

Colfax Township Meeting

April 9, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Colfax Township Hall

Meeting Called to Order: at 1900 by Supervisor Seguin.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: Present: Supervisor Seguin, Trustee Besey, Treasurer West, Clerk Mosher, Trustee Greene
Absent: None

Agenda: Discussion. Motion by Mosher to approve with addition of Unfinished Business G). JPC appointment terms and New business item E). DNR Natural River Board, Seguin seconds. No opposition, motion carries.

Guests: Rebecca Hubers, Benzie Emergency Management Coordinator: requests the township consider how storm waste (trees, green debris, etc.) would be collected/stored until it could be dealt with in a disaster situation. Recommends an area large enough to store potential waste, and that could be fenced in/limited access. States roadsides could be considered as well for short term storage of this debris. Emphasizes it is important to consider this step before it is needed.

Irene Dunham-Thayer has provides a letter of intent stating her interest in serving on the local road committee and requests the board appoint her to this position. Seguin motions to appoint Dunham-Thayer to serve as Colfax Township representative to the Benzie County Local Roads Committee, which typically meets once each fall. Greene seconds. No opposition, motion carries.

County Commissioner's Report: States due to changes at work and home, he has resigned from his position as Commissioner serving our area. Appointment to fill this vacancy will be made—County is accepting applications. Board expresses their sincere thanks to Commissioner Warsecke for his service to our area in his years of service.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Seguin to approve March 12, 2025 regular, March 31, 2025 Special and March 31, 2025 Closed Session minutes. Greene opposes March 31 Special Meeting minutes approval. Motion amended to approve March 12 and March 31 Special Meeting Closed Session minutes by Seguin, seconded by Besey. No opposition, motion carries. Motion to approve March 31 Special Meeting minutes by Seguin, second by Besey. Greene opposes, motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Greene, second by Seguin to approve April Treasurer's report as presented. No discussion, motion carries.

Campground Report: Opened, recent water samples contaminated with nitrates, Benzie Leelanau District Health Dept. will be collecting independent samples and will reach out with further instruction. Besey states there was debris shoved up in pump opening that was ejected when repeat sample was collected, likely causing reporting issue.

Clerk's Report: none.

Supervisor's Report: none.

Additional Written Reports:

Blight Report: question on how one goes about getting a house condemned—per health department, must fail to meet requirements for water and waste water management but no way to determine this without inspecting house, which is beyond Blight authority. Zoning Admin to look into this property as same occupants are back on property living in a tent.

Joint Planning Commission Update: written summary provided.

Zoning Administrator Report: written report provided.

Library: minutes received via mail and available for viewing.

Unfinished Business:

- A). Cemetery and hall signage:** reviewed, Mosher to reach out to get additional information about upkeep on each option with Board members to forward additional questions to Mosher to include in communication. To review again at next meeting for vote.
- B). Gutter bids:** reviewed. Motion by Seguin, second by Greene to go with lower bid. Discussion. Friendly edit to motion to include initial deposit. Roll call: Ayes: Seguin, Mosher, West, Besey, Greene, Nays: None. Motion carries, Mosher to provide deposit and notification to winning bid.
- C). Retirement Fund:** Tabled by Seguin.
- D). Fire Contract:** in process.
- E). Auditor Information:** Mosher states she has received communication back from two of the five entities/individuals she reached out to. One was not a good fit, low interest in taking the township on, the other provided a bid at the same price we are currently paying. Mosher states we have no problem with Tobin and Co., and we need to get audit scheduled, so does not want to delay to continue looking, can always revisit next year but start the search earlier. Mosher motions to engage in contract with Tobin and Co. for annual audit, West seconds. Discussion no opposition, motion carries. Mosher to send signed contract.
- F). Attorney Review:** tabled by Seguin.
- G). JPC appointment terms:** Reviewed and clarified. Discussion. Pettit wishes to shorten his time on the board. Agrees to fulfill the remainder of Greene's term. Kraft term expires 2027, Lindstrom expires 2028. Seguin motion to confirm appointment of all three individuals with these defined expiration dates. Besey seconds. No opposition, motion carries.

New Business:

Budget Review: No changes needed.

Pay Pending Bills: Motion to pay as presented by Seguin, second by Besey. No opposition, motion carries.

Designated Assessor Opt-Out: Motion by Green, second by Seguin to confirm County opt-out of having a designated assessor under contract. Discussion, no opposition, motion carries.

Road Brining: Contract reviewed. Discussion. Motion by Seguin, second by Besey to approved spring road brining. Discussion, no opposition, motion carries.

DNR Natural River Board: Colfax has a vacancy on this board, Greene expresses interest in serving. Greene motions, Seguin seconds to appoint Greene as Colfax Rep on this board. Discussion, no opposition, motion carries.

Correspondence: none.

Additional Public Comment: Mosher asks board permission to have high school student help organize storage room, apply retention policies; this is standard and acceptable practice per MTA. Public asks what will happen to historical books and ledgers: Mosher states these will not be affected, only recent documents which are stored under desks in back office, boxes in storage room, shelved items that are not required to be retained will be removed. Public asks what minimum wage is: currently \$12.48.

Adjournment: Motion by Seguin, 2nd by Besey to adjourn at 20:24.

**Next meeting: Wednesday
May 14, 2025 - 7:00pm**