

MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4338 BEELINE ROAD
ALLEGAN COUNTY
HOLLAND, MI 49423
SPECIAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 29, 2017

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER: Terry Hofmeyer called the meeting to order 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Hofmeyer, Linda Howell, Ed Stielstra, Wendy Van Huis
MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Dewey
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin
OTHERS PRESENT: None

ARTICLE II. – CITIZEN’S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Mitra Delany, 6298 144th Avenue, stated that she is in total agreement of the grants, but feels that the bathroom cost is too high.

Ryan Boscher, 967 Laketown Drive, stated that he is in favor of the grants; from comments, he has heard people are excited about the beach grant.

ARTICLE III. – Grant Application Resolutions

A. Resolution 2017-08 Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application and Matching Funds Resolution

A motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve Resolution 2017-08, authorizing signatures and submitting the Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant application titled “Laketown Beach Expansion Project” for the acquisition of land adjacent to Laketown Township Beach Park. Al explained the grant and details of the project, and the cash match required. The proposed application is supported by the Community’s 5-Year Approved Parks and Recreation Plan. **Discussion followed. Unanimous Decision – Motion carried.**

B. Resolution 2017-09 Recreation Passport Grant Application and Matching Funds Resolution

A motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve Resolution 2017-09, authorizing signatures and submitting the Michigan Recreation Passport Grant Application titled “Sanctuary Woods Restroom” for development of a restroom facility at Sanctuary Woods Park. Al explained the grant and details of the project, and the cash match required. The proposed application is supported by the Community’s 5-Year Approved Parks and Recreation Plan. **Discussion followed. Unanimous Decision – Motion carried.**

ARTICLE IV. – CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Mitra Delany, 6298 144th Avenue, asked the Board if they read the hand out which was presented and read aloud at the last Township meeting. She then asked what is the e-access. Terry explained the emergency access and the \$300,000 grant received, and that construction may begin this fall. Ms. Delany stated that she is against using private property and is not willing to allow private property to be used for this project.

Robin Broekhuis, Broekhuis Growers LLC, 6032 144th Avenue, said no one ever discussed it with her, she has owned the property for 3 years, and requested that nothing further happens until residents know more. She is against using greenhouse property for the emergency access.

Steve Parker, 4390 Meadow Lane, stated that he sees a need for better access, but is concerned about Robin's property, and loss of business. He questioned whether Chef Container property could be used instead. Al informed him that we were denied that location by MDOT.

Larry Scholten, 6386 61st Street, said this location would be destroying good crop land and wants to see the plan, and 5-year study from drain commission. He voiced concerns about the culvert, bridges, and flood plane. Al briefly reviewed the plan and reported that a study was done by MDOT approved engineering firm of Williams and Works Engineering. This project covers Allegan County and Inter-Country drains. Following the study this location was determined to be the approved location.

Debbie Parker, 4390 Meadow Lane, says she does not care that the Township has been working on this for 20 years, current residents want to be involved and wants the Township to pursue other plans.

Tom Crum, 6295 144th Avenue, wanted to know if this was approved in writing. Al responded that there are letters of approval from MDOT.

Ryan Boscher, 967 144th Avenue, stated that he sees this as a regional benefit and asked if other entities would be contributing. Al responded that it is 80% a federal project and that Fillmore Township contributes through the Fire Department.

Robin Broekhuis, Broekhuis Growers, LLC, 6032 144th Avenue, wants the project to be more cost effective and said \$500,000 from 5 years ago, is no longer accurate. She says she has spent \$1,000 trying to get more information.

Mitra Delany, 6298 144th Avenue, stated that she wants the Township to find another way.

Steve Parker, 4390 Meadow Lane, asked if we had a "do not exceed" number.

Jim Delany, 6298 61st Street, agreed that e-access is a fantastic idea, however, if it is a concept, can it be revisited? He asked where it is on the budget.

Township Response: Al Meshkin and Terry Hofmeyer responded that the Township Board approved this project years ago, Attorneys are working with the current owner and if it cannot be resolved, then it could be revisited. Ed Stielstra asked the audience for more control in their comments, speaking one at a time, implying that *Citizen's Comments in a public meeting are not designed to be a question and answer period, but simply comments from citizens. They are to be done one at a time, with each person being allowed to comment before someone speaks a second time.*

ARTICLE V. – ADJOURNMENT – A motion was made by Van Huis, and seconded by Stielstra to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. **Unanimous Decision. Motion Carried.**

Wendy Van Huis, Clerk

