

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

April 13, 2022
Special meeting
5:00 p.m.

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Shuff called the special Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Becker, Anne Brand, Tom Shuff, Karen Simmons, Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township manager
Jim Hayden – Public information officer

ARTICLE II. MILLAGE PROPOSAL DISCUSSION

The commission discussed the possibility of a millage election for the November ballot.

Meshkin presented two concepts:

-- \$1.5 million bond proposal, no anticipated increase in taxable value for 0.6301 mill request for 5 years;

-- \$1.3 million bond request, assuming a 4% growth in taxable value for 0.4858 mill request for 5 years.

The request would be for restrooms in all township parks. A half mill would cost the owner of a home with \$150,000 taxable value approximately \$75 a year.

Becker suggested keeping request simple.

Commissioners said restrooms help with accessibility at parks. The restrooms would not be all the same for all the parks – each facility would be tailored for the specific park. If the issue passed in November, construction could begin in 2023.

The commission asked Meshkin to look into more specific costs for construction, engineering, bond costs and other expenses.

The commission came to the consensus to have a resolution at the April 20 regular parks commission meeting to send to the township board supporting a millage proposal for the November ballot.

The commission came to the consensus to add to next week's agenda the issue of handicap parking at the parks, especially the beach.

Van Hoven suggested the township look at offering vouchers to Laketown residents who can't access the Laketown beach due to physical limitations. The vouchers would be used at Oval Beach in Saugatuck.

Shuff adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.