

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

October 11, 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  
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to approve the minutes of Sept. 13, 2023, 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 September 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: Delayed in traffic.
- b. Planning Commission: Johnson. No meeting.
- c. Zoning Board of Appeals: Delaney reported on September ZBA action.
- d. Parks Commission: Jeremy Van Hoven reported on the September parks commission action. Board members discussed beach stairs, Huyser House.
- e. Graafschap Fire Department: Chief Doug DenBleyker was not present. September numbers: Fire/rescue calls -- 48 total, Fillmore – 3 fire calls, 8 medical/rescue calls; Laketown – 7 fire calls, 24 medical/rescue calls; Assists – 5 fire calls, 3 to Holland, 2 to Saugatuck; Medical/Rescue Calls – 1 to Holland; Assists from other departments –1 from Saugatuck.

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

Start: 6:19 p.m.

One person spoke.  
Topics: Huyser House  
End: 6:22 p.m.

Jim Storey gave his report from Allegan County, discussed revenue sharing, budget hearing, renovations to courthouse, animal shelter negotiations, local control.

Citizen comments began again.  
Start: 6:38 p.m.  
Seven people spoke.  
Topics: Huyser House, Freedom of Information Act, road paving, parks surveys.  
End: 6:57 p.m.

6. OLD BUSINESS -- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2024 Road Work

Meshkin explained the proposed 2024 road work proposal and bid process, noting the township does not own any roads and that the Allegan County Road Commission oversees construction.

**A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Dietrich, to accept the 2024 Road Work proposal as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

b. FOIA Fee Appeal

Meshkin explained the Freedom of Information Act process regarding the James Smithers appeal, saying the original cost estimate was for 3 hours of work for a total of \$210. The actual time and cost was 2.5 hours for \$175.

Attorney John Weiss, sitting in for regular township attorney Ron Bultje, explained the FOIA appeal process and said the township is following the state statute.

**A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to uphold the fee charged at the reduced fee of \$175. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION APPROVED 5-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE. YES: DAVIS, DELANEY, DIETRICH, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO: NONE.**

Meshkin will send notice to Smithers who has 48 days to pay to get the information.

c. Huyser House

The board discussed the Huyser House.

Johnson said he has a fiduciary responsibility to not spend money on the Huyser House.

Delaney said he was not in favor of spending tax money on the Huyser House.

Davis said there is value saving the Huyser House and fundraising could lower costs for taxpayers.

Dietrich said the Huyser House is not worth saving.

Howell said she has questions about the relationship among the board, parks commission and building authority.

Attorney Weiss recommended the board ask for a legal opinion on how the three boards relate, and the specifics of the easement with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan.

**A motion was made by Dietrich, seconded by Johnson, that absolutely no money be spent on the Huyser house for any means at all until we get a decision on the Huyser House. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

The board discussed issues regarding the easement, if the Huyser House can be torn down and who has control over the Huyser House.

**A motion was made by Davis, seconded by Dietrich, to table the issue until Nov. 1 until we have a written opinion from our lawyer. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

#### 8. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Start: 7:43 p.m.

Six people spoke.

Topics: Huyser House, Land Conservancy of West Michigan easement, building authority, Fell in Love Farm, attorney's presence.

End: 7:53 p.m.

#### 9. ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Davis, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**