

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

REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 13, 2019

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Linda Howell called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Howell thanked Terry Hofmeyer for his years of service as Township Supervisor.

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE

Treasurer Gary Dewey opened the meeting with prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Howell, Ed Stielstra, Michelle Sall, Gary Dewey  
MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager  
Kathy Stoike – Administrative Assistant/Finance  
Charlene Fields – Deputy Treasurer  
Jenifer French – Deputy Clerk  
Heather Jahr – Township Assessor  
Doug Den Bleyker – Fire Chief  
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1/9/19

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Stielstra to approve the January 9, 2019 minutes as submitted. Supervisor Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. FINANCIAL REPORT / REVIEW & APPROVE BILLS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 2019

Supervisor Howell reviewed the bills for the months of January and February 2019. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Sall to approve and pay the bills as submitted. Supervisor Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. ANNUAL REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a. State Senator – Aric Nesbitt

Senator Nesbitt reported that Whiteford sends her regards for her absence. Nesbitt provided a written report update. He highlighted budget recommendations including Department of Transportation funding; lowering auto insurance rates; legislation to provide better access to broadband internet and announced that he will hold a coffee on March 27 at noon in the Laketown Township Hall.

- b. State Representative – Mary Whiteford

Representative Whiteford was not present but her son Ken read from a written report highlighting her

work on the MDHHS Appropriations Subcommittee; development of a mental health hotline; transitional psychiatric licensing; transforming the way 17-year olds are treated in the criminal justice system and published office hours for March. Whiteford also recognized Terry Hofmeyer with a tribute for his years of public service.

c. County Commissioner – Dean Kapenga

Commissioner Dean Kapenga reported on the value of the Allegan County Dashboard as a resource for detailed county information; the new 800 system for emergency responders; movement of the probation and parole staff to the jail house freeing up room in the courthouse; pension and MERS funding; the importance of millage to address the growing needs of the county; shortage of law enforcement officers; fiduciary responsibility for the budget and also recognized Fire Chief Den Bleyker and his staff for the great work they do.

d. Library Representative – Gary Dewey

Gary Dewey reported the Herrick District Library reported that off to the right near the township hall is a new book house thanks to Holland Rotary. The idea is to take a book and leave a book if you have one to share with others. They are all over the city and some of the surrounding townships. Renovations have been done to the lower level of the library downtown and there is a \$5 million renovation planned for the north side branch. Several public meetings will be held for public comment on the design of the new renovation. Dewey thanked resident for the support and invited everyone to visit the library.

e. Pool Authority – Jack Huisingh

Jack Huisingh reported that we have created a viable and sustainable business with the pool, suffice to say after balancing the budget, looking forward to the next 20 years and the current business plan will not support its growth and needs of the community. Over 5,000 children come through the pool every year from surrounding schools to receive swimming lessons. The debt from the last renovation will be paid off in May and it is necessary to develop a new business plan for the future growth. The activity at the pool brings in an average of \$6.5 million annually in economic impact. We are asking residents to consider a 1.25 mil over the next 20 years to raise \$26 million to provide the facility that is needed for continued growth in events and to meet the needs of the community. We are one of the top facilities recognized in the state for its competitive swimmers and continue to grow in the number of schools we provide swim lessons for to teach children how not to drown in our surrounding waters. Huisingh explained that considerable research has been done on the needs analysis and finances and asks that residents support the millage on the May 2019 ballot. Huisingh invited residents to see him with any specific questions they may have concerning the proposed project.

f. Planning Commission – Linda Howell

Howell reported one that the Board reviewed text amendments for regarding oversized accessory buildings, attached and unattached accessory resident units along with home-based occupations. The Commission has also spent considerable time updating the Master Plan which should be wrapped up later this summer once public hearings have been completed.

g. Zoning Board of Appeals – Chair David Weishaar

David Weishaar reported that we have good zoning in the township and do not get many requests for variances. There were 8 meetings containing 10 subjects, generally revolving around setbacks. The ZBA takes its job very seriously and works with applicants to reach the best agreements on requests.

h. Parks Commission – Chair Tom Shuff

Tom Shuff thanked Sall for assisting with his transition to chair of the Parks Commission and also congratulated Howell on her new position. Shuff reported the following: MSU work at the Huyser Farm; United Way Day of Caring work done by 88 volunteers at several parks; Huyser Farm clean-up on 5/19; significant repair work done from storm damage; updates at the Laketown Beach; Pack

in – Pack out at Farview Park to address trash issues; bow season deer hunt at Huyser Farm; Meat and Greet held on 9/19; partnership with ODC; successful grant work accomplished; Lakeview School Park collaboration and approved demolition of the small green house on the Huyser property. Dewey suggested transitioning all parks to “pack in – pack out”. Udelis Kuipers asked about the old safe that is on the Huyser property and what will the old town hall be used for and Howell responded education area, restrooms, etc.

i. Friends of the Felt Estate – Wendy Elms

Wendy read the report provided by Patty Meyer noting the following items: restoration efforts continue at the Carriage House; high volume of rentals for 2018 and scheduled for 2019; Thursday concert series has been announced; Darkness tours in October will be held every other year to allow for more rentals and the holiday tours/events continue to be profitable. Meyer thanked the community for its continued support.

j. Graafschap Fire Department – Chief Doug Den Bleyker

Chief Den Bleyker reported the department responded to 673 calls for service in 2018, a 12% increase over 2017; four new staff were hired over the last year; Mike Capel was added as a full-time Deputy Chief/Fire Inspector; the new utility pickup truck and command vehicle have been placed in service; the live burn facility should be completed in late spring and will be shared with 7-member fire departments; commercial business inspections are going well; \$14,334.06 was collected in cost recovery for services rendered; 202 smoke alarms and 49 CO alarms were installed in 35 homes; since the program started in 2014, GFD has installed 2129 smoke alarms and 94 CO alarms in 341 homes and a \$3,000 DNR grant was awarded for a water tank, water pump and engine for off-road firefighting.

Howell thanked all of the volunteers who have served on all boards over the last year.

## ARTICLE VI. PRESENTATION OF DE MULL AWARD

Chief Den Bleyker explained that the volunteers in the township really make things happen. The De Mull Award is presented to an outstanding volunteer each year to recognize efforts made above and beyond the call of duty. Den Bleyker presented this year’s award to Wayne Van Omen for his dedication and willingness to volunteer, mentor new staff and supports the department wherever help is needed. Laketown Township and Graafschap Fire Department are a better place for the selflessness Wayne Van Omen.

## ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. FY 2018-19 Budget Amendment

Meshkin reviewed the FY 2018-19 Budget Amendment noting it is mostly flat except the grant for the beach property. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and Stielstra to approve the FY 2018-19 Budget Amendment. Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

## ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. FY 2019-20 Budget Hearing

Meshkin gave a brief overview of the FY 2019-20 Proposed Budget noting that revenue appears down slightly down because of the grant last year but exceeds expenditure adding \$70,000 to the fund balance. One change this year is the Felt Mansion is off the township budget and on its own under the Friends of the Felt. Other items noted: assessor’s salary change; elections down a bit; new facility person, Brett Grams, who is also a firefighter, benefit to have someone available during the daytime

to respond if needed; cemetery money for capital outlay in direction of when old township hall is moved using that space as a cremation cemetery; GFD received a \$141,000 grant this year for SCBA air packs that fire fighters use. Dewey asked about the fund balance percentage and Meshkin said it will be close to 20-25% next year.

Howell opened for public hearing.

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline questioned a special project expenditure and Meshkin responded it is to move the old township hall and for the purchase of additional beach property.

**A motion was made by Sall and seconded by Dewey to close the public hearing. Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Howell asked for questions and there were not. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Stielstra to approve the FY 2019-20 Budget. Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

b. KLSWA Master Meter Resolution 2019-05

Meshkin reviewed the KLSWA Wastewater Master Meter Project. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Stielstra to approve Resolution 2019-05 KLSWA Wastewater Master Meter Project. Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

c. Dust Control Work Order

Meshkin explained less than one mile of the township roads are unpaved and this order is to treat it once a year for dust control. It is 62<sup>nd</sup> Street south of 142<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and serves one home and a 65<sup>th</sup> Street south of Goshorn and 61<sup>st</sup> north of 138<sup>th</sup> Avenue which may be seasonal.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Sall to approve the Dust Control Work Order. Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IX. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kevin Stoike of 3734 64<sup>th</sup> Street stated that he has served on the Board of review and made the following three points: 1) parcel cards are on file for each property owner and it is extremely important for assessing that these cards be kept up to date with accurate information; 2) State of Michigan recommends we review 20% of the properties annually which means the cards and boot on the ground to ensure accuracy; 3) the review was just completed in March and Stoike recognized Heather Jahr for her excellent skills and real desire for accuracy.

Gerry Van Roost stated that he is running for the MTA District Director and asked for votes at the April 2 convention in Grand Rapids.

Howell recognized Heather Jahr for attaining Level III Certification in Assessing, a serious professional certification that is not easily attained. Howell also thanked all of the office staff, GFD, board members and volunteers.

ARTICLE X. ADJOURN

**Supervisor Howell adjourned the meeting at 8:28pm.**

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Michelle Sall, Township Clerk

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Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary