

VILLAGE OF BEAR LAKE COUNCIL
Bear Lake Village Hall
12016 Russell Street
Bear Lake, MI 49614
September 17, 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 6:31 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 **Clerk:** Becky Cline **Staff:** Jake Cline

GUESTS: **In Person:** Janette May
 Phone: None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Heiss/ J. Gee motioned to approve the agenda with changes.

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

JANETTE FROM PROMOTERS:

The Promoters ask every year to use Hopkins Park for Sparkle in the Park. Shelly suggested writing something to give approval for them to use the park for 3 or 5 years at a time unless something changes. The council let Janette know that they would like a spot in Sparkle in the Park again this year. Janette also gave an update on power source options at the old Variety Store lot and said Mark Thompson will be in contact with Jeff Kresnak to coordinate getting a new community Christmas tree.

J. Gee/ Evans motioned to extend permission for the Promoters to use Hopkins Park for Sparkle in the Park for a period of three years (2029).

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: None

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

- 08/20/26 VC Monthly Meeting

J. Gee/ R. Gee motioned to accept the August 20, 2026 meeting minutes.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Review Land Use Permit Fees- **Tabled until October**
- Review Blight Fees- **Tabled until October**
- STR Amendments- **Tabled until October**
- Ordinance 2026-03- An Ordinance To Adopt By Reference The Uniform Traffic Code For Cities, Townships, And Villages

Heiss/ R. Gee motioned to adopt Ordinance No 2026-03 An Ordinance To Adopt By Reference The Uniform Traffic Code For Cities, Townships, And Villages

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

- Pedestrian Signs- Dornbos

There will be five crosswalks in the Village. Janene will order five signs and five extra bases. The council discussed talking to the township about splitting the cost for a sign at the crosswalk at Potter Rd.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discuss Call-In Phone Line

Becky reached out to MML about the call-in phone line. MML responded that it is not a requirement to have a call-in option. It is the Village's choice to offer this or not.

J. Gee/ Heiss motioned to remove the phone call-in line for regular monthly meetings with the exception of special meetings or someone who requires special accommodation.

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

- DBO Handicap Parking

There are no requirements to have designated handicap parking spots, but the council discussed adding handicap parking in the DBO. This can be done by paint or by signs and the Village would need to get a permit from MDOT. Jake will ask Todd for an overview of the parking downtown to determine the best spots for handicap parking.

- Vacant Property Registration

The Planning Commission and the Village Council are reviewing information on adopting an ordinance that requires vacant property to be registered within the Village.

REPORTS:

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Jake Cline

DPW Manager's Report for September is attached.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tracy Gary

Fund Balances and Equipment Rental Report is attached.

BILLS TO BE PAID: Becky Cline

J. Gee/ Evans motioned to approve the September 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 read a letter from the Marina property owner's attorney. They proposed a slight change to the Village's proposed property line but they accepted the purchase price.

Evans/Heiss motioned to accept the offer as presented to us by attorney Kuhn Rogers for the sale of Village property to the Marina.

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

Janene is still waiting on a response from Apple Fence. She is wanting Jake to get the concrete pads for the gliders in the park set before it gets cold out. That project might get pushed until spring.

WATER: Rodney Gee & Wanda Evans

- Shut-Off Notices

There are seven properties that were not sent in to have their overdue water bills added as a special assessment on Village property taxes. These properties will be getting shut off notices.

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

- Safe Routes to School- No update
- MDOT Update- The project is behind a couple of days.

- Paving Lynn St.

J. Gee/ R. Gee motioned to have Elmers continue to repave Lynn St. from the seam that they left from US -31 project to Main St. for up to \$20,000.00.

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

- Snow Machine

Jake is getting quotes and shared some options with the council for a snow machine that would be used for keeping the crosswalks, bump outs, and sidewalks cleared along US 31. It was suggested for Jake to talk to the surrounding communities on what equipment they use.

LIBRARY BOARD: None

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT: Janene Gee & Wanda Evans

- Bear Lake Area Nature, Art & Historical Trail- Janene would like to get benches installed for the next phase of the project. She hopes to apply for a grant with the Manistee County Community Foundation in March.
- Pocket Park- Gabe presented his proposal for Pocket Park to Triginta. Janene would also like to apply for a grant for Pocket Park in March.
- Wish List for Promoters- No Update
- Community Survey- No Update
- Hydration Station- When completing the grant application for the Hydration Station, Janene noticed that the cost of the water fountains has increased which would leave the Village with a larger amount they would need to cover for the project. Janene does know someone who wants to donate \$100 to the project.

Borrow a bike idea had been suggested in the past, but Janene doesn't think the kids would treat the bikes responsibly.

EVENT UPDATE:

- Fall Community Clean Up Day-
September 26 from 9am-11am at the Recycling Center in the Village

BEAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: Bill Beaver-None

PLANNING COMMISSION: John Virga

- Village of Bear Lake Planning Commission- Update
The Planning Commission will be discussing multiple things at their October meeting to bring to the council in October.
- Blight/ Zoning- Shelly
Shelly has been to court and will go back a couple more times this fall.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Heiss/ R. Gee motioned to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

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

Next Village Council Regular monthly meeting is October 15, 2026 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Cline
Clerk, Village of Bear Lake

**VILLAGE OF BEAR LAKE
MANISTEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE UNIFORM TRAFFIC CODE FOR CITIES,
TOWNSHIPS, AND VILLAGES**

The Village of Bear Lake Ordains:

Sec. 1. Code and Amendments and Revisions Adopted

The Uniform Traffic Code for Cities, Townships, and Villages as promulgated by the director of the Michigan Department of State Police pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328 and made effective October 30, 2002, and all future amendments and revisions to the Uniform Traffic Code when they are promulgated and effective in this state are incorporated and adopted by reference.

Sec. 2. References in Code

References in the Uniform Traffic Code for Cities, Townships, and Villages to a "governmental unit" shall mean the Village of Bear Lake.

Sec. 3. Notice to be Published

The village clerk shall publish this ordinance in the manner required by law and shall publish, at the same time, a notice stating the purpose of the Uniform Traffic Code for Cities, Townships, and Villages and the fact that a complete copy of the code is available to the public at the office of the clerk for inspection.

Sec. 4 Penalties

The penalties provided by the Uniform Traffic Code for Cities, Townships, and Villages are adopted by reference.

Effective Date:

This ordinance shall be immediately effective upon publication in accordance with the law.

Ordinance No. 2026-03 was adopted on the 17th day of September, 2026 by the Bear Lake Village Council as follows:

Motion by:

Seconded by:

Yeas:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

Rebekah Cline, **Village of Bear Lake Clerk**

DATE

Michelle Lynnes, **Village of Bear Lake President**

DATE

DPW Manager's Report Sep 2026

- Wells daily
- Tower
- Water Samples taken Sep 2nd
- Collected Partial Chem water samples required by EGLE
- MOR submitted Sep 9th
- Missdigs
- Adjusted extension rod and curbstop height at landbank property to meet new grade
- Have attended progress meetings with MDOT and Elmers
- Kept an eye on the road project
- Changed 30 amp outlet at site 21
- Mowed
- Kept bathrooms clean and garbages changed at the park
- Investigated a gas smell at filer credit union
- Investigated storm drain on Main St with MDOT
- Kerby moved curbstop at cottage pros job on S Shore Dr
- Cleaned leaves off storm drains during rainstorm
- Observed new storm drain functionality since Elmers made updates to it.
- Replaced broken hose bib in the park
- Met with Shelly and Marina property owner
- Investigated Illegal storm drain connection. MDOT will pursue.
- Helped highschoolers get rid of old flowers from the flower pots.
- Eliminated a mouse nest out of Tracy's filing cabinet
- Set up and updated our old brother printers after the last Epson printer gave up.
- Replaced printer drums
- Discussed with Shelly and Rodney regarding Lynn St paving
- Researched and got quotes for new tractor/snowblower for clearing sidewalks. Also found used units that would work as well.
- Cleaned shop
- Got final meter read at locations that have transferred ownership
- Had to change chlorine feed tank and lines out. Had a chlorine barrel filled with an unknown substance. Substance was sampled and sent to a lab to determine what it is at the cost of the distributor. Fresh chlorine has been ordered. **No contamination of the water system has occurred.**

- Gave receipts to Becky for report
- Spread gravel at the recycle bins
- Assisted archeologists sampling for human remains from potential native American burial site on Lynn St.
- Fix broken shower head in women's shower
- Fixed loose toilet in Men's bathroom

Fund Balances

Date	Account	Total
9/17/2026	General Fund - Checking	\$88,895.84
	General Fund - Savings	\$20,009.62
	Water Receiving - Savings	\$97,873.32
	Park - Checking	\$62,265.88
	Park - Savings	\$70,013.83
	Major - Checking	\$10,888.53
	Major - Savings	\$27,256.17
	Local - Checking	\$2,723.52
	Local - Savings	\$3,735.62
	Equipment - Checking	\$51,780.86
	Equipment - Savings	\$12,151.11

<u>FUND</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT RENTAL</u>	<u>8/2/2026</u>	<u>8/9/2026</u>	<u>8/16/2026</u>	<u>8/23/2026</u>	<u>8/30/2026</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Water (2743)	591-000-943	\$179.71	\$166.08	\$369.33	\$290.64	\$193.76	\$1,199.52
Park (2735)	531-463-943	\$124.49	\$13.84	\$55.35	\$56.05	\$41.52	\$291.25
Major (2719)	203-463-943	\$143.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$143.54
Minor (2727)	202-463-943	\$229.21	\$13.84	\$27.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$270.73
General		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$292.40	\$292.40
	<u>TOTALS</u>	\$676.95	\$193.76	\$452.36	\$346.69	\$527.68	\$2,197.44

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

Fund	Payee	Amount	Account #	Notes
General			101-	
	Consumers	\$33.24		7576 Lake St.
	Consumers	183.70		12016 Russell St.
	Consumers	826.36		49614 LED Light Rd.
	Consumers	172.47		Street Light(s)
	Inacomp	24.00		August 26 Backup
	Intuit	51.94		Intuit QB Payroll Monthly Per Employee Fee Usage Fee
	Brightspeed	158.73		Aug 20- Sep 19 Phone and Internet
	Manistee County Planning Department	3,447.92		Zoning Contract Services April 1- Sept. 30
	Saddle Up Gas & Grocery	259.22		August Fuel
	Superior Energy Company LLC	(162.21)		Credit 12016 Russell St. Natural Gas
	Jackpine	220.98		2 Drums for Brother Printers
	Jackpine	127.99		Twin-Pack Toner Cartridge for Brother Printers
	Bear Lake Ace Hardware	27.98		Network Cables
	Bear Lake Ace Hardware	59.99		Magnetic Mini Sweeper
	Auto Value	3.39		Blade Fuse
	Sub-Total	\$5,597.91		
Water			591-	
	Consumers	\$1,017.49		7791 Cody St.
	SOS Analytical	70.00		07/08/2026 Coliforms Bacteria
	Spectrum Business	60.00		DPW iPad
	Fleis & Vandenbrink	650.00		2025 Consumer Confidence Report
	Sequoyah Software and Consulting	45.00		Cloud Virtual PC
	Superior Energy Company LLC	105.92		7791 Cody St. Natural Gas
	Sub-Total	\$1,948.41		
Park			531-	
	Consumers	\$1,777.91		7727 Park St.
	Consumers	176.88		7780 Lake St. BLDG MUN
	Consumers	81.79		7780 Lake St. L4 Light Bldg Mun
	Spectrum Business	166.19		Internet and Voice 7780 Lake St.
	Campspot	179.00		August Marketplace Booking, Monthly Fee, Minus Cancellation Credit
	When Nature Calls LLC	188.00		July Handicap PJ
	Republic Services	160.00		Lock Replacement, Pickup Service 08/01-08/31
	Manistee News Advocate/ Michigan Media Group	234.36		Ordinance 2026-01
	Bear Lake Ace Hardware	28.98		Ball VLV Hose Bibb ¾", Vacuum Breaker ¾ FHT
	Bear Lake Ace Hardware	19.98		Vacuum Breaker Brass 3/4
	Bear Lake Ace Hardware	7.99		White Plastic Shower Arm Mount
	Bear Lake Ace Hardware	62.96		Contractor Bags 55G
	Sam's Club	37.46		Floor Cleaner, Toilet Paper
	Auto Value	47.97		Gloss Black, Self-Etch Primer, Prep Spray
	Sub-Total	\$3,169.47		
Major			463-782	
	Sub-Total	\$0.00		
Minor			202-	
	Sub-Total	\$0.00		
Equip-ment			649-	
	Grand Rental Station	\$24.00		Lawnmower Blades Sharpened
	Auto Value	8.99		10W30 All Climate
	Sub-Total	\$32.99		
TOTAL BILLS TO BE PAID		\$10,748.78		