

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4338 Beeline Road, Allegan County, Holland, MI 49423
WORKSHOP MINUTES
Wednesday, February 3, 2021

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Linda Howell called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Dewey (Zoom from home), Linda Howell (Zoom from home), Jim Johnson (Zoom from office in Grand Rapids), Michelle Sall (Zoom from home), Jim Delaney (Zoom from home)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin, Township Manager; Jim Hayden, public information officer

OTHERS PRESENT: None

ARTICLE II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dewey, second by Johnson, to approve the January 6, 2021 workshop minutes as presented.

PASS UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL

ARTICLE III. FINANCES

The board discussed the finance report including the \$10,655 for gear washing machine for Graafschap Fire Department. Delaney asked Meshkin to come back at February meeting with details on the \$7,781.95 capital outlay to Gerrit's Appliance Inc for GFD Installation.

ARTICLE IV. TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Salary resolutions. The consensus of the board was to keep the salaries for clerk, treasurer and supervisor the same as noted in proposed resolutions. Members discussed raising trustee pay from \$4,000 to \$5,000 (Note: at 5:21 p.m., main Zoom link froze then crashed completely at 5:32 p.m. Meeting progressed through Meshkin's laptop and was not visible through the township office video system though all at the meeting remained connected and able to communicate). The consensus was the trustee salary be \$4,500 and keep per diems. The resolutions will be on the February agenda. Meshkin will also come back with a list of meetings attended by board members for which no per diems are paid.
- b) Poverty guidelines. The board discussed proposed poverty exemptions for property taxes. The resolution will be on the February agenda.
- c) Parks commission. The board discussed replacement of Ellen Fitch who passed away. Four applications have been received. Meshkin will meet with Parks Commission chairman and Howell who will talk to applicants. Howell hopes to have a recommendation at the February board meeting.

ARTICLE V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Budget. The board discussed the proposed 2021-2022 budget. Meshkin proposed increasing the millage from 0.55 mill to 1 mill to improve cash flow so the township no longer borrows money to pay bills while waiting for funds to come in. The increase would mean an increase of between \$30 to \$75 per year for homeowners. Johnson asked how much it cost the township to borrow to pay bills, saying if it was not expensive, it might be worth continuing. Delaney said residents don't want their taxes to go up. Howell reminded board members

and residents that they can speak with Meshkin about budget details.

ARTICLE VI. NEXT WORKSHOP – The next regular workshop meeting is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March. 3, 2021.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Tom Drnek, 3964 65th St.: There are no reasons to raise township operating millage, wants more belt-tightening and decreasing of expenses.

Mitra Delaney, 6298 144th Ave.: Asked if this workshop was the final budget discussion for 2021. Howell said no, more discussion is ahead.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.