

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

REGULAR MEETING  
April 9, 2014

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Township 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  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Scanlan, Gary Dewey  
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager  
Cal Haverdink – Graafschap Fire Chief  
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Township Clerk Wendy Van Huis 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 March 12, 2014 meeting, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed 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 Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of March 2014. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra 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 V. CORRESPONDENCE – None

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE GENETSKI – No report.
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAPENGA – No report.
- C. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on April 2, 2014 and the following item was discussed: Genzink / Ultra Properties Request for a Planned Unit Development which was approved for pending the completion of documentation. Ed commented on how well written and demonstrated the plan was and how the P.U.D. will be a nice addition to the township.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on March 31 and the following item was discussed: Persinger Variance Request to remove an existing cottage and construct a new home on the same lot that does not meet the required front and rear yard setbacks. The variance request was approved due to the difficulty of the lot.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – Linda Howell

Linda Howell reported that the Parks Commission did not meet in March. The next meeting is scheduled for April 16 at which time an update on the Township Hall Recreation Park will be given.

F. DEPUTY SHERIFF – No report.

G. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

Chief Haverdink reported the response calls for the month of March were as follows: 27 calls total, 21 calls from Laketown, consisting of 19 rescue and 3 fire, 3 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 1 rescue calls and 2 fire calls. There was 1 fire assist to Saugatuck Fire Department and 1 rescue assists to Overisel Fire Department. Overall for the month calls were down compared to January and February. Ed Stielstra asked if the same number of responders report for a rescue call as for a fire call. Chief Haverdink responded that it is not as large a group for a rescue call because not all volunteers are licensed for medical technician to do rescue. We limit our response to 10 volunteers for rescue calls.

H. DDA – No report.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Jon Helmrich of 3522 64<sup>th</sup> Street in Saugatuck Township presented information about the “My Place Initiative” training. This is a state funded program geared toward individuals serving in planning and zoning roles in the local townships, villages and cities. The objective is to train community members on how to work collaboratively to promote tourism, businesses and new residents to the greater coastal areas of southwest Michigan. The program consists of six training modules taught in two-hour increments. Jon provided written information on the program and will also follow up with emails to key committee and board chairs. Leaders would like to begin the program in late April or early May to be completed before the summer months. The sessions will be held at the Saugatuck/Douglas Visitors Bureau. He encouraged board members to consider enrolling in the training.

ARTICLE IX. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE X. NEW BUSINESS

A. BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer reviewed Zoning Text Amendment to Ordinance No. 174 specifically pertaining to allowance for beekeeping in R-2 districts. Ed commented that it is very suitable and in alignment with what the city of Holland is doing and research for the ordinance was done with expertise of local beekeepers.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the Zoning Text Amendment to Ordinance No. 174 for beekeeping. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS VOTE - MOTION APPROVED**

B. RESIGNATION LETTER

Supervisor Hofmeyer read a letter of resignation submitted by Bob Scanlan. Mr. Scanlan will be relocating to Wisconsin to be closer to his family. He will be greatly missed for his expertise and genuine interest in building a better community in Laketown Township. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed Stielstra to accept the letter of resignation from Bob Scanlan with much regret.**

Supervisor Hofmeyer stated that a replacement will be sought and appointed by the board. There is a 45 day limit for the board appointment. Terry suggested putting a notice in the newsletter to advise those interested to submit a letter of intent. Ed Stielstra stated that he would like to see a letter of recognition sent to Bob Scanlan to thank him for the many years of service he provided to the township.

**Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS - None

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64<sup>th</sup> Street asked if there is anything new on the 145<sup>th</sup> Avenue culvert. Al Meshkin responded there is no update at this time.

ARTICLE XII. ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED**

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Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk

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Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary