

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

REGULAR MEETING  
March 11, 2015

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Hofmeyer, Wendy Van Huis, Ed Stielstra, Gary Dewey, Linda Howell  
MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager  
Kathy Stoike – Administrative Assistant/Finance  
Charlene Fields – Deputy Treasurer  
Paul Smith – Township Assessor  
Aaron Hobbs – Township Deputy  
Cal Haverdink – Fire Chief  
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the minutes as submitted. Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion.**  
**UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE III. FINANCIAL REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of February 2015. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve and pay the bills as submitted. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion.**  
**UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Terry Hofmeyer announced that there will be a retirement open house held in honor of Chief Cal Haverdink at the Graafschap Fire Department on April 18 from 11am – 1pm.

ARTICLE V. CITIZEN COMMENT'S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. FY 2014-15 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Al Meshkin reviewed the FY 2014-15 amended budget noting that there was a slight increase in Total Revenue. The expense net fund balance is less than expected but overall there were no major changes.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the amended budget for FY 2014-15. Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer called for a vote. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

## ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. FY 2015-16 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Hofmeyer opened the public hearing on the FY 2015-16 Budget.

Al Meshkin reviewed the budget highlighting revenue is relatively stable. Two items not listed for this year are the bond sold for back yard project and \$80,000 in grants received. There is an uptick in new construction as we see the economy start to recover. Last year we were at \$10 million in new construction but this new revenue will not show in the property tax income until 2017. Revenue sharing is expected to be 2.5% next year based on state estimates. The Felt Mansion revenue continues to increase with rental and event business. The ordinance fines reduction reflects not having a township deputy so income from fines will not be received by the township.

Expenditures show a 3% increase for manager and staff. The increase in capital outlay is to purchase a new server and conference room chairs. Election salaries are down but may have to be amended for the May election.

Buildings and Grounds show an increase for the township maintenance employee. The increase in the capital outlay is for the resurfacing and expansion of the township hall parking lot to accommodate the recreation park. There will also be an expansion to the sprinkling system. A used pick-up truck will be purchased at approximately \$10,000 for the maintenance employee who is currently using his personal vehicle. Bob Slikkers asked if the \$10,000 will include fuel, maintenance and insurance. Al said the \$10,000 is for the purchase only and the insurance will be covered under the municipal umbrella. The cemetery fence needs to be repaired and the building needs some minor repair. The Police budget is at zero because as of March 31<sup>st</sup> we are done having our own township deputy, a program that started in 1990. We started with a part-time deputy and increased to three before the reductions took place. Ideally, we would have four deputies to provide near 24/7 coverage in the township for an estimated annual cost of \$1 million. A resident asked if we owned the deputy's vehicle and Al responded that the township does own the vehicle and will be selling it.

The Fire Department budget shows a light increase in wages and supporting expenses. The Fire Board requested maintaining a minimum of 10% in the fund balance to cover any unforeseen expenses. Fillmore and Laketown Townships follow an established formula based on tax revenue and number of calls/runs. This year the ratio is 17.04% for Fillmore's share and 82.96% for Laketown.

Udellus Kuipers asked how much we will get back with the new tax structure. Al responded that it could be up to \$45,000 but it is too early to know. Udelis asked if we that money could be designated for roads. Al said we need 1 mil for fire department and 1 mil for roads. We spend far more than we bring in for fire, roads and drains. We will get relief from the fire department; the building has 3 payments left, the new engine has 2 payments left. Between those two it is \$120,000 per year. A resident asked if revenue sharing is higher now than in past years. Al said revenue sharing peaked in 2001 before the recession and is slowly coming back.

The Parks Commission budget has little change with the exception of the Park Development going down compared to last year when there was expense for the Township Hall Recreation Center. \$100,000 was borrowed for the project and \$22,500 is the amount of the first payment. There are five years left on the bike path bond. There is some capital outlay for the Felt Mansion to upgrade the security system and installation of smoke alarms in each bedroom. This is necessary to allow for overnight guests. There will also be new counters installed in the kitchen which gets a lot of use from the rental caterers.

Al reported that the DDA has stagnant with little construction activity taking place. We are expecting this to change within the next year or two at which time the board will be to meet more regularly.

Randy Becksvoort compared revenue to expenditures, the increase in balance and asked why the fund balance is not higher without the expense of the Police. Al responded that a lot of smaller items consumed the savings from law enforcement, but the fund balance is still showing an increase.

Udelis Kuipers said Al did a fine job with the budget and Terry Hofmeyer supported that comment.

**Terry Hofmeyer closed the public hearing. Following discussion, a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the FY 2015-16 Budget. Terry Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### B. AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT

This item will be tabled until the April meeting.

#### C. 2015 ROAD WORK

Terry Hofmeyer explained the projects as presented in the proposal for a total cost of \$85,000, those being: 141<sup>st</sup> Avenue from 66<sup>th</sup> Street west to the end; Meadow Lane from 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue south to the end; 66<sup>th</sup> Street from cul-de-sac north to the end and four roadside mowings, one of which is paid by the county. Following discussion **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the 2015 Road Work at the cost of \$85,000. Terry Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### D. INSPECTOR FEES AND CHARGES

Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the proposed increase in pay for the inspectors going from \$45 per inspection to \$50 per inspection. Al explained the only change in the fee schedule is the plumbing, electrical and mechanical permits are now at \$60 per inspection. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the increase in Inspector Fees and Charges as presented. Terry Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

### ARTICLE VIII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Udellus Kuipers said it is good to see Linda Howell on the board.

Jim Johnson of 6402 Hidden Hollow Lane asked for an update on the bike paths. Will 64<sup>th</sup> Street have one from 147<sup>th</sup> to Saugatuck? Al Meshkin said the Parks Commission has a long-term plan for 147<sup>th</sup> to 146<sup>th</sup> but we have not attempted to do that because we still have debt on the last 6-mile project so in about 3 years we could pursue that. The biggest area of revenue for bike paths is through MDOT grants and there have been changes on how things are done with more discretion in how money is used so we have watch what might be available. Engineering work must be done before the grant can be written and that expense is \$50-\$75,000. Jim offered his thoughts stating he would prefer an extension of the shoulder instead of a separate path because there are a lot of old trees. What the City of Chicago is doing is putting a bike lane to separate the bike lane from parking lane. The shoulders on 64<sup>th</sup> Street are quite wide so it seems we could do that. Al said the separated paths are more for the kids and casual bikers. The shoulders of the road are under the designation of the Allegan County Road Commission and they will not put a sign up because I have talked to them about it in the past. They will put a sign up to share the road but not designate a bike lane on a county road. They have a fear about liability due to maintenance of cleaning the lane.

Cal DeMaagd 3719 64<sup>th</sup> Street stated your budget is interesting and feels that the board members are paid twice as much as the board members in the township he recently moved to.

### ARTICLE IX. ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

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Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk

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Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary