

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

September 13, 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, Jim Delaney, Patrick Dietrich, Linda Howell, Jim Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Delaney, seconded by Dietrich, to approve the minutes of July 12, 2023, regular meeting, and the Aug. 30, 2023, special meeting as presented. 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 Johnson, seconded by Dietrich, to approve the July and August 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: Not present. Submitted written report.
Allegan County Clerk and Register of Deeds Bob Genetski: Presented 2022 annual report and information about Property Fraud Alert.
- b. Planning Commission: Johnson reported on the September planning commission action.
- c. Zoning Board of Appeals: Delaney reported on August ZBA action.
- d. Parks Commission: Jeremy Van Hoven reported on August parks commission action.
- e. Graafschap Fire Department: DenBleyker reported the August numbers: Fire/rescue calls -- 69 total, Fillmore – 6 fire calls, 9 medical/rescue calls; Laketown – 14 fire calls, 36 medical/rescue calls; Assists – 4 fire calls, 1 to Holland, 3 to Saugatuck; Medical/Rescue Calls – 0; Assists from other departments – 1 from Overisel, 2 from Holland, 1 from Saugatuck, 1 from park Township.

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

Start: 6:21 p.m.

Four people spoke.

Topics: Burn ordinance, pumper/tanker, short-term rentals, audit, Wolters House property management.

End: 6:31 p.m.

6. OLD BUSINESS -- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Financial Statement Presentation by Siegfried Crandall

Joshua Gabrielse, CPA, principal with Siegfried Crandall, presented the audit for the year ending March 31, 2023. He commended the township staff for their work and said the process went smoothly. He said the township passed the audit and it was a clean audit. The board discussed the audit and asked questions of Mr. Gabrielse.

b. Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment

Meshkin explained that this proposal cleans up parts of the Zoning Ordinance. It has been approved and recommended by the planning commission.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Davis, to approve Ordinance No. 208 Zoning Text Amendment Ordinance as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

c. Burning Ordinance Amendment

Meshkin explained the proposed amendment would allow fires for recreational purposes in approved containers west of 66th Street. Currently it is prohibited in that area of the township.

A motion was made by Delaney, seconded by Johnson, to table the issue until the next meeting. Howell said if the issue is tabled, it cannot be discussed tonight. Johnson withdrew his support. Motion died from lack of support.

A motion was made by Dietrich, seconded by Davis, to discuss the ordinance.

The board discussed the issue.

Dietrich was concerned that the proposed ordinance allows burning in areas not easily accessible to the fire department.

Davis asked about who is responsible if burning is done by people using short-term rentals. Meshkin said the responsibility falls to property owners.

Delaney asked how short-term rentals get burn permit information? DenBleyker said the process is noted on cards required to get a rental permit that is updated with each inspection.

Johnson was concerned about narrow streets, how to manage permits and felt there should not be any burning west of 66th Street. He suggested allowing burning in containers with chimneys and areas that have fire hydrants and fire department accessibility.

Howell said burns must be in appropriate containers, have spark arrestor screens.

DenBleyker asked what is the next step? Howell said to go with what is already in the ordinance.

Meshkin suggested making changes to the draft amendment ordinance and coming back to a workshop to discuss. Dietrich and Delaney said they would help with changes in ordinance.

Johnson asked about propane fire pits. DenBleyker said he would investigate.

A motion was made by Delaney, seconded by Johnson, to table Ordinance No. 209 Open Burning Amendment Ordinance as presented for two months to come back at the November workshop. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

Dietrich asked what to do now. Meshkin said there are no burn permits to be issued for areas west of 66th Street.

d. Pumper/Tanker Purchase

Meshkin explained that the fire department has been studying a replacement pumper/tanker for about 2 years to replace the current pumper/tanker that is 30 years old. The fire department developed specifications for the new pumper/tanker and sought bids from five companies. Two companies declined the offer to bid. Three of the companies responded and two of those bids are being considered. The fire board is asking for approval to spend no more than \$600,000 for the new pumper/tanker. Fillmore Township approved the proposal 5-0 at their meeting last night.

Dietrich said discussion on the pumper/tanker should have started sooner.

Delaney said the board should have planned this better and the board should have all the information.

A motion was made by Dietrich, seconded by Davis, to authorize the Graafschap Fire Department to purchase a new pumper/tanker at a cost of not to exceed \$600,000. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION APPROVED 4-1 BY ROLL CALL VOTE. YES: DAVIS, DIETRICH, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO: DELANEY.

8. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Start: 7:40 p.m.

Six people spoke.

Topics: Pumper/tanker, audit, propane fire pits, burn ordinance, road paving, Huyser Farm.

End: 7:52 p.m.

9. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Dietrich, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.