

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

May 10, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Township Supervisor Linda Howell called the regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the township hall. Zoom option available for the public.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amber Davis (arrived 6:01 p.m.), Jim Delaney, Gary Dewey,
Linda Howell, Jim Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township manager
Michelle Sall – Community development director
Doug Den Bleyker – Graafschap Fire Department chief
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to approve the minutes of April 12, 2023. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE

3. FINANCIAL REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE BILLS

The board discussed the proposed bills. **A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Davis, to approve the April bills as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE**

4. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- a. County Commissioner Jim Storey: Reported on Allegan County topics.
- b. Planning Commission: Johnson reported on April planning commission action.
- c. Zoning Board of Appeals: Delaney reported on the April zoning board of appeals action.
- d. Parks Commission: No report.
- e. Graafschap Fire Department Chief Doug DenBleyker: Gave the April numbers: Fire/rescue calls -- 54 total, Fillmore – 2 fire calls, 11 medical/rescue calls; Laketown – 14 fire calls, 22 medical/rescue calls; Assists – 4 fire calls, 3 to Hamilton, 1 to Clyde with drone; Medical/Rescue Calls – 1 to Hamilton.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

Comments started at 6:22 p.m. Four people gave comments on topics including the Huyser house, the Building Authority, minutes and their property assessment. Comments ended at 6:35 p.m.

6. OLD BUSINESS -- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Schaftenaar PUD Agreements

Meshkin explained the three documents. **A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Dewey, to approve the Schaftenaar PUD Contract as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY ROLL CALL.**

A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Schaftenaar Water and Sewer Special Assessment Contract as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY ROLL CALL.

A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Davis, to approve the Schaftenaar Private Road maintenance Special Assessment Contract as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY ROLL CALL.

b. Keeping of Township Board Minutes Resolutions

The board discussed the minutes proposal. Delaney said he did not support the resolution because residents have issues with transparency and accountability. The resolution stifles communication. Davis said this addresses inclusion of names and addresses and not including attachments. Johnson said he is looking for a compromise. Dewey said he did not have problems with the resolution, noted MAC TV once showed meetings. Howell said the resolution gives minimum standards and can be changed as needed.

A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Davis, to approve Resolution 2023-09 Keeping of Township Board Minutes as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION APPROVED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. YES – DAVIS, DEWEY, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO – DELANEY.

c. Parks Commission Resignation

The board discussed the resignation of Tom Shuff as chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission. **A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Delaney, to accept the resignation of Tom Shuff as a member of the Laketown Township Parks and Recreation Commission with regrets and thank him for his service. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

Howell appointed Johnson and Dewey to serve on a committee to review applications for the open parks commission position. The committee will also include one member of the parks commission to be appointed at the May 17 parks meeting. The committee will recommend final interview candidates to the township board. The township board will conduct final interviews and appoint the replacement.

Howell said Allegan County has openings on boards and commissions and Laketown residents should consider applying.

Howell noted she had communications regarding communications, Huyser House expenses, Building Authority membership, adding that a member does not have to be a resident and that the appointments were unanimously approved earlier this year.

8. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Citizen comments started at 6:58 p.m. Four people spoke on topics including loud neighbors at a rental unit, the Building Authority, resolutions, recording meetings, website and the Huyser house. Comments ended 7:08 p.m.

The board discussed having a special study session on ideas presented at the meeting, having a standard board and commission application form, where money for the Huyser House is in the budget, line items in the budget.

9. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.