board outside as well as various other public spaces around town on June 16.
- Had Water Main break on June 1 that was repaired. All samples afterward passed. Kerby will replace pavement.
- Turned on some water services
- Becky and I have been working on letters for GPCL.
- Had Teams meeting with MDOT May 29. Someone from MDOT will be going over a couple logistical things with me, otherwise nothing to report. Mainly just focused on details of the project.
- Leveled the dock. There is not room for a double boat launch.
- Replaced a 30 amp breaker at site 27 and the 30 and 50 amp breaker at site 23
- Ordered more receptacles for park
- Have had various conversation with Ken Mlcek regarding wolf river
- Moved some flower pots for Jeanette May.
- Fixed picnic table in Pocket park
- Met Apple fence company at the park to discuss fence plans.
- Shelly Fruk repainted the flag pole at the welcome sign.
- Met with the land bank at both village owned buildings on lake St.
- Did some mowing. Mower is down with an oil leak. I'm waiting on wolf Kubota to get the part in for me to fix it.
- Compactor is fixed
- Road at Hopkins Park was graded and built up today.
- Bathroom lights issue

Fund Balances

Date	Account	Total
5/31/2025	General Fund - Checking	\$30,091.74
	General Fund - Savings	\$9,980.57
	Water Receiving Savings	\$22,408.66
	Park - Checking	-
	Park - Savings	
	Major - Checking	
	Major - Savings	
	Local - Checking	
	Local - Savings	
	Equipment - Checking	
	Equipment - Savings	

FUND	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	4/6/2025	4/13/2025	4/20/2025	4/27/2025	TOTALS
Water (2743)	591-000-943	\$207.20	\$103.60	\$220.15	\$77.70	\$608.65
Park (2735)	531-463-943	\$0.00	\$51.80	\$103.60	\$25.90	\$181.30
Major (2719)	203-463-943	\$72.69	\$12.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85.64
Minor (2727)	202-463-943	\$72.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$72.69
General		\$116.55	\$64.75	\$51.80	\$181.30	\$414.40
	TOTALS	\$469.13	\$233.10	\$375.55	\$284.90	\$1,362.68

FUND	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	5/4/2025	5/11/2025	5/18/2025	5/25/2025	TOTALS
Water (2743)	591-000-943	\$168.35	\$116.55	\$213.70	\$103.60	\$602.20
Park (2735)	531-463-943	\$172.36	\$29.77	\$80.95	\$43.18	\$326.26
Major (2719)	203-463-943	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Minor (2727)	202-463-943	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.95	\$60.28	\$73.23
General		\$137.98	\$51.80	\$393.54	\$213.70	\$797.02
	TOTALS	\$478.69	\$198.12	\$701.14	\$420.76	\$1,798.71

CLERK REPORT**Bills to Be Paid: JUNE 2025**

Fund	Payee	Amount	Account #	Notes
General			101-	
	Consumers	\$170.99		7780 Lake St. BLDG MUN
	Consumers	30.94		7576 Lake St.
	Consumers	100.38		12016 Russell St.
	Consumers	64.88		7780 Lake St. L4 Light Bldg Mun
	Consumers	730.05		49614 LED Light Rd.
	Consumers	161.16		Street Light(s)
	Superior Energy Company, LLC	635.98		12016 Russell St.
	Inacomp	24.00		May 2025 Monthly Backup
	Michigan Municipal League	575.00		MML Full Member Dues, Legal Defense Fund Member Dues
	MML Workers' Compensation Fund	1,451.00		Policy Premium 7/1/2025-7/1/2026
	Intuit	22.26		Intuit QB Payroll Monthly Per Employee Fee Usage Fee
	Saddle Up Gas & Grocery	458.88		May Fuel, Husqvarna 6.4 oz Syn
	The Pioneer Group	195.75		Resolution 2025-01 Publication
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	6.87		Misc Hardware
	Sub-Total	\$4,628.14		
Water			591-	
	Spectrum	\$60.00		DPW iPad
	Michigan Rural Water Association	415.00		Annual Dues
	Fleis & Vandenbrink	650.00		2024 Consumers Confidence Report
	Kerby's Backhoe Service, LLC	5,360.00		Replace Galvanized Water Line and Cement Drive (To be paid from RRI) 12332 Smith St.
	Sequoyah Software and Consulting	4,100.00		Convert to Billing (Software), Installation/ Training, Utility Management
	Superior Energy Company, LLC	88.54		7791 Cody St.
	SOS Analytical	50.00		Coliforms Bacteria 5/1/2025
	Consumers	1,107.43		7791 Cody St.
	Michigan Pipe and Valve	341.00		Curb Box Rod Cotter Pins, Joint Couplings, Adaptors, SS Insert CTS
	Sub-Total	\$12,171.97		
Park			531-	
	Campspot	\$180.50		May Marketplace Booking, Monthly Fee
	Spectrum	119.98		5/22/25-6/21/25 Internet & Voice
	Consumers	164.40		7727 Park St.

	Village of Bear Lake	1,087.50		1/31-3/31 Water
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	5.88		Misc Hardware
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	28.98		30amp Circuit Breaker, 50amp Circuit Breaker
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	9.59		GE Q-Line 30 amps Standard Single Pole Circuit Breaker
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	99.99		Square D QO 20 amps Plug In Single Pole Circuit Breaker
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	18.99		Square D QO 20 amps Plug In Single Pole Circuit Breaker
	Republic Service	271.02		5/1-5/31 Pickup Service
	Sam's Club	148.85		Bath Tissue, Disinfectant, Trash Bags, Lysol
	Standard Electric Company	304.49		(3) 50A Receptacle, (3) 30A 125V RV RCPT
	Ken-Jac Pumping Inc.	100.00		May Portable Toilet at Boat Launch
	Sub-Total	\$2,540.17		
Major			463-782	
	Sub-Total	\$0.00		
Minor			202-	
	Sub-Total	\$0.00		
Equip-ment			649-	
	Wolf Kubota	\$29.29		Boss- Gauge Wheel, Washer-Plain, Bolt
	Sub-Total	\$29.29		
Other				
	Sub-Total	\$0.00		
TOTAL BILLS TO BE PAID		\$19,369.57		