

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

January 11, 2017

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer called the regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Hofmeyer, Wendy Van Huis, Ed Stielstra, Gary Dewey
MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Howell
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer opened the meeting with prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Van Huis to approve the minutes as submitted. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. FINANCIAL REPORT / REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of December 2016. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Van Huis to approve and pay the bills as submitted. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE - None

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE WHITEFORD – No report.
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAPENGA

Commissioner Dean Kapenga stated that he is looking forward to working with recently elected Allegan County Clerk Bob Genetski, Sheriff Frank Baker and Prosecutor Rob Kengis. The Commission recently completed contracts for 350 employees issuing a 1% increase due to budget constraints. Capital projects for 2017 have been approved including a new boiler for the court house and two new motors for the sheriff patrol boats. Open positions include Director of Finance and Facility Operations Manager. Kapenga recently attended a conference for like commissioners to discuss emergency response for catastrophic situations and he is happy to report that Scott Corbin has a detailed plan in place for such emergencies. The new jail is functioning well with an average

of 160 inmates now segregated for specific conditions and needs, specifically addressing offenders with mental health conditions. The recidivism rate is evidence of the progress being made. Kapenga thanked the Board for the opportunity to report.

C. PLANNING COMMISSION – MESHKIN

Meshkin reported that the Planning Commission met on January 4 and discussed the following items: tabled Master Plan review discussion and special meetings will be held in February; approved for slate of officers as follows: Chairman – Bob Slikkers, Vice Chairman – Randy Becksvort, Secretary – Linda Howell; reviewed updated plan for West Wind Village P.U.D. and requested the township attorney prepare a full report; held a public hearing on the Zoning Text Amendment Ordinance.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – STIELSTRA

Stielstra reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals last met in November and discussed the RPE Trust Variance requests for Lots #179; #190 and #219. The Board requested the township attorney prepare a full report and resolution for the requests to be reviewed at the January meeting. There was no meeting in December.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – No report.

The Parks Commission does not meet in December and the next meeting will be January 18.

F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – CHIEF DEN BLEYKER

Chief Den Bleyker submitted a written report on the response calls for the month of December: 41 calls total, 27 calls from Laketown, consisting of 21 rescue, 5 fire and 2 smoke alarm installs, 6 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 5 rescue call and 1 fire call, 4 fire assists to Saugatuck and 1 fire assist to Fennville. Chief Den Bleyer added that the annual department statistics will be reported in the next township newsletter. The Fire Board meets tomorrow night to review the proposed budget.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS – No comments.

Cheryl Laupmanis of 6526 Creekwood Drive asked for an update on the Internet. Hofmeyer responded that we are continuing to look at the feasibility of Internet access for all residents. Work is being done at the state and federal levels on potential legislation that could support funding for “rural America” to have access to technology. There were no meetings with Charter in December but expect to continue conversations in the near future.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed Resolution 2017-01 to set the date for the Annual Township Board Meeting on March 8, 2017 at 7:00pm. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Dewey to approve the Annual Meeting Resolution 2017-01 declaring the meeting to be held on March 8, 2017. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS VOTE - MOTION APPROVED**

B. SALARY RESOLUTIONS

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the following salary resolutions:

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed Trustee Salary Resolution 2017-02 noting that as of April 1, 2017,

the salary of the Township Trustees shall be \$4,000.00 each. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Van Huis to approve the Trustee Salary Resolution 2017-02 setting the salaries at \$4,000.00 each. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion.**

UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed Clerk Salary Resolution 2017-03 noting that as of April 1, 2017, the salary of the Township Clerk shall be \$15,000.00. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Stielstra to approve the Clerk Salary Resolution 2017-03 setting the salary at \$15,000.00. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion.**

UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed Treasurer Salary Resolution 2017-04 noting as of April 1, 2017, the salary of the Township Treasurer shall be \$15,000.00. **A motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Stielstra to approve the Treasurer Salary Resolution 2017-04 setting the salary at \$15,000.00. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion.**

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed Supervisor Salary Resolution 2017-05 noting as of April 1, 2017, the salary of the Township Supervisor shall be \$15,000.00. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Van Huis to approve the Supervisor Salary Resolution 2017-05 setting the salary at \$15,000.00. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion.**

UNANIMOUS DECISION - MOTION APPROVED

C. COPPER LEAF DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Supervisor Hofmeyer explained it is an agreement between the township and the developer to provide clarification of the requirements as stated in the Zoning Code of Ordinances. The agreement was prepared by the township attorney and will be used as a template for future planned unit developments.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey seconded by Van Huis to approve the Copper Leaf Development Agreement.** Dewey said it will be important to move forward on this as more developments come up the pike. Hofmeyer said we have had increased in projects which will result in substantial increases in state equalized values. **Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

D. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ORDINANCE

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the amendment which addresses off street parking and restricted areas for parking. Meshkin further explained that the amendment is more of a “housekeeping” exercise to properly exercise the intention of the ordinance as it relates to parking for residential properties.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey seconded by Stielstra to approve the Zoning Text Amendment Ordinance. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Bill Gillmore of 6421 Sandcastle is a strong supporter of broad band and asked if there are plans to put this item on a future ballot and has an official quote been received from Charter. Hofmeyer responded that there is not a plan to place this on an upcoming ballot at this time as more research is being done on the project. It is likely that whatever the outcome is, there would be a ballot vote. It is being worked on at the state and federal level by State Representative Mary Whiteford and other supporters. Whiteford is asking to be assigned chair of the state technology committee to further spearhead the technology initiatives. Meshkin is active with a committee addressing this at a county level so there continues to be activity.

Gerry Wyse of 6514 Creekwood Drive asked if there is a deadline for getting the Internet item on the

next ballot and what key hurdles are anticipated. Hofmeyer responded that there are due dates involved with the language for the ballot. The next election is in May which would require ballot language approved in February which is unlikely, the next would be August with a May or approximate 85 day deadline. A special assessment would require a legislative change and it is hopeful that if state and federal support becomes available funding will as well through the technology for rural America initiatives.

Jim Delaney of 6298 144th Avenue asked when the county level meetings on the Internet project are scheduled and Meshkin responded they take place at Salem Township Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Gary Dewey stated that he very recently spoke to Mary Whiteford regarding this topic and he suggested that others contact her as well to express their support and concern. State Representative Daniela Garcia is also very much in favor of broad band initiatives.

Mitra Delaney of 6298 144th Avenue asked for clarification of the annual budget process and Meshkin responded that a public hearing is held after the annual meeting on March 8 at which time there is an opportunity for questions and answers regarding the budget. Delaney commented that the line items regarding the Felt Mansion are very confusing and should be explained to the whole community how it is managed, the ownership, hierarchy, etc. Delaney also expressed concern on the bond debt to which Meshkin responded that it is a tool used to sustain progress in the township and should not be viewed as a detriment. Meshkin cited the Graafschap Fire Department as one example of progress made possible through the use of bonds.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Stielstra to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 P.M. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

Township Clerk, Wendy Van Huis

Recording Secretary, Diane Ybarra