

# TROUT LAKE TOWNSHIP

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Supervisor: David Blake-Thomas  
Clerk: David Hillman  
Treasurer: Laura Sindles  
Trustee: Laury Simpson  
Trustee: Gary Loomis

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## Township Board Meeting August 13, 2024 Minutes

Attendance: 38

The meeting at the Township Hall was called to order at 6:30 PM by Supervisor Blake-Thomas. The Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call of Board Members; Supervisor Blake-Thomas, Treasurer Sindles, Trustee Loomis, Trustee Simpson, and Clerk Hillman were present. A quorum of the Township Board was in attendance.

1. **Motion** by Trustee Loomis to approve the general meeting minutes of July 9, 2024 as written. Seconded by Trustee Simpson Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Guest Speaker: Bruce Moore, CEO and Nate Olson, Sales Manager of Highline

1. A small number of Gigabit fiber connections are now active in Trout Lake Township.
2. Appointments are being set now to install fiber from the street to the home with many more to be scheduled in September. The account activation will be scheduled soon after the fiber installation.

Public Comments:

1. None

Clerk Report: David Hillman, Clerk

1. Detailed expense report dated August 12, 2024 for items totaling \$19,657.02 was presented.
2. August Primary Election Early Voting at Soo Township Hall Zero Votes from Trout Lake. Primary in Trout Lake had 54 in-person and 57 absent voters. Thanks to Crystal Schwesinger, Laura Sindles, Patrice Roe, and Linda Robb for supporting the voting site administration.
3. **Motion** made by Supervisor Blake-Thomas to approve the expense report. Seconded by Treasurer Sindles Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Treasure Report: Laura Sindles, Treasurer

1. Bank balance report dated July 31, 2024 with a total of \$518,985.29 was presented.
2. Summer tax payments are being accepted without interest or penalty until September 16th.

Fire Department Report: John Clark, Fire Chief

1. No runs for the month and the NFIRS Fire Report was entered for the month
2. Fire Department meeting with Dave Sharp, Brian McMillan, Mark Conroy, Eric Butson, Dave Blake-Thomas and John Clark present.
3. New entry door was installed by Mark and John.
4. Graymont grant awarded for water rescue equipment \$22,000.
5. Residential smoke/CO detector installs continue, if interested call 906-203-0621.
6. Open burning has to follow the DNR guidelines stated on their website.
7. If interested in joining the Fire Department, please contact John Clark 906-203-0621.

Straits Area EMS Report: Supervisor Blake-Thomas

1. One call to Trout Lake this month.
2. EMS Authority levied 1.9 mills (2.0 max voter authorized) for the Winter 2024 tax bill.
3. Straits EMS and Trout Lake Fire Department Rescue will support the Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Walk with first responder assistance.

Park and Recreation Committee Report: Laury Simpson, Co-Chair

1. Meeting was held August 12 at 6:30 pm
2. Survey being sent by Every Door Direct Mail in Trout Lake to gather community input to the process.
3. Next meeting is Monday September 9, 2024 at the townhall at 6:30 PM. Open to all interested.

Campground Report: David Blake-Thomas, Park Manager

1. The campground office building has new siding and the interior walls have a fresh coat of paint.
2. The bath house project to repair the showers is planned for this year



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3. Replacing the bath house exterior siding, sinks, countertops, faucets is being considered for this year.
4. Fall Fest this year is set for October 4, 5, and 6<sup>th</sup>
5. Need ideas for the evening entertainment that the community will support on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
6. A craft show is scheduled for October 5 in the Township Hall.
7. Crystal and Al continue to be praised as outstanding park staff by campers and all that interact with them.
8. Park closing is presently scheduled for October 13 as the last day of the camping season.

## Old Business:

1. Graymont Grant of \$22,000 was awarded. **Motion** made by Trustee Simpson to authorize the use of the grant funds to purchase ice and water rescue equipment. Seconded by Treasurer Sindles Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**
2. Opening of a Mercantile Bank account to facilitate investment of township funds proposed by Resolution To Open Bank Accounts (FY2024-02). **Motion** made by Supervisor Blake-Thomas to approve resolution FY2024-02. Seconded by Trustee Simpson Roll call vote: Supervisor Blake-Thomas 'yes', Treasurer Sindles 'yes', Trustee Loomis 'yes', Trustee Simpson 'yes', and Clerk Hillman 'yes'. All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion passed and resolution adopted.**

## New Business:

1. Sale of township owned 120-gallon propane tank with an estimated value of \$1100 will be considered with sealed bids to be opened at the September Board meeting. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
2. **Motion** made by Trustee Loomis to authorize the purchase of 2500 gallons of propane from Shute Oil and Propane as a pre-buy for the 2024/25 winter season. Seconded by Supervisor Blake-Thomas Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. A discussion of possible Township Building Permit Ordinance resulted in no immediate action.
4. The appointment of an Election Clerk can provide continuity and take advantage of Election Official Certification training opportunities offered during election years. **Motion** made by Supervisor Blake-Thomas to authorize the appointment of an Election Clerk. Seconded by Clerk Hillman Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**
5. **Motion** made by Clerk Hillman to appointment Gary Loomis as Election Clerk. Seconded by Supervisor Blake-Thomas Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## Public Comments:

1. Fire Department thanks Barb Bouchard for sponsoring the Trout Lake Volunteer Fire Department in the Newberry Fire Department fund raising event.

## Board Comments:

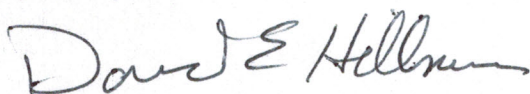
Trustee Simpson: The Mini-park looks good.

Supervisor Blake-Thomas: Congratulations to all primary election winners David, Gary, Sue, and Laurey in being nominated for Township Board offices.

**Motion** made by Supervisor Blake-Thomas to pay the bills as submitted by Clerk Hillman. Seconded by Trustee Simpson. The motion approved unanimously by the Board Members in attendance with a voice vote.

Supervisor Blake-Thomas motioned to adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



David Hillman  
Trout Lake Township Clerk