

**Township of Arcadia Board Meeting**  
**June 13, 2024**  
**Arcadia Township Hall**  
**3422 Lake Street, Arcadia, Michigan 49613**  
**Township Board Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call. Present:** Paul Brown, Supervisor; Laurie Mason, Trustee; Tracy Catlin, Clerk; Brad Berkshire, Treasurer; Jojo (Josiah) Chacon-Lontin, Trustee.
3. **Motion** by Treasurer Berkshire to approve the agenda with the additional item of Recycling Update, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Chacon-Lontin. AIF, passed.
4. **Fire Department.** Wes Hull reported a very busy period since our last board meeting of 4 medical and 4 fire runs. The fire trucks were inspected by the Department of Transportation. All radios in Manistee County are now 800 megahertz, as will be the 20 fire department pagers hoped to be received soon. One person has been hired by the fire department, with 2 more interested. Especially welcome are individuals with medical training.
5. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Berkshire reviewed the up-to-date fund balances and noted that tax bills will be mailed out at the end of June. **Motion** to approve Treasurer's report by Clerk Catlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Mason. AIF, passed.
6. **Clerk's Report/Listing of the Bills.** Clerk Catlin reported bills paid as listed, and that the boiler in the fire department was inspected earlier this month; it is approved for operation for the next 3 years. **Motion** by Trustee Chacon-Lontin to approve Clerk's Report/Listing of the Bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Mason. AIF, passed.
7. **Approve 5/9/2024 Board Meeting Minutes.** Treasurer Berkshire noted an error in the number of sequoia trees to be planted in Grebe Park; the correct number is 2. **Motion** by Trustee Mason to approve the 5/9/2024 Board Meeting Minutes with the correction in the number of sequoia trees to be planted in Grebe Park from 4 to 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Clerk Catlin. AIF, passed.
8. **Correspondence.** Note was made that the food truck will be at PVCC on Friday, June 21. It was also reported that the problem with the deed for the Lake Street property near Sunset Station has been resolved, and that the board will start investigating the possibility of acquiring that property.
9. **Planning Commission.** Brad Hopwood reported that the commission met last Thursday. The Michigan Clean Energy Act did pass (with failure of the referendum advocating more local control). However, the commission is developing suggestions for text amendments and welcomes any ideas along these lines from the public.
10. **Historical Committee.** There will be training tomorrow, June 14, at the museum from 1 to 3 pm for volunteers wishing to work there. On June 22 from 1 to 4 pm the museum will hold its grand opening for the season. There are 2 vacancies on the historical committee; please contact the board or the committee if interested.
11. **Cemetery Committee.** Treasurer Berkshire reported that arrangements are being made for a new and local vendor to tend to the lawn at the cemetery with a little more attention to detail, as requested by community members. Mike Matteson is stepping down from the committee after years of great service. Appreciation for his work was offered by both the board and the community.
12. **Marina Committee.** Nothing to report; meeting was cancelled.

**13. Parks and Recreation Committee.** Matt Catlin reported another very busy month. The committee meeting held last Tuesday attracted 25 people! The Garden Club is to be absorbed into the Parks and Recreation Committee. Finch Park improvements are well underway: shingles are on the roof of the pavilion, the electrical system has been upgraded, lumber for the stage has been purchased. Using labor from community members as the match for this grant, the stage will be rebuilt in time for Arcadia Daze. Grebe Park now has its kayak kiosk installed, which is a revenue-producer for Arcadia. A kayak can be rented for \$25 for 2 hours at a time, with the option for more hours @\$15. Dock repairs are in process. The program to Borrow a Bike will soon have a pink bike rack and bicycles for use in the township. Pickert Park has a new sign, thanks to Roger Brown. An ADA swing is to be relocated there from Sunset Station. The committee is looking for an additional piece of playground equipment, which is a challenge because this is very expensive. Mobi Mats were cleaned off after having drifted over with sand; community is asked to keep an eye out for this occurrence and to notify the township so that it can be easily rectified. The committee members are Josiah (Jo Jo) Chacon-Lantin, Patty Opdyke, Norb Pakula, Tom Dunn and Matt Catlin. Meetings are scheduled the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at the township hall or Finch Park; everyone is invited.

**14. Public Comment on Agenda Items** – on items as addressed.

**15. New Business**

- a. Roads – Information from new Manistee County Road Commission Manager.** Supervisor Brown has had discussions with this individual, who brings much experience to the job and whose goal is to make the county's roads last as long as possible. His plan is to first evaluate all of the paved roads and rate them 1 to 10 as to priority for repair; gravel roads will be evaluated subsequent to that. In August he will speak to township boards throughout the county and present the data he gathers. The plan is for spot paving this year.
- b. Ragnar Race Use of Sunset Station in September.** The township has allowed this in the past and the experience has been a good one. This is a bike race that passes through our area during the evening and night. **Motion** by Treasurer Berkshire to allow the Ragnar Race to use Arcadia as a station in September, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Mason. AIF, passed.
- c. Recycling.** Arcadia's recycling efforts have been very successful, including the ongoing trial of polystyrene collection, which is recycled into huge "Legos" for commercial purposes. Plastic bags are still not acceptable in our recycle bins, but can be deposited at Meijer's or Family Fare. Arcadia is also doing a fine job keeping its recycling clean, without instances of garbage or food being discarded. Anyone interested in joining the informal recycling committee is welcome; please contact Trustee Laurie Mason.

**16. Old Business**

- a. Board of Review Opening.** Supervisor Brown once again encouraged public interest in this still-available position.
- b. Road Millage Renewal.** Supervisor Brown reminded everyone that this item will appear on the August ballot; that it is not a proposal for an increase, but simply a continuation for 5 years of the millage that is already existing for road repairs but is about to expire.
- c. Private Use of Township Facilities.** As discussed in previous meetings, the PVCC is the preferred venue for social occasions such as receptions, and Finch Park on a first-come, first-served basis. **Motion** by Clerk Catlin to limit the use of the township hall to local government/political activities, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Mason. AIF, passed.

**d. Noise Ordinance.** The sheriff will enforce a noise ordinance if we have one. There is no such county-wide ordinance; only individual township noise ordinances, which are fairly similar to each other but not identical. Public input was solicited and continues to be sought. **Motion** by Clerk Catlin to start the process of drafting a noise ordinance for the township of Arcadia, to be reviewed by the public at subsequent meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Treasurer Berkshire. AIF, passed.

**e. Sunset Station.** Phase I of our grant to improve Sunset Station has almost been completed, with the beach and approach to the beach having undergone a dramatic transformation. Phase 2 has to do with high-water protection for the beach, which will be tackled over the next couple of years. The third phase may involve decks and general landscaping; however, no grant funding is yet available. As per Supervisor Brown, we shall take the summer to enjoy the beach and evaluate how we wish to proceed further. It was also noted that there are no motorized vehicles whatsoever allowed on the beach.

**f. Community Visioning.** The \$70,000 grant awarded to the township of Arcadia by the Manistee County Community Foundation – Minger Family Endowment Fund – is being put to good use and as it was intended, including a recreation kiosk at the PVCC, Finch Park improvements, clearing of the beach back to its natural state, beach grass planting, Grebe Park fish docks, self-serve kayak launch and rental, and a sign regarding the Blue Water Trail.

**g. Dredging.** This year's "minor" dredging of the channel has been delayed so far due to weather but still scheduled as soon as possible. Thanks to the personal advocacy of Ross Kladder and Brad Berkshire, the federal government (USACE) has committed a substantial sum in the form of \$1.124M to manage and dredge Arcadia Harbor next year, with possible extension to stretch to 2 years. This dredge will take the form of a straight and then flared pattern in order to extend the time for sand to reoccupy the channel area. Arcadia's current dredging millage has 2 years left to run.

**h. USACE (United States Army Core of Engineers).** Please see above paragraph.

**i. STR Updates and License Ordinance.** Inspections and licensing continue, with the comment that there are some very beautiful short-term rentals in the township.

**j. Tree Committee Update.** Roger Brown announced that at least 10 trees are scheduled to be planted in the fall; the tree committee is identifying properties for these and asking the property owners whether they wish to have this done. Tree trimming will be done in the fall also. The board will seek input from the public regarding this project. The 2 trees removed from Sunset Station have been relocated to Finch Park.

#### **17. Public Comment – Other Items.**

**a.** A question was raised about repairing the tennis court at Finch Park. Matt Catlin indicated that the expense of repair and/or resurfacing would be prohibitive at this time, but it will be added to the list when the next grant is requested.

**b.** Janice McCraner, County Commissioner, was asked about the Manistee bridge repair: although it may not be completed for some time, there may be one lane opening in the near future, controlled with a traffic light. She reported that the county's 911 dispatch is now fully funded and that there are 2 new deputies at the sheriff's department. A jail audit was conducted and passed with flying colors. The Manistee fire station has been recognized as the oldest fire station in Michigan.

**c.** Recognition was made of this being Pride Month.

#### **18. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn** by Clerk Catlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Treasurer Berkshire. All in favor, passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.