

## Bone Lake Commissioners

### Special Meeting

Saturday, June 5, 2020

9:00 am

**DRAFT**

*The special meeting was held online via Zoom to discuss and prepare for the upcoming BLMD annual meeting to be held August 15, 2020 and considering COVID-19 risks and recommendations.*

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Commissioners present:

Phil Foster

Alex Chorewycz

Karen Engelbretson

Mike Musial

Cary Olson

Doug Route, Polk County

Andy Brown

Also present:

Shelly Rose, Alum Committee

Steve Skoge

Call to order: Phil Foster

Roll call: Karen Engelbretson

Presentation: The PPT presentation follows the minutes in the pdf of the minutes.

#### **Key points for consideration:**

- By statute, the District must hold an annual meeting
- Elect commissioner(s) by secret ballot
- Approve a budget

There are rules for conducting the election:

- Ballots must be distributed at the meeting to qualified voters before voting begins.
- Once voting begins, ballots can no longer be distributed.
- votes must be counted and the results presented within the confines of the meeting.
- 2019 Act 99 passed this session creates a new section in Chapter 33 covering elections, §33.30 (5).
- The budget can be approved by a show of hands or voice vote.
- The non-election portion of the meeting can be held via Zoom.

The meeting had been scheduled for the Bone Lake Lutheran Church but they have notified the District they cannot allow the use of the Church for the meeting due to guidelines they have developed for the safety of their congregation during COVID-19, limiting the number of people in the Church.

- Wilkins is available and can be reserved for August 15, 8:30 a.m.
- There are no state restrictions that would prevent holding an in-person meeting of any size.
- Health experts advise practicing social distancing, limiting gatherings to small groups, wearing masks and taking additional precautions for at risk persons.

#### **Agenda**

Call to Order

Roll call

Presentation: Karen Engelbretson

Annual meeting requirements and meeting possibilities during the declared COVID-19 pandemic.

Meeting format

Meeting content

Discussion

Adjourn

### **Ideas for safety at the meeting:**

- Streamline sign-in — members should bring their postcard annual meeting notice
- Request that attendees wear a mask
- Establish 6 ft. social distancing throughout the venue for the meeting
- Make the meeting as short as possible
- Do not serve beverages or food
- Provide masks and face shields for greeters and commissioners
- Provide hand sanitizer
- Issue and display boilerplate COVID-19 statement that those feeling ill, etc. should stay home.

### **Discussion**

Phil: Can we have a combination Zoom and in-person meeting.

Karen: Logistics might be complicated and hopefully Wilkins could help.

Anna Turk is available to help run the zoom meeting @ \$85/hour.

Wilkins could display the zoom meeting so property owners could view either at Wilkins or at home.

Alex, Question: Could we postpone the meeting?

Answer, Karen: The meeting could be postponed to the end of the year. But Mike Musial's term expires in August. Even under the circumstances?

Karen: Yes we are bound by the statute.

Phil: COVID-19 may be worse later in the year.

Alex: Many who attend are in high-risk group. Community not wearing masks. Sitting together in a meeting brings risks.

Cary: Postponing past August would mean people are no longer at the lake.

Alex: Could there be an exception to allow voting by Zoom?

Karen: There's nothing we can do about the voting.

Cary: We could do a zoom meeting and then people could come in and vote.

Karen: We could have a combination meeting, in-person and also via zoom. In order to vote you have to sign in to get your ballot.

Cary: Can people come in all day and vote?

Karen: No. Voting has to take place and the results announced within the confines of the meeting.

Alex: Meeting could stay open.

Karen: You can't distribute ballots once the voting has started (see §33.30 (5) ).

Shelley: Could we have an outdoor meeting with speakers? People could stand, social distance, nothing to touch.

Agreement

Phil: Outdoor events have risk for weather.

Karen: Wilkins has a patio with cover. North landing has picnic shelters. We could rent a tent or canopy.

Wilkins could work. They have an AV/sound system and we wouldn't have to create one.

Phil: Hold meeting at Wilkins to vote with combination of Zoom. We are offering a combination so people could attend from home, except for voting.

Karen: We would hold a hybrid meeting where voting is in person, the presentation, discussion and budget by Zoom. What content do we need in the rest of the meeting? Make the meeting as short as possible.

Phil: We need to approve the APM Plan, by show of hands. Alum Committee may have something to present, brief, about the fall survey, people could ask questions. While we're counting votes? No wake committee, Cary?

Cary: nothing urgent but we'll likely have some things figured out.

Phil: People via Zoom could also come over to vote.

Karen: You can't vote while the election is in process. Distribute ballots. Vote. Count. Announce results within the confines of the meeting.

Alex: Can the ballots be distributed ahead of time?

Karen: No. I checked on that. It's outside the statute.

Mike: Is anyone else running but me? There may not be anyone but me.

We have voting outside and if there's bad weather throw up a tarp.

Karen: We need a nominations chair. Anyone? Shelley? Would you do that? You would be the contact. It can't be a commissioner or officer.

Shelley: OK, I will do that. Let me know what I need to do.

Alex: The commissioner should stay on. Is it related to the fiscal year? or the budget?

Karen: Commissioner terms follow annual meeting schedule, not the budget. Commissioner terms expire in August.

Alex: What happens if the term expires. Mike is no longer a commissioner. What happens then? we have only 4 commissioners? Until the next meeting?

Phil: Chair can appoint someone?

Alex? Can the chair appoint Mike?

Karen: Not sure. Would ask Mike Engelson.

Cary: I was appointed until I was voted in.

Karen: That's because we lost a commissioner due to illness and you accepted to complete that term until it expires. Then you had to be elected. Mike is not resigning.

Phil: We can't preclude someone from running.

Karen: That's why we have to hold the election.

Phil: Let's not try to circumvent the election.

Alex: Nothing's stopping us from not having the meeting.

Karen: We have to hold a meeting.

Phil: We have to approve the budget to get the tax levy. We should hold the meeting in August.

Karen: Legally the latest we can postpone it is September 17. Virus transmission is expected to be worse in the fall.

Phil: Motion to hold the meeting at Wilkins from with some Zoom capabilities so people can attend via Zoom. Voting at 9:30.

Second: Cary

Discussion:

Alex: Could we start the meeting sign-in at 8 and people could vote right away and then go to the meeting.

Karen: It's outside the statute. You're collecting ballots before calling the election.

Alex: Chair calls meeting to order at 8. Conduct voting.

Karen: Zoom and physical meeting need to happen at the same time. You have to start and end the meeting. The Q&A could go on after the meeting is adjourned.

Phil: How can people vote as well as attend the Zoom Meeting?

Karen: You can attend the zoom meeting with your phone, laptop, tablet. Zoom meeting could be displayed at Wilkins so you can watch it and participate in it. The meeting should be small in a short period of time.

- Call the meeting to order
- hold the election
- present and approve the budget
- announce the election
- Approve the APM Plan
- Maybe something about alum
- Something about the no wake community

Mike: Why can't we do what we used to do and just have a voice vote on the election:

Karen: That is outside the statute.

You could cast your ballot outdoors and then go home and participate. All of us could go home and that would protect all of us from prolonged exposure. Confirm the schedule at our July meeting.

Phil: Can people ask questions?

People can ask questions in the Zoom chat feature. Click on it at the bottom of the screen. Chat is also part of the recording. You can choose to send a message to a single person. That's how you submit a question.

Participants are muted because of background noise. Answers could be verbal or written in the chat.

Phil: Any more discussion?

Amend the motion to include the time frame of the meeting and define the time of the voting. Voting 9:30 live at

Wilkins. Zoom meeting 9 a.m. to noon.

Shelley would have any nominations and those would be on the ballot. We're supposed to call for nominations from the floor 3 times. That would have to be part of the Zoom. If there was a nomination it would be a write-in. Ballots would be cast at 9:30 a.m. Ask Wilkins to project the zoom meeting on their screens, or at least the audio portion.

Motion: Hold the BLMD Annual Meeting in person and via Zoom at Wilkins from 9:00 a.m. - noon on Saturday, August 15, 2020 with voting and ballots collected at 9:30 a.m. Carried.

Phil will be point person for Wilkins.

Next meeting is Saturday, July 11, 2020. Alex will work on Budget. Budget items should go to Alex.

Alex will send an email to Phil for distribution to committee chairs for their budgets. Preliminary budget will be same as existing.

More martins arrived at the martin house on the north landing. A second wave of second-year birds arrived and filled the house. Gourds filled first.

Adjourned 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Engelbretson  
BLMD Secretary  
June 10, 2020

