

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

RESCHEDULED
REGULAR MEETING
November 13, 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, Wendy Van Huis, Ed Stielstra
Linda Howell, Gary Dewey
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Supervisor Hofmeyer led the pledge of allegiance and offered prayer.

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the October 10, 2018 meeting. **A motion was made by Dewey 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 October 2018. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Stielstra to approve and pay the bills as submitted. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE – No report.
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – No report.
- C. PLANNING COMMISSION – HOWELL

Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on November 7, 2018 and the following items were discussed: Darby Planned Unit Development was tabled; Tucker Special Use Request was denied; Barkel Special Use Request was approved; Lebaron Special Use Request was approved; a public hearing was held for the Accessory Buildings Zoning Text Amendment.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – STIELSTRA

No report.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – MICHELLE SALL

Sall reported that the Parks Commission did not meet in October. The November meeting will be held one week later than normal on the 28th.

F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – DOUG DEN BLEYKER

Chief Den Bleyker reported the response calls for the month of October were as follows: 35 calls total, 29 calls from Laketown, consisting of 19 medical/rescue and 10 fire calls; 4 from Fillmore, consisting of 4 medical/rescue calls and 0 fire calls. There was 1 medical/rescue assist to Hamilton and 1 fire assist to Saugatuck.

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

Mitra Delaney of 6298 144th Avenue expressed concern about not having information on new agenda business prior to the meeting. Delaney stated that Commissioner Kapenga and others were given a list of approximately 80 names of people in wanting the termination of the Township Manager. How is the dissatisfaction of the residents addressed concerning this issue? Dewey said he has not received the list of names Delaney referred to. Howell stated that she had not received the list from Commissioner Kapenga. Delaney asked if the contract could be under discussion with perhaps a meeting in January. What if residents do not want this contract renewed. Hofmeyer said if residents had issues, they would have presented it and we have not seen anything. Kapenga does not have jurisdiction over the township. Howell said she will take Delaney’s comments into consideration.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. THREE YEAR ROAD PLAN AND 2019 ROAD WORK ORDER

Hofmeyer reviewed the road plan. Meshkin said this is a new procedure requested by the Allegan County Road Commission to allow for more planning time. Adjustments may have to made to cost estimates for future years. Meshkin reviewed the projects on the 3-year plan.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Howell to approve the Three Year Road Plan and 2019 Road Work Order.**

Howell stated that the road condition is determined by the county with a PASER study and Meshkin added that road use is also taken into consideration.

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

B. BLUE STAR HIGHWAY NON-MOTORIZED PATH RESOLUTION

Hofmeyer reviewed the Blue Star Highway Non-motorized Path Resolution 2018-15, a resolution to seek funding for a new path on Blue Star Highway. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,100,000.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell and seconded by Dewey to approve the Blue Star Highway Non-motorized Path Resolution 2018-15.**

Hofmeyer commented that Laketown Township is known for its exquisite trails and the current Beeline path will have the final payment made in May of 2019. Meshkin said there is a lot of prep work necessary and the estimated start date would be in 2022. Potential grants to support approximately 80% of the project are Urban CMAQ, Rural CMAQ and MDOT Alternative Transportation Program. Meshkin added that the proposed location for the project is an underserved area. Van Huis commended Meshkin on his performance in obtaining grants to support the township projects. **Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

C. TOWNSHIP MANAGER CONTRACT

Hofmeyer reviewed the proposed renewal of the Township Manager Contract.

A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Van Huis to approve the Township Manager Contract.

Howell acknowledged Delaney's comments also noting that she has heard many comments made by residents in support of the work that the Township Manager has done and also noted the institutional knowledge and longevity Meshkin possesses. She appreciates the Meshkin's grant writing expertise as the demographics of the township pose challenges and Meshkin has done very well in this area. Van Huis said Meshkin would be extremely hard to replace and she supports the contract and has also heard from residents that support the contract. Dewey said he has lived in Allegan County for 67 years, having worked with Meshkin since 1992 and Laketown Township is a model for other townships in the county. Meshkin's heart is with Laketown and the county, taking into consideration all of the current development underway, he has been putting in many hours to serve the township. Stielstra said he is pleased to work with Meshkin and everyone has their moments when interaction does not go as well as they would like it to go, that just happens but overall Stielstra agrees with what has been said by the other commissioner and feels the working relationship has been very satisfying. Hofmeyer said the one question people have is if Meshkin is worth \$100,000+ along with a 3% increase over a number of years. Hofmeyer said he has had the opportunity to sit in on many non-profit boards and this amount is not above the normal salary for a seasoned employee at this level. It may seem like a lot but we are getting an unbelievable bargain given Meshkin's knowledge and how he has assisted the board with future planning. All that being said, can you please all 6,000 residents? Probably not but we are blessed with an unbelievable talent pool on staff and all boards. We should be grateful for the resources we have. Residents have benefited enormously from the work Meshkin has done in the past 29 years and he looks forward to working with him in the future.

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

D. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT

Hofmeyer explained the amendment to Ordinance No. 188 Section 38-471(6) c. and d. regarding accessory buildings.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell and seconded by Van Huis to approve the Zoning Text Amendment for Accessory Buildings.**

Meshkin explained that current ordinance does not address the residents' requests and this year there has been an average of 20 or more requests each year for special use for larger accessory buildings. The amendment will reduce the number of requests as it will allow for larger structures on smaller parcels.

Stielstra asked to clarify the height. Meshkin said it addresses the average height between the eave and peak. Stielstra asked if the size applies to a single building or a total number of buildings on a parcel. Meshkin responded that it encompasses the collective square footage of all structures. Hofmeyer asked when the ordinance amendment would become effective and Meshkin said approximately the end of November.

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

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline Road expressed his gratitude to Van Huis for her years of service to the township as she has resigned and this is her last meeting. Becksvoort asked if 64th Street would be repaved this year as planned. Meshkin responded that it was in the plan but delayed until next year due to the lock out of the operators. Becksvoort asked if there is a sinking fund for the non-motorize path maintenance. Meshkin responded that there is not a sinking fund but the Roads, Drains and Bike Path Millage support the maintenance.

Delaney asked if the board would be addressing the letter submitted in September regarding the emergency access project to cease any additional action. Hofmeyer acknowledged the letter and advised that the project remains on hold and no money is being spent at this time. Delaney reiterated that residents are asking that the project be dropped. Delaney asked if she could have copies of all documents discussed at tonight’s meeting. Meshkin advised her to email him with that request.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

Van Huis adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm.