

**Bearville Township
Board of Supervisors Meeting
June 10, 2025**

The Bearville Town Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Janelle Driscoll with Supervisor Gene Baker, Supervisor Mike Laulunen, and Clerk Kathy Cressy, Treasurer Jemma Baker, present. Also, present Dustin Nelson, Fire Chief.

GBaker made a motion to approve the 6/10/2025 consent agenda (the 5/13/25 minutes and 6/10/25 agenda with the addition of the Bear River Fair donation request, computer repair, Carpenter building lease. Driscoll seconded. AIF motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Receipts: The Treasurer reported receipts during the month: \$800.00 for open/close Brigan grave site; this is an in and out amount. \$0.47 from Security State Bank for interest, and \$5,000.00 was transferred from General to Hall Fund. Total in all funds \$427,545.30

The Treasurer reported that she called Security State Bank about the service fees that are more than we receive in interest. She was informed that the reason is the amount of checks we write out. No reason was given for the low interest rate.

Paul Bunyan – 124.33

ELAN – 112.74

Support within Reach - 200.00

Itasca County Recorder - 46.00

Gene Baker – 84.00

Itasca County Agricultural Assn – 200.00

Cook Public Library – 200.00

L&M Supply – 32.18

Gene Baker – 84.00

Payroll – 2883.54

PERA EFT – 201.26

Kathy Cressy – 61.60

Jerulle Construction – 800.00

Elder Circle – 200.00

Itasca County Historical Society – 200.00

First Call for Help – 400.00

Tim Bormann – 21.00

Jemma Baker – 114.80

GBaker made a motion to approve the financial report. Laulunen seconded. AIF motion carried.

GBaker made a motion to pay the claims. Laulunen seconded. AIF motion carried.

GENERAL:

Cemetery digging contract with Jerulle Construction: Laulunen made a motion to sign the contract with Jerulle Construction for open/close grave sites at the Bearville Cemetery between May 1, 2025, and November 14, 2025, for a fee of \$800.00. GBaker seconded. AIF Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Cemetery fee schedule.

Laulunen made a motion to change the minimum fee for winter burials to \$800.00. Driscoll seconded. motion carried.

Demographer's report: The State Demographer reported that Bearville population as of April 1, 2024 was: 211 and 96 households.

St. Louis County request for Fire Protection Services for 2026 covering St. Louis County Unorganized 62-21 and St. Louis County Unorganized 63-21 (sections 25-36).

GBaker feels that the amount should be raised 5%, due to increased cost, fuel, equipment, maintenance, and personnel. The amount per protected property in 2025 was \$68.25. A 5% increase would bring it to \$71.66.

There may also be an increase in rental rates for the Carpenter leased building.

Laulunen made a motion and GBaker seconded to increase the rate for fire protection services by 5% to \$71.66 per protected property due to increased costs for fuel, equipment, maintenance, personnel, and equipment housing.

Mike Laulunen voted yes, Gene Baker voted yes, and Janelle Driscoll voted yes. Motion carried.

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Web site update: Laulunen looked at several hosting companies, comparing cost and what they offer, speed, etc. iPage (our current host, Fat Cow is being bought by iPage) and Hostinger are the least expensive. Laulunen doesn't care for iPage- inexpensive, but they don't offer that much. Hostinger is 2.99/month to start for a 48-month term. Afterwards the cost is \$11.99/month. iPage renews at 9.99/month, that's what we pay currently. GBaker made a motion to switch internet hosting to Hostinger for 48-months. Driscoll seconded. AIF motion carried. Laulunen talked about our domain. We can get a .gov web address for free. GBaker made a motion to keep BearvilleTownship.com for the time being, but switch when we are established with Hostinger to Bearvilletownship.gov. Driscoll seconded. AIF motion carried. Laulunen brought up ADA compliance on the website. Things like the Screen Reader etc. There is a deadline for compliance of 2027. He has investigated AccessiBe that provides ADA compliance services for a fee of \$490.00/year. GBaker made a motion to ontract with AccessiBe to provide ADA compliance for the website. Driscoll seconded. AIF motion carried. Laulunen also mentioned that we could purchase AccessiBe through Art Unlimited. The cost would be the same, but the company would get something from AccessiBe. Laulunen will contact MAT to inquire about the possible conflict of interest. The Blandin Grant request. GBaker reported that Blandin has approved Bearville's grant request of \$175,000.00. GBaker talked to Linda Jibo and Tracy from CEDA, and Tracy advised that we should now try for additional funding through IRRRB and possibly some other small grant opportunities that may be out there. GBaker called the County Sheriff and asked for a letter of recommendation for the project. Sheriff Dasovich sent a letter. GBaker brought in some maps of Bearville area. The question at this point is, are we planning on increasing our footprint? Or going with the original. Discussion at the last meeting, the board was looking at 54' X 70'. GBaker made a motion to hold a Special Town Board meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 6:30 pm to discuss the size, plans, designs and possible costs fo the proposed fire hall to determine the amount to request from IRRRB, and other potential donors. Driscoll seconded. AIF motion carried. Driscoll called the insurance to remove the 1994 brush truck that was sold. Driscoll reported that she is having a problem with her computer, flashing lights and it will not turn on. GBaker will look at it. The Bear River Fair committee is asking for a donation. Laulunen made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Bear River Fair committee for the 2025 Bear River Fair. GBaker seconded the motion. AIF motion carried.

ROAD AND BRIDGE:

No new business.

HALL

Driscoll talked to the electrician, and he said he would be out Thursday or Friday this week. The electrician needs the plumber to complete the vent for the microwave and lower the osmosis filter and install the sink.

FIRE

Fire report – Dustin Nelson reported no calls for the month. There was some red flag staffing. Training was held on E1, Jaws of Life, and the brush truck slip on; the pump certification test is due. The labor rate and truck rates are \$178.00/hour. The pump service was done 2 years ago.

GBaker made a motion to have Pump certification test on E1 and E2 and additional cost of up to \$1,000.00 for extra work. Driscoll seconded. AIF motion carried.

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The Carpenter Lease agreement was discussed. The board reviewed the lease agreement that Carpenter sent out. There were concerns about the agreement. The Board looked at a 2019 Contract with Carpenter and feels that that format and wording fits what we are looking at. Driscoll will retype the contract with current information. GBaker made a motion to accept the fire report. Driscoll seconded. AIF motion carried.

CEMETERY:

Cosette Morgan has purchased a single cemetery site.

Driscoll made a motion to convey the deed to the Cemetery Block 38 Site 11 to Cosette Morgan for the fee of \$125.00. Laulunen seconded. AIF motion carried. The Board and the Clerk signed the deed.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

Driscoll made a motion to adjourn at 9:45pm. GBaker seconded. AIF motion carried.

July 8, 2025

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP CHAIRPERSON – JANELLE DRISCOLL

July 8, 2025

CLERK BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP – KATHY CRESSY