

VILLAGE OF BEAR LAKE COUNCIL

Bear Lake Village Hall

12016 Russell Street

Bear Lake, MI 49614

August 20, 2026

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 Shelly Lynnes at the Village Hall at 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL:

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

Treasurer: Tracy Gary (ABSENT) **Clerk:** Becky Cline **Staff:** Jake Cline

GUESTS: **In Person:** Patty Hartman- SBA, Arvin Jay Krause, Amy McKinley
 Phone: None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Heiss/ J. Gee motioned to adopt the agenda with addition of Patty from U.S. Small Business Administration after Adoption of Agenda.

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

PATTY FROM U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION:

Patty shared with the council that there is disaster assistance in the form of low-interest loans available for homeowners, renters, businesses, and non-profits for the storm, tornado, and flooding damage that occurred during April 10-21. The deadline to apply is August 31 but extensions are possible.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Phone discussion with Marie W.
At last month's meeting, no one said they were on the phone when asked at the beginning of the meeting and there was never a beep indicating that someone had joined the meeting. Wanda, Rodney, Janene, and Shelly were still present at the end of the meeting and Marie called with concerns about her eviction at Hopkins Park. She was acknowledged.
- Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting Notice
Becky shared information on the upcoming MML annual meeting.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

- 07/16/26 VC Monthly Meeting
J. Gee/ R. Gee motioned to approve the unapproved regular meeting minutes for July 16, 2026.
Ayes: Evans, J. Gee, R. Gee, Lynnes **Nays:** None **Abstain:** Heiss **Absent:** DeRidder

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Sequoyah Update- Tracy
There are some things for Jake to follow up on.
- Discuss Leaf Dumping
Wanda knows residents from the Village that would be willing to volunteer for a leaf dumping day to monitor who is dumping and what is being dumped. The council discussed and decided on having Jake pick up bagged leaves that are left by the street in front of people's houses. He will pick the bags up Monday

through Friday. Those that want to take their own leaves to dump will need to contact Jake during the week during his work hours. It was suggested to change the voicemail message on the office phone to include information on leaf dumping.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Ordinance for Yield Signs Across 31 for Pedestrian Traffic**
Shelly had a Teams Meeting with a couple of people from MDOT. The council will need to adopt the Michigan Vehicle Code and Uniform Traffic Code and enact an ordinance for yield signs to be placed on US 31 for the crosswalks. Shelly would like to start with three yield signs. One at Lynn St. and US 31, one at Virginia St. and US 31, and an extra one to have on hand. The signs will need to be up to MDOT code and will be bolted in the middle of the lane on US 31. They will be removed in the winter. The quote for the three signs is \$1,731.80.

It was suggested by a council member to look into having a "Pedestrian Cross Walk Ahead" sign.

J. Gee/ Heiss motioned to continue with the ordinance for yield signs across 31 at the crosswalks for pedestrian traffic and to order the signs.

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

REPORTS:

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Jake Cline

DPW Manager's Report for August 2026 is attached.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tracy Gary

Fund Balances and Equipment Rental Report is attached.

BILLS TO BE PAID: Becky Cline

Heiss/ J. Gee motioned to approve the August Clerk's Report and to pay the monthly general bills before they are late.

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

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

PARK: Janene Gee & Heather DeRidder

- **Marina**
Shelly and the Village attorney met with the attorney for the Marina owners and the property owners and told them the price the Village would like for the property.
- **Campsite Fence-** Discussion is tabled until Park Committee meets in October for updates to the Park Rules

Janene is getting a quote from Apple Fence for a black aluminum fence to match the playground for site #30 to show where the public area is. She also asked about the shrinkage of campsites to allow for a walkway behind the businesses. This will be reviewed in October.

Jay mentioned that the Park Manager phone number needs to be deleted on the Village website under Campground & Park Policies. Jay also said there has been a problem with people parking in the wrong spot in the Park. Council discussed adding no parking signs.

WATER: Rodney Gee & Wanda Evans- None

STREETS, TREES, SIGNS, LIGHTS, SIDEWALKS, BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT: Daniel Heiss & Heather DeRidder

- **Safe Routes to School**
Daniel went to the Safe Routes to School meeting in Onekama with Janene. He thinks that there is potential with the program's grant opportunity. It was evident to him that the school has to be very supportive. Janene has contacted Bear Lake School's principal. Janene thinks that the traffic load needs to get off of Cody St. and Lynn St.
Daniel suggested considering speed bumps in the Village. He will look into it.
- **MDOT Update**
The project is moving ahead.

LIBRARY BOARD: None

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT: Janene Gee & Wanda Evans

- Bear Lake Area Nature, Art & Historical Trail
- Pocket Park
- Wish List for Promoters
- Community Survey
- Hydration Station

Janene would like to write a grant application for every grant cycle through the Manistee County Community Foundation. This would be twice a year. This fall she would like to submit an application for the Hydration Station and another application for Pocket Park or the Trail in the spring.

EVENT UPDATE:

- Fall Community Clean Up Day
The Fall Community Clean Up Day will be September 26. The Village will be getting two dumpsters. \$700/dumpster.

BEAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: Bill Beaver-None

PLANNING COMMISSION: John Virga

- Village of Bear Lake Planning Commission- Update
There are three different ordinance revisions for the Planning Commission to review at their September meeting. They will bring their recommendations to the September Village meeting.
- Blight/ Zoning- Shelly
 - Bear Lake Village Blight Elimination Fund Balance- \$10,131.70Shelly will be going to court over a blight issue.

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

Janene Gee brought to the attention of the council that the General Law Handbook for Village Officials does not say that the council has to have a phone call- in option for their meetings. Janene will contact MML to confirm.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Heiss/ J. Gee motioned to adjourn at 8:57 pm.

Ayes: Evans, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss, Lynnes

Nays: None

Abstain: None **Absent:** DeRidder

Next Village Council Regular monthly meeting is September 17, 2026 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Cline
Clerk, Village of Bear Lake

DPW Manager's Report August 2026

- Wells Daily
- Samples 8/5
- MOR 8/7
- Replaced necessary galvanized lines under US-31.
- Abandoned curbstops to properties that are no longer in use.
- Eliminated a lead gooseneck at the salon.
- Replaced leaking valve in front of filer credit union
- Gathered location data for GIS on a lot of curbstops that Elmers found buried next to the sidewalk.
- Changed garbages and cleaned bathrooms when Janene was unable to.
- Collected meter reads for Tracy where the Meters did not read.
- Investigated old 3" galvanized line under 31.
- Picked up more water parts to replace what we used during our galvanized line project.
- Returned Beulah's CO2 tank to them. (used for line freezing)
- Did some mowing
- Replaced dump station lid at the park
- Had mower blades sharpened at grand rental
- Have met with MDOT every Tuesday for project updates
- Picked up a new Hi-Viz vest
- Sent pictures of updated contact info, dump station lid, and swim area bacteria results posted to health dept to prove we had made the changes as requested.
- Graded, seeded and mulched Cody St and Maple St. They have washed out a little, but grass is growing. I need to go back and freshen it up a little bit.
- Trimmed some overgrown bushes and branches that were obstructing stop signs and intersections
- Had a leaking chlorine line in the well house that I fixed.
- Had various meetings with Shelly and MDOT regarding the large bump outs that have eliminated parking spaces in the 31 right of way.
- Missdigs for days
- Picked up supplies for the park
- Found boat launch drawings for Janene
- Have observed all of the storm drain updates/repairs that MDOT/Elmers have made.
- Met with Janene to discuss sign locations in the park.
- Washed truck
- Turned on old drinking fountain by the book store to confirm everything works correctly.

Fund Balances

Date	Account	Total
8/20/2026	General Fund - Checking	\$32,168.19
	General Fund - Savings	\$20,007.52
	Water Receiving - Savings	\$95,662.36
	Park - Checking	\$61,836.43
	Park - Savings	\$70,007.51
	Major - Checking	\$3,694.11
	Major - Savings	\$87,847.46
	Local - Checking	\$3,734.91
	Local - Savings	\$2,953.40
	Equipment - Checking	\$51,778.69
	Equipment - Savings	\$12,149.69

FUND	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	7/5/2026	7/12/2026	7/19/2026	7/26/2026	TOTALS
Water (2743)	591-000-943	\$101.57	\$276.66	\$327.81	\$470.56	\$1,176.60
Park (2735)	531-463-943	\$282.28	\$207.07	\$27.68	\$69.13	\$586.16
Major (2719)	203-463-943	\$155.28	\$0.00	\$438.60	\$0.00	\$593.88
Minor (2727)	202-463-943	\$475.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$475.44
General		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$1,014.57	\$483.73	\$794.09	\$539.69	\$2,832.08

CLERK REPORT**Bills to Be Paid: AUGUST 2026**

Fund	Payee	Amount	Account #	Notes
General			101-	
	Consumers	\$34.51		7576 Lake St.
	Consumers	93.12		12016 Russell St.
	Consumers	822.20		49614 LED Light Rd.
	Consumers	171.08		Street Light(s)
	Mark Thompson Tree & Stump Removal, LLC	722.50		June, July, Aug. 2026 Brush Cleanup
	Superior Energy Company LLC	(176.16)		Credit 12016 Russell St. Natural Gas
	Brightspeed	161.72		Jul 20-Aug 19 Phone and Internet
	Michigan Media Group/ Manistee News Advocate	67.50		Zoning Ordinance Amendment Notice
	Saddle Up Gas & Grocery	485.50		July Fuel, Newspaper
	Inacomp	24.00		July 26 Backup
	Intuit	29.68		Intuit QB Payroll Monthly Per Employee Fee Usage Fee
	Tractor Supply Co.	31.79		Live Traps
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	12.99		USB Drive 16 GB
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	6.99		Fly Paper 8pk
	Sub-Total	\$2,663.58		
Water			591-	
	Consumers	\$1,090.25		7791 Cody St.
	Sequoiah Software and Consulting	45.00		Cloud Virtual PC
	Superior Energy Company LLC	100.92		7791 Cody St. Natural Gas
	Spectrum Business	60.00		DPW iPad
	Dollar General	3.48		3 Drawer Organizer
	Tractor Supply Co.	74.19		Spypoint Lithium Rechargeable Battery
	Tractor Supply Co.	28.61		Safety Vest
	Kerby's Backhoe Service, LLC	6,645.00		Change 6" Gate Valve Lynn/Stuart
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	27.17		Metal Grinding Wheels, Zirconia Flap Disc
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	14.36		Garden Hose Cap
	Purity Cylinder Gases Inc.	34.50		Carbon Dioxide, Food Grade
	NAPA Auto Parts	37.90		Carbon Dioxide 20L
	USA BlueBook	219.16		Replacement Quill for 1" Retractable Corp Stop
	Michigan Pipe & Valve	1,029.00		Water Parts
	ETNA	100.00		Meter Test- Customer will be billed for this to reimburse Village
	Auto Value	15.19		Drive Socket
	Sub-Total	\$9,524.73		
Park			531-	
	Consumers	\$2,152.05		7727 Park St.
	Consumers	190.85		7780 Lake St. BLDG MUN
	Consumers	80.95		7780 Lake St. L4 Light Bldg Mun
	Republic Services	160.00		Lock Replacement, Pickup Service 07/01-07/31
	Janene Reimbursement	49.95		Hampers
	Spectrum Business	166.19		Internet and Voice 7780 Lake St.
	When Nature Calls LLC	188.00		July Handicap PJ
	When Nature Calls LLC	180.00		April Handicap PJ
	Campspot	338.50		July Marketplace Booking, Cancellation Credit, and Monthly Fee

	Sam's Club	30.48		Toilet Paper
	Sam's Club	129.98		Deck Box
	Sam's Club	78.25		Cleaner, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels
	Tractor Supply Co.	59.35		Weed Whip Line
	West Coast Farm Service	110.00		Steel Plate- Cut, Drill, Fab Weld
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	71.96		Contractor Bags 55G
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	21.99		Disposable Gloves
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	5.18		Soap
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	35.98		Contractor Bags 55G
	Sub-Total	\$4,049.66		
Major			463-782	
	Ron Brown & Sons	\$24,983.00		Asphalt Paving Cody St. from Maple to Wise
	Ron Brown & Sons	19,755.00		Asphalt Paving Cody St. from Wise to Lynn
	Ron Brown & Sons	4,144.00		Asphalt Paving Main St.- Behind Filer Credit Union
	Kerby's Backhoe Service, LLC	230.00		Topsoil to Shop
	Sub-Total	\$49,112.00		
Minor			202-	
	Kerby's Backhoe Service, LLC	\$230.00		Topsoil to Shop
	Sub-Total	\$230.00		
Equip- ment			649-	
	Auto Value	\$3.99		Safety Pin
	Sub-Total	\$3.99		
TOTAL BILLS TO BE PAID		\$65,583.96		