

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

REGULAR MEETING
April 11, 2018

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Township Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer called the regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Hofmeyer, Ed Stielstra, Linda Howell, Wendy Van Huis
MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Dewey
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer led the pledge of allegiance and offered prayer.

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the March 14, 2018 meeting. **A motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Stielstra to approve the minutes as submitted. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. FINANCIAL REPORT / REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of March 2018. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Stielstra and seconded by Howell to approve and pay the bills as submitted. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE - None

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

Hofmeyer introduced Aric Nesbitt who is running for State Senate. Nesbitt is from the Lawton area having grown up on a family farm. In 2010 he ran for State House Van Buren County and for six years worked with Governor Snyder including being assigned to his Cabinet. He termed out in 2016 and is now interested in the State Senate seat. Meshkin asked about the bill to create special assessments for broadband. Nesbitt said he recognizes that broadband is an issue for the rural areas of the state and is willing to research options.

- A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE – No report.
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – No report.

C. PLANNING COMMISSION – HOWELL

Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on April 4, 2018 and the following items were discussed: Darby Planned Unit Development was tabled; Tucker Special Use Request had no representation; Holland BPW Special Use approved contingent on compliance with the ordinance; Sliva Special Use for oversized building was approved; Brondyke Special Use for an oversized building was approved; Den Hartigh Special Use for a home occupation was tabled. The Master Plan review kick-off meeting is scheduled for April 12 at 6:00pm.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – ED STIELSTRA

Stielstra reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on March 28 and the following items were discussed: Nyheim Variance Request to construct a deck was approved; Van Dam Variance Request for a parcel division was approved.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – MICHELLE SALL

Sall reported that the Parks Commission met on March 21 and the following items were discussed: Laketown Beach expansion with many residents expressing support and objection; Huyser Farm volunteer clean-up day is scheduled for May 19; Wolters Woods improvements and spring clean-up schedule. Hofmeyer said he saw several four cars at the Laketown Beach this evening, one of many great parks in the township.

F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – CHIEF DOUG DEN BLEYKER

Chief Den Bleyker reported the response calls for the month of March were as follows: 55 calls total, 42 calls from Laketown, consisting of 26 medical/rescue and 16 fire calls and 2 smoke and CO alarm installs; 8 from Fillmore, consisting of 7 medical/rescue calls and 1 fire call. There were 3 fire assists to other departments, 1 to Saugatuck and 2 to Holland. The live fire training project was awarded a grant for \$10,000 by the Allegan County Foundation.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Dick Becker of 2382 Valley said he attended 21 of 24 workshop meetings; 22 of 24 township board meetings and the last 2 annual meetings. Becker expressed concern that residents and voters are not receiving enough timely information and Laketown is not as transparent as it thinks. The board works for the taxpayers and the township manager works for the board by which he is appointed. The quarterly newsletter should include updates on the top 10 township goals and what money is spent. This information should be in Hofmeyer’s column on the front page so residents can know what is going on and not just a rearview of updates at the annual meeting. This would reduce resident frustration and potentially increase resident support.

Sherry Sirko of 6397 Hidden Ponds expressed appreciation for Becker’s viewpoint. Sirko said she is concerned about the potential new streetlight on 142nd Avenue as it relates to excess light pollution interfering with her stargazing and telescoping. She does not feel the township needs additional streetlights.

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64th Street asked about the financial report that was distributed at the township board meetings in past years. Why don’t we have it anymore and does the township have any money in the bank? Hofmeyer said the financials are reviewed each month at the workshop meetings. Becksvoort asked who the maintenance truck will be for and Meshkin said Dan Williams, the Township Maintenance staff person who has been working full-time in that role for three years.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. MILLAGE RENEWAL RESOLUTION

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the Resolution 2018-07 for the renewal of an existing 2 mils that is used for fire, roads, bike paths and drains. If adopted, the resolution would put the item on the November 7, 2018 ballot for resident vote. Meshkin added that the millage goes back to the 1960's.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Stielstra to approve Resolution 2018-07 Fire, Road, Bicycle Path and Drain Millage Renewal. Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. 142ND AVENUE STREETLIGHT RESOLUTIONS

Hofmeyer explained that Resolution 2018-08 is to acknowledge receipt of a petition or petitions requesting that the township acquire, construct and operate streetlight improvements at the cul-de-sac of 142nd Avenue west of 61st Street.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell and seconded by Stielstra to approve Resolution 2018-08 for acknowledging receipt of petition requesting a streetlight be installed on 142nd Avenue west of 61st Street.**

Meshkin explained the five step process involved in the request for installation of the streetlight including two public hearings that will take place, the first one being next month if this resolution is approved. The affected residents are noticed of the public hearings and provided with all necessary information for the special assessment. **Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Hofmeyer explained Resolution 2018-09 describes the petition for the special assessment has been signed by owners of 21.2 acres or 58.45% of landowners of the 36.3 acre area affected by the proposed streetlight at an estimated cost of \$3,898.00.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell and seconded by Van Huis to approve Resolution 2018-09 for a May 9, 2018 public hearing regarding the proposed special assessment.**

Meshkin explained that the process is necessary to inform all affected property owners and provide opportunity for public comment. Hofmeyer added that the cost involves Consumer Powers extending electricity to the end of the cul-de-sac. **Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

C. MAINTENANCE TRUCK LEASE

Hofmeyer explained the proposed truck lease is to be used by the township maintenance staff person. The lease is for a 2019 Ford F-250 for \$26,429.00 at the state discounted price.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Howell to approve the Maintenance Truck Lease for \$26,429.00.**

Meshkin said the maintenance staff person; Williams had been using a 1999 truck for the last three years which finally broke down. Williams works in all of the parks, at the township hall and at the fire department, he is the township handyman. Stielstra asked for projected mileage or life span of the vehicle. Meshkin estimated the mileage at 15,000 or less per year. Van Huis asked if the vehicle will be used strictly for township business and Meshkin confirmed it would. Howell asked if it will be equipped to pull the tool trailer and Meshkin confirmed it would. Howell asked if there would be additional insurance costs and Meshkin responded the cost of approximately \$700 per year is the same for an old or new vehicle.

Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Sherry Sirko of 6397 Hidden Ponds objected to the new maintenance vehicle and questioned the work of Williams stating she expects him to begin chain sawing the trees at Huyser Farm. Meshkin explained that he provides work direction for Williams on a daily basis, many of which are difficult tasks in remote areas of the parks in the township.

Becksvoort commented that 15,000 miles per year on the truck is a lot in this township and Meshkin responded it was only a rough estimate.

Stielstra addressed the concern regarding the streetlights and noted that policies are followed to reduce light pollution by using downcast lights wherever possible.

Becker suggested addressing the streetlight request directly with the residents and Meshkin explained the law requires the due process to be followed.

Becksvoort expressed concern regarding the streetlight on 142nd Avenue if it is installed at the end of the cul-de-sac there is potential for it to be shot out and who would cover the repair. Meshkin said Consumers Power will replace and repair the streetlight. The township and its residents are assessed a monthly fee by Consumers Power for service and repair.

Stielstra commented on the one page financial page that was previously distributed at monthly township board meetings. Sirko said it is standard practice on all boards that she has served to provide such information and stated that she will research the requirements to do so. Meshkin explained that the township collects one half a mil on an annual basis for operation.

Becker suggested that Dewey include a financial synopsis in the quarterly newsletter.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Stielstra to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M.
UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED**

Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk

Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary