

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

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
November 13, 2019

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Howell, Michelle Sall, Jim Johnson, Gary Dewey, Ed Stielstra  
MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager  
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the October 9, 2019 meetings. **A motion was made by Sall and seconded by Dewey to approve the minutes as submitted. Supervisor Howell called for a vote on the motion. DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE III. FINANCIAL REPORT / REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

Supervisor Howell reviewed the bills for the month of October 2019. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Sall to approve and pay the bills as submitted. Supervisor Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS – None

ARTICLE V. PRESENTATION BY LAKESHORE ADVANTAGE

Mandy Cooper of Lakeshore Advantage distributed a copy of the 2019 Economic Report. Cooper thanked the township for the support provided over the years. The goal is to have people live, work and play on the lakeshore. Cooper walked through the report explaining the methodology, purpose of the research and highlighted the results. Howell asked to have housing put on the next workshop agenda for discussion. Howell asked about the size of the employers' interviewed for the data. Howell referenced the unemployment rate versus the participation rate of employment. Stielstra asked how Lakeshore Advantage interacts with the Chamber of Commerce. Cooper responded that they partner on many initiatives to support local businesses. Johnson asked if Lakeshore Advantage is working on shovel ready industry projects. Cooper said Lakeshore Advantage works in the region to identify potential areas for growth.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – KAPENGA

County Commissioner Kapenga was not present to report.

B. PLANNING COMMISSION – JOHNSON

Johnson reported that the Planning Commission met on November 6, 2019 and discussed the Master Plan update.

C. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - STIELSTRA

Stielstra reported that the ZBA did not meet in October.

D. PARKS COMMISSION - SHUFF

Shuff reported that the Parks Commission met on October 16 and discussed the following: Parks Visitor Questionnaire; Splash Pad; Parks Welcoming Signs; Work Areas in Parks with WiFi. Shuff shared a copy of the questionnaire for review. The intent is for commissioners to visit the parks and solicit feedback from parkgoers. There will be a table at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pancake Breakfast to meet with residents and get feedback.

E. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – DEN BLEYKER

Chief Den Bleyker reported the response calls for the month of October were as follows: 85 calls total, 71 calls from Laketown, consisting of 51 medical/rescue and 20 fire calls; 8 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 6 medical/rescue calls and 2 fire call. There were 6 fire assists to other departments, 2 to Saugatuck; 1 to Hamilton; 2 to Holland and 1 to Overisel. Chief Den Bleyker said it was a record month for calls. Chief shared a picture of the new aerial truck that was delivered last week. There will be a training program before putting into service in December. The 1974 vehicle will be retired and sold. Stielstra asked how much of the expense is for what the truck carries. Den Bleyker said most of the equipment will come from the old truck. A new ATV will be purchased to replace the retired unit. The old vehicle will be used in the township for maintenance work. Sall asked about the grant for fire alarms and if it would be renewed. Den Bleyker said there are alarms available and will be installed.

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

Garret Shook of 4109 Beeline asked how frequently the board positions turn over. Meshkin said positions are normally for three year terms.

Becksvort asked if Garret is interested in applying for the ZBA position. Howell explained how the board seats are filled. Howell recommended advising Meshkin of interest in getting involved.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. ZBA RESIGNATION

Howell explained that David Weishaar has resigned from the ZBA due to health issues.

**A motion was made by Sall and seconded by Johnson to accept with regret and great appreciation the resignation of David Weishaar from the Township Zoning Board of Appeals. Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. 2020 PROPOSED ROAD WORK

Meshkin reviewed the 2020 Proposed Road Work as follows: Beeline from 142<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 64<sup>th</sup> Street - \$320,000; 138<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to split - \$120,000; Dust Control - \$1,000; 446,000. Several factors are involved in the determination of which roads are selected for resurfacing. The

funding is from the resident voted millage that will be up for renewal in August 2020. Without the millage, there would be no funding for road maintenance. Stielstra asked if all roads are up to the minimum standard. Meshkin said all roads are up to standard but the standards vary based on the type of road. There are three minor roads that are not paved in the entire township totally about .6 mile. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Stielstra to approve the 2020 Proposed Road Work for a total expenditure of \$446,000. Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline asked if Beeline would be widened at all and Meshkin said it would remain the same. Becksvoort asked if there is consideration given to the condition of the culverts before roadwork is done. Meshkin said the condition and material make-up is reviewed prior to roadwork being done. Becksvoort asked for an update on U.S. 31 and I-196. Meshkin said the most recent word is that US-31 into the City of Holland will be reconstructed in 2022.

Garret Shook of 4109 Beeline asked about the Graafschap Road overpass where it seems there is a dip in the road before the garden center area. It is 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue just before the greenhouse. What is the Comcast update? Meshkin said the Comcast fiber optic in the township is a private company initiative and the township has no control over the project. There is one property owner that will not allow Comcast to go thru his property so approximately 20 homeowners along Beeline Road do not have access to service. The rest of the project is complete. Shook asked if there is a way in which as a county that cable can be reidentified as a utility. Meshkin said the township can only regulate certain items and this would be a state-wide change in law. Shook said he is a physician on call and the lack service is a challenge. Shook said he is new to the township and wants to learn how to better engage in the community. Meshkin also suggested contacting Representative Mary Whiteford to appeal to her for the need for rural fiber optic. Stielstra said we want to keep you in the township and work together to solve this problem. Johnson said the satellite technology is amazing but in the future.

#### ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 P.M. Howell called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

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Michelle Sall, Township Clerk

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Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary