

PROPOSED MINUTES  
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
4338 BEELINE ROAD  
ALLEGAN COUNTY  
HOLLAND, MI 49423

February 10, 2021

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Township Supervisor Linda Howell called the regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at the township hall with participants using the Zoom application.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Howell (at township hall), Gary Dewey (Zoom from home), Michelle Sall (Zoom from home), Jim Johnson (Zoom from home), Jim Delaney (Zoom from home)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – (at township hall) Township manager  
Jim Hayden – (at township hall) Public information officer

ARTICLE II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board members reviewed the minutes of the Dec. 9, 2020, meeting. **A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Delaney to approve the minutes as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

ARTICLE III. FINANCIAL REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE BILLS

The board reviewed the bills from January. Dewey noted that Meshkin did respond to workshop question regarding the \$7,781.95 capital outlay to Gerrit's Appliance Inc for GFD installation. **A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Delaney to approve the January bills as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

ARTICLE IV. REPORT OF OFFICEFRS

A. COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAPENGA

Commissioner Kapenga addressed several issues including Covid-19 vaccine distribution, groundwater report, state Senate broadband bill and brownfield funds.

B. PLANNING COMMISSION – None

C. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – None

D. PARKS COMMISSION – Tom Shuff

Noted the commission looked over the 2021-2022 budget and that donations are coming in after the passing of Parks Commission member Ellen Fitch.

E. GRAAFSCHAP FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Doug DenBleyker

Chief reported a total of 61 calls for January with two fire calls and nine medical/rescue calls in Fillmore Township and seven fire calls and 38 medical/rescue calls in Laketown Township. There were five total assists with four fire calls (three to Holland and one to Hamilton) and one medical/rescue call to Holland. He noted the department was busy with calls on the expressway on Tuesday due to the weather.

ARTICLE V. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS -- None

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS -- None

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. TOWNSHIP BOARD SALARY RESOLUTIONS

The township board discussed raising trustee salaries from \$4,000 a year to \$4,500 a year. Delaney asked to abstain but Meshkin said statute does not allow. Sall said she does appreciate the trustees but hasn't seen an increase in responsibilities to justify a salary increase. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to approve the salary of township trustees at \$4,500. Howell called for a roll call vote on the motion. YES – Dewey, Johnson, Howell. NO – Sall, Delaney. MOTION APPROVED 3-2.**

The township board discussed keeping the clerk salary at \$15,000. Dewey noted the salary has not increased for about 10 years. Sall noted she and Dewey need to be in the office and Meshkin and the staff have made it safe to do so during the pandemic. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to approve the salary of the township clerk at \$15,000. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

The township board discussed keeping the treasurer salary at \$15,000. **A motion was made by Sall and seconded by Johnson to approve the salary of the township treasurer at \$15,000. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

The township board discussed keeping the supervisor salary at \$15,000. **A motion was made by Sall and seconded by Dewey to approve the salary of the township supervisor at \$15,000. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

B. POVERTY EXEMPTIONS RESOLUTION

The township board discussed the proposed poverty exemption guidelines for property taxes. Meshkin said no resident has requested one in at least the last two years. Howell will ask the Board of Review and treasurer to keep track of how many requests have been made **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Sall to approve the poverty tax exemption guidelines as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

### C. PARKS COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

The township board discussed the replacement for Ellen Fitch on the Parks Commission. Howell said four applications were received. Parks Commission Chairman Shuff said all were good candidates and encouraged those not appointed to stay active with the parks. **A motion was made by Sall and seconded by Dewey to appoint Jeremy Van Hoven to fill the remaining unexpired term previously held by Ellen Fitch. Howell called for a roll call vote on the motion. YES – Dewey, Johnson, Sall, Howell. NO – Delaney. MOTION APPROVED 4-1.** Van Hoven addressed the board (via Zoom), thanking them and saying he looks forward to being a member.

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

### ARTICLE IX ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Dewey and supported by Howell adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.**