

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4338 Beeline Road, Allegan County, Holland, MI 49423
WORKSHOP MINUTES
Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Linda Howell called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Delaney, Gary Dewey, Linda Howell, Jim Johnson, Michelle Sall

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & OFFICIALS PRESENT: Al Meshkin, township manager; Jim Hayden, public information officer

The township board discussed a SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats – analysis of Graafschap Fire Department, Treasurer, Planning Commission and Parks Commission. The board discussed items to add to the submitted lists from each department.

Fire department strengths: Excellent facilities; excellent care of facilities; partnership with Fillmore Township; mutual aid agreements; quick response times; stable funding.

Fire department weaknesses: Staffing (looking at adding third full-time person according to Meshkin); many day calls and firefighters can't leave their jobs to respond; finding people willing to commit to being a firefighter due in part to training; need to add incentives.

Fire department opportunities: Work with ambulance services.

Fire department threats: Harder to meet national requirements; lack of hydrants; aging population in township means more emergency calls and a smaller base to recruit from.

Howell asked what the township board needs to plan for regarding the fire department. Meshkin said the board needs to listen to fire board input, support the department and recognize its value; keep in mind that housing impacts staffing. Dewey said the firefighters need adequate compensation.

Treasurer strengths: In-house assessing staff

Treasurer weaknesses: Lack of long-term plan with revenues; what to do when there is a new manager and new treasurer; increased training requirements.

Treasurer opportunities: Look at other ways of doing the job as township grows.

Planning Commission strengths: Nothing added to list.

Planning Commission weaknesses: Lack of staff and code enforcement; planning officer needed; more training for planning commissioners.

Planning Commission opportunities: Nothing added to list.

Planning Commission threats: Residents concerned there could be too much growth in township.

Parks Commission strengths: Nothing added to list.

Parks Commission weaknesses: Lack of funding; lack of restrooms; commission is elected not appointed.

Parks Commission opportunities: Nothing added to list.

Parks Commission threats: Nothing added to list.

Howell will add in her notes to those submitted then the board will discuss priorities.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dean Kapenga, Allegan County Board of Commissioners: County has dealt with funding issues for parks as well. Now casino funding helps fund improvements.

ADJOURNMENT

Howell adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.