

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

November 9, 2022

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 also available for the public. Zoom was not functioning despite having township IT service working on it.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amber Davis, Jim Delaney, Gary Dewey, Linda Howell, Jim Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township manager
Doug Den Bleyker – Graafschap Fire Department chief
Jim Hayden – Public information officer

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board members reviewed the minutes of the Oct. 12, 2022, regular meeting. **A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes of Oct. 12, 2022, as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE**

3. FINANCIAL REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE BILLS

The board reviewed the bills from October. **A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Davis, to approve the October 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 activity.
- b. Planning Commission: Johnson updated the board from the November meeting.
- c. Zoning Board of Appeals: No meeting.
- d. Parks Commission: Chairperson Tom Shuff updated the board from the October meeting.
- e. Graafschap Fire Department: Chief Doug Den Bleyker: October fire/rescue calls -- 73 total, Fillmore – 3 fire calls, 13 medical/rescue calls; Laketown – 7 fire calls, 42 medical/rescue calls; Assists – 4 fire calls 1 to Holland, 2 to Hamilton, 1 to Saugatuck; 4 medical/rescue calls 1 to Saugatuck, 1 to Hamilton, 1 to Holland, 1 to the Allegan County Sheriff's Department.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

Karen Massengill, 6271 143rd Ave.: Submitted letter in opposition to buying Wolters property. With taxes going up, purchase cannot be justified. Township should not use it to make money.

Jeremy Van Hoven, 4206 Vandermeulen Road: Supports purchase of Wolters property. Can't think of a better use for the land than to be in township care.

Theresa Cooklin, 4098 64th St.: Opposes purchase of Wolters property. Having the house is not a necessity, township does not need to be in rental business.

Tom Hoekman, 4174 62nd St.: Opposes purchase of Wolters property. Huyser House is falling apart, don't need another building.

Elizabeth TerHaar, 4695 64th St.: Opposes purchase of Wolters property. More expenses will come of it, township doesn't need another property.

Mitra Delaney, 6298 144th Ave.: Supports SPARK grant; does not support parts of road paving proposal; opposes purchase of Wolters property. No reason to buy it, should not use it to compete with other agencies or private businesses, township could limit what goes on site if it is sold to a private person.

6. OLD BUSINESS -- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Saugatuck Recreation Board Appointment

The board discussed appointing Garret Gormley to the Saugatuck Community Recreation Advisory Board. He attended the workshop last week. Howell noted another person recently expressed interested. **A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to appoint Garret Gormley to the Saugatuck Community Recreation Advisory Board. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

b. SPARK Grant Application Resolution

Meshkin explained the state's SPARK grant program. **A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Delaney, to adopt Resolution 2022-16 SPARK Grant Application Resolution. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE**

c. Wolters Property Purchase

Meshkin explained how the township became aware of the sale of the 2.5-acre Lloyd Wolters property at 6289 147th Ave. He was alerted the land was for sale on Oct. 27, attended a "very busy" open house Oct. 29, offers were due by noon Nov. 1, put a bid on the property for \$350,000 (land listed at \$240,000) contingent on township board approval. Meshkin said there

were 39 bids. Realtor called on Nov. 2 to say the family accepted the township offer despite it not being the highest offer.

Delaney said the township already has many infrastructure items it needs to fix including the Felt Mansion, Huyser House and roads and the \$350,000 could be used for other projects. He said a family could buy that home, make it beautiful house.

Davis asked if grant funds could be used to pay for the site. Meshkin said the state grant contact was not positive about moving existing grant funds to a different location, but he would continue to look at moving some or all of \$320,000 from beach property funds to the Wolters house. Davis said she could see both sides of the issue.

Dewey said he is familiar with Lloyd Wolters and the property. Said the land needs to be protected and would be a valuable addition to township park system.

Johnson said he doesn't like to pay taxes. Noted the value of the site is not the house but the 2.5 acres surrounded on three sides by Wolters Woods Park. Chance to buy the land is a once-in-a-lifetime chance.

Howell said the site is important because it is surrounded on three sides by Wolters Woods Park. To help protect the Wolters Woods Park, the 2.5-acre site should be purchased so the township has control over it.

A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Johnson, to purchase the property at 6289 147th Ave. for \$356,428.50 and authorize Township Manager Al Meshkin to sign all necessary documents. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION APPROVED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. YES – DAVIS, DEWEY, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO - DELANEY.

d. 2023 Road Work

Meshkin explained the 2023 proposed road work that includes about 2.5 miles of 62nd Street from 136th Avenue to the cul-de-sac for \$375,000, about 0.75 mile of 63rd Street from Blue Star Highway to 138th Avenue for \$75,000, about 1 mile of subdivision roads Sailview, Valleywood and Scenic Shores Drive for \$150,000, construction of bike path on Blue Star Highway for \$500,000, four roadside mowings, two paid by the county, for \$4,000, and dust control for \$1,000 for a total of \$1,105,000. **A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Johnson, to approve the 2023 road work as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE**

e. ZBA Resignation and Appointment

Howell thanked Richard Swanson for his years of service to the zoning board of appeals. **A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Davis, to accept the resignation of Richard Swanson from the zoning board of appeals. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

A motion was made by Delaney, seconded by Dewey, to appoint alternate Bob Slikkers

to fill the opening for regular member on the zoning board of appeals. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Johnson, to appoint Charles Martin “Marty” Hysen to be the second alternate for the zoning board of appeals. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

8. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bette Forsberg, 3732 Shorewood Dunes: Asked for internet service for her neighborhood.

Susan Finney, 3710 Shorewood Dunes: Has been investigating getting broadband service for the neighborhood. Discussed easement. Howell instructed Meshkin to meet with Finney to discuss easements.

Mitra Delaney, 6298 144th Ave.: Presented a gift to the Graafschap Fire Department chief of two pieces of framed artwork.

Jim Storey, Allegan County commissioner: Noted Allegan County Emergency Management Director Scott Corbin is retiring.

Karen Simmons, 6477 Maple Lane: Asked if any correspondence was received regarding Wolters Woods property purchase. Board members noted how many emails, letters and comments they received.

Howell thanks Davis and election workers for their service for the Nov. 8 election.

Dewey praised the cordiality and respect shown during the discussions at the night’s meeting.

9. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.