

VILLAGE OF BEAR LAKE COUNCIL

Bear Lake Village Hall
12016 Russell Street
Bear Lake, MI 49614
January 15, 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 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL:

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

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

GUESTS: **In Person:** None
 Phone: Gaia Pampu

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Heiss/ J. Gee motioned to adopt the agenda for January 15 with addition of "Closed Session" after last Public Comment section.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Gaia Pampu- Concern for aging maple trees on Maple St.
Gaia emailed the Clerk expressing her concerns for two aging maple trees on Maple Street. Shelly explained to her that the trees in the Village are handled as resources allow. Mark Thompson deems which trees should be taken down and which should be trimmed. We recently received an updated list for this coming year from Mark. The trees are organized from the highest priority down to the least. The quote for the suggested removal and trimming is around \$22,000. The council understands that the trees in the Village are an issue and they try to take care of them the best they can. Shelly expressed that if Gaia is familiar with grants, she is welcome to reach out about those. There is room on the council for those who want to help out and help with matters like this. Gaia is also able to contract someone independently with permission from Jake to have the trees taken down on her behalf. Budget discussions will happen in February and once it is decided which trees will be taken care of, it will be put on the website. Jake will go and look at the tree personally.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

- 12/18/25 VC Monthly Meeting
Heiss/ DeRidder motioned to approve the meeting minutes from December 18, 2025.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Sequoyah Update
Shelly gave the update for Tracy. Tracy would like to move from using the server to using the cloud so that Sequoyah Software can be used wherever there is internet. There is a one-time fee of \$300, then \$30/month for 1 person, and \$43/month for 2 people. It should take about one week to move everything to the cloud. There are communication problems between our programs. This should help streamline the process and alleviate any hard drive issues.

J. Gee/ R. Gee motioned to pay \$300 and subscription of \$30 for 1 person to Sequoyah to move from the server to the cloud.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- **Budget**

Shelly is available to meet with council members to discuss the budget. Tracy and Shelly will be meeting next week to work on the budget.

The Budget Workshop will be February 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. and the Budget Public Hearing will be February 26, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. with the February Regular Monthly Meeting to follow.

- **Wish List for Promoters**

The council discussed the pickleball court. Jake has an estimate for resurfacing. Janene will talk with Janette May to discuss how much money the Promoters are looking to put toward a Village project and when.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discuss using Blarney Castle for fuel in 2026**

Jake talked to a lady at Blarney and Blarney has not gotten back with him about setting up an account. He decided not to follow up until the council makes a decision. The council discussed and would like to wait and see if Blarney reaches back out. Jake will let the council know at the next meeting.

REPORTS:

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Jake Cline

DPW Manager's Report for January 2026 is attached.

Jake learned that municipalities can use off road fuel (red diesel). It is a little cheaper than yellow diesel and not taxed. He will do more research and reach out for the opinions from some other people.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tracy Gary

Account balances are attached.

BILLS TO BE PAID: Becky Cline

Heiss/ DeRidder motioned to approve the January 2026 Clerk's Report and to pay the monthly general bills before they are late.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

PARK: Janene Gee & Heather DeRidder

- **Marina Lease Extension**

DeRidder/ Evans motioned to agree to the Interim Agreement to Amend Existing Grant of Licensed Agreement (1/13/26) between Bear Lake Marine and the real property owners and the Village of Bear Lake.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

WATER: Rodney Gee & Wanda Evans

- **Water Ordinance Update – Property Owner and Tenant/Occupant Responsibility Issue – Forms and procedures for tenant billing- TABLED**

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

Jake and Daniel are reviewing the tree list from Mark Thompson.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT: Janene Gee & Wanda Evans

- **Pocket Park- No Update**

EVENT UPDATE: None

BEAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: Bill Beaver-None

PLANNING COMMISSION: John Virga

- Village of Bear Lake Planning Commission will meet again in April- No update
The community survey will be worked on again when the Planning Commission meets. Wanda recommended a survey geared toward the kids at the school so they have the chance to participate and help with what they want to see in the community.
- Blight/ Zoning- Shelly
There is one active blight complaint- it is being worked on.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY VILLAGE COUNCIL TOPIC (3 minute maximum per person): None

CLOSED SESSION:

At 7:40 p.m. Heiss/ DeRidder motioned to go into closed session to vote on the minutes from December's closed session.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

DeRidder/ J. Gee motioned to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

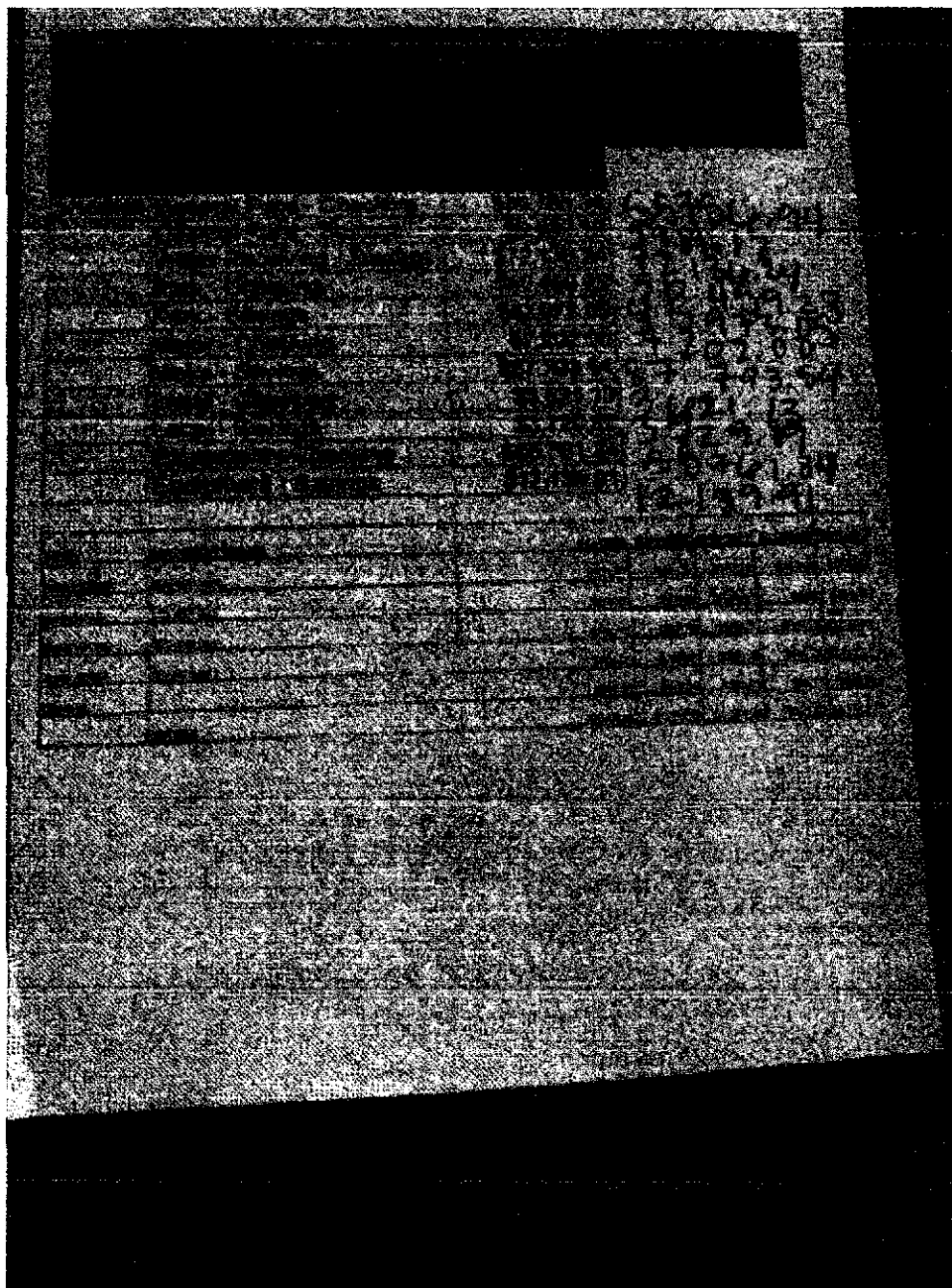
Ayes: DeRidder, Evans, J. Gee, R. Gee, Heiss, Lynnes **Nays:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** None

Next Village Council Regular monthly meeting is February 26, 2026 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Cline
Clerk, Village of Bear Lake

DPW Manager's Report January 2026

- Wells daily
- Tower weekly
- Meters read Jan 7
- Samples taken Jan 7
- Mor submitted Jan 8
- Plowed snow
- Pushed banks back
- Obtained estimates for budgets
- Had some water shut offs
- Cleaned up some brush
- Fixed cable on sander that was damaged from trying to get un stuck at the park.
- Had some issues with the meter reads. ETNA tech support made a bunch of updates to the program and showed me some things I needed to do differently when creating a new meter route.
- Followed up on the meters that didn't read.
- Washed equipment
- Fixed barricade at the post office. (put new larger washers at the anchor points)



Sent from my iPhone

CLERK REPORT Bills to Be Paid: JANUARY 2026

Fund	Payee	Amount	Account #	Notes
General			101-	
	Consumers	\$65.46		7780 Lake St. BLDG MUN
	Consumers	56.38		7576 Lake St.
	Consumers	161.79		12016 Russell St.
	Consumers	66.45		7780 Lake St. L4 Light Bldg Mun
	Consumers	737.78		49614 LED Light Rd.
	Consumers	164.07		Street Light(s)
	Auto Value	38.97		Dust Brush, Cleaner, Wash Wax
	Inacomp	24.00		December 25 Backup
	Inacomp	747.65		(1/3) New desktop, laptop, router, on-site service, outlet surge protector
	Superior Energy Company LLC	503.85		12016 Russell St Natural Gas
	Intuit	66.78		Intuit QB Payroll Monthly Per Employee Usage Fee
	Saddle Up	916.76		December 2025 Fuel
	Dollar General	9.31		Flash Drive
	Bear Lake ACE Hardware	18.33		Blaster PB Spray Penetrating Catalyst 11 oz, Misc Hardware
	Brightspeed	389.34		Phone and Internet
	Sub-Total	\$3,966.92		
Water			591-	
	Consumers	\$997.77		7791 Cody St.
	SOS Analytical	50.00		12/04 Coliforms Bacteria- Routine Monthly
	Inacomp	1,495.30		(2/3) New desktop, laptop, router, on-site service, outlet surge protector
	Superior Energy Company LLC	(54.78)		Credit 7791 Cody St. Natural Gas
	Michigan Pipe & Valve	2.88		Late Payment Finance Charge
	Sub-Total	\$2,545.95		
Park			531-	
	Consumers	\$365.30		7727 Park St.
	Republic Services	197.83		Pickup Service 12/01-12/31
	Spectrum Business	119.98		Internet & Voice 12/22/25-01/21/26
	Statewide Towing and Auto Recovery	175.00		Winch Out Plow Truck
	Campspot	100.00		December Monthly Fee
	When Nature Calls	180.00		October Handicap PJ
	Sub-Total	\$1,138.11		
Major			463-782	
	Sub-Total	\$0.00		
Minor			202-	
	Sub-Total	\$0.00		
Equip-ment			649-	
	Sub-Total	\$0.00		
TOTAL BILLS TO BE PAID		\$7,650.98		