

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4338 Beeline Road, Allegan County, Holland, MI 49423
WORKSHOP MINUTES
Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Linda Howell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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; Ron Bultje, township attorney; Jim Hayden, public information coordinator

ARTICLE II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dietrich, second by Johnson, to approve the workshop minutes of Oct. 4, 2023. Howell called for a vote. VOICE VOTE. PASS UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

ARTICLE III. FINANCES

The board discussed the bills and came to a consensus to put the October bills on the next regular meeting agenda.

ARTICLE IV. TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) The board discussed the Huyser House. Attorney Bultje explained the history of the Huyser House situation. He said the parks commission retains authority and legal responsibility over the house. The building authority was tasked with finding a “do-able” plan for the house and the parks commission retains legal responsibility over the house. He said the township board retains funding control for whatever the parks commission decides to do with the house.

Bultje said he believes the conservation easement with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan does not prevent the house from being torn down.

Bultje said the parks commission must be very clear in any motions or resolutions it makes if the building authority plan is “do-able” or not. He advised the parks commission to be very clear and specific on what is to be done next with the house.

The board discussed the issue and came to the consensus that no board action was needed and the parks commission will decide what to do with the house.

- b) Delaney proposed putting on the next agenda the funding of Fellinlove Farm. Howell said the funding linked to American Rescue Plan Act money is being handled by the Community Enhancement Program through the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council. Dietrich asked about restrictions on the Fellinlove Farm property. Howell said those were handled by the planning commission and not under township board control. Meshkin will provide Dietrich with the minutes and information from those planning commission meetings. Meshkin explained contracted services and ARPA funding. Howell said she needs more specifics on the Fellinlove

Farm proposal. The board came to the consensus to review contracted services at the December meeting.

- c) The board came to the consensus that there would not be a regular meeting on Nov. 8.

ARTICLE V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Dietrich asked Meshkin to provide guidance on chain-of-command issues in relation to what boards and commissions have control over.
- b) Meshkin reported that a revised burning ordinance is being worked on and should be ready for discussion in December.
- c) Meshkin informed the board of the upcoming need for a resolution on early voting. This should be ready for the December meeting.
- d) Meshkin informed the board he is advertising for two positions – one to assist with elections and one to assist with taxes.
- e) Meshkin informed the board that updated insurance appraisals of township property will be forthcoming, most likely meaning an increase in insurance costs.
- f) Meshkin informed the board the township’s current IT vendor is no longer providing end-user management. He is looking for a replacement.

ARTICLE VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:02 p.m.

Seven people spoke.

Topics: Fellinlove Farm, organizational chart, Huyser House, emails, timer for public comments, staffing

End: 6:18 p.m.

ARTICLE VII. NEXT WORKSHOP – The next regular workshop meeting is 5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Johnson, second by Davis, to adjourn at 6:18 p.m. Howell called for a vote. VOICE VOTE. PASS UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.