

MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4338 BEELINE ROAD
ALLEGAN COUNTY
HOLLAND, MI 49423
REGULAR MEETING
April 13, 2016

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, Linda Howell, Ed Stielstra
MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Dewey
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
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 9, 2016 meeting. **A motion was made by Howell 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 Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of March 2016. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Howell 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
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAPENGA – KAPENGA
- C. PLANNING COMMISSION – LINDA HOWELL

Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on April 6, 2016 and the following item was discussed: approved Myers Special Use Request for an oversized accessory building in the Sandcastle Association.

- D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – MESHKIN

Meshkin reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet in March.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – MICHELLE SALL

Michelle Sall said the Commissioners met on March 16 and discussed relocating the old Township Hall to a new location proposing multiple uses. The Parks survey went out in the newsletter and can be completed hard copy or on-line. The survey will be used as a tool in preparing the 5-year Plan including consideration for a dog park, shelters and restroom facilities at all parks and improved trails.

F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – CHIEF DEN BLEYKER

Chief Den Bleyker reported the response calls for the month of March were as follows: 35 calls total, 26 calls from Laketown, consisting of 24 rescue and 2 fire, 6 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 5 rescue calls and 1 fire call. There were 3 assists to other departments consisting of 3 fire calls, 2 to Holland and 1 to Saugatuck. The Fire Board meeting is April 14 at 5:30pm

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64th Street asked how the numbers were established for the fiber optic project and if it includes the TV and phone. Meshkin said the RFP (request for proposal) for the ISP (Internet Service Provider) will likely include additional services such as phone and TV. The City of Holland proposal for their system is nearly architecturally identical with the same type of Mbps and electronics but is many more miles of infrastructure. The township proposed pricing includes the connection from the road to the side of your house which is a separate cost for city property owners at an estimated \$800. The township will own the fiber infrastructure and control the ISP that operates it. In Holland, the BPW will own the infrastructure and cost will be added to the resident’s monthly utility bill. The township is separating the cost of the infrastructure to be covered through the bond. Generally speaking, the city residential cost is at \$70 per month which includes infrastructure but not the road to home connection. The township cost is estimated at \$25-\$42 per month and no extra cost for the connection. The city needs a 39.6% take rate to make the project cost effective; we don’t have that need because the infrastructure will be paid by the bond. They have risk with the infrastructure, connection and ISP costs. The township system is extremely unique and not done in any other community at this time. Another difference between the two proposals is that ours is a closed access system meaning the township will choose one ISP and set expectations for cost and service. Data is the focus but the ISP will very likely include a plan to include cable and phone. We will look for a provider with quality, 24/7 service and a U.S. based call center and only those meeting the standards will be allowed to bid on the work. To aid in selecting the best ISP, Meshkin proposes working with Kersey Consulting Services. The city is going to be its own ISP through the BPW and will allow an open access for other ISP’s to operate on the system. Becksvoort asked if the monthly cost will be lower than Charter and offer cable and phone as an incentive to make the change. Meshkin said there are benefits even if you do not connect to the system now because it will eliminate the current monopoly that is in place and will add value to your home. Research shows that optic fiber access increases home values by 3.1%; a cost effective investment.

Jim Allen of 4623 66th Street asked if the township owns the system will it also be responsible for the maintenance. Meshkin responded that as part of the contract, the ISP will be 100% responsible for the maintenance. Allen asked if there would be a surcharge or franchise fee. Meshkin responded that it would probably be 5%, similar to what Charter is now. Right now the township takes \$75,000 in franchise fees from cable that may be lost if residents spend less for cable, although we will likely net out just ahead of that if enough people connect. The fiber cables will be buried so protected and fiber cable life span is over 30 yrs. The weaker part is all the electronics, central office will be in the township office with cabinets throughout the township. This is a great system for the price; a better, higher tech one would cost a lot more. The biggest investment is for the fiber which will last a long time. Meshkin added that these estimates are very broad brush because there is a lot of work to be done yet, a lot of unknowns yet.

Laura Lauer of 4465 64th Street stated that she receives an increase from Charter about every six months, what kinds of things are in place to maintain cost? Meshkin said the cost will be controlled by the contract which could be set for 5-7 years with increases for inflation only and no gimmicks. The benefit for the ISP is that the township pays for the fiber so they don’t have to take the risk making

their capital investment small. Even with having to maintain and upgrade the system their costs are low and controllable. Lauer asked if there will be a need for additional township employees to oversee this. And what about energy costs to run the electronics? Meshkin stated it is possible that the General Fund would absorb those types of costs. Lauer asked if there will be issues due to the sensitivity of the dunes and Meshkin responded that there are areas that will require a critical dunes permit, wetlands and potentially access in some associations but most would be buried 18-24" underground in road right of way areas. Lauer asked if residents would be required to purchase a router and Meshkin responded that a basic unit would be furnished by the ISP.

Ryan Bosscher of 967 Laketown Drive stated that he has nothing but positive comments about the project now that he has learned more about it. He thanked Meshkin for posting the Fiber to Home report on the township website, for the newsletter article and for answering the many emails he had previously sent. He is encouraged to know that overall it breaks down to about \$6.00 per month and sees many advantages over the City of Holland/BPW proposal. Bosscher also asked if there is an update on the Lakeview City Park Project. Meshkin said he and City Manager Cotton have had conversations regarding how they can partner on park projects and have discussed uses for this specific park which are all in concept now but it will not likely be used as a dog park. The township partners with the City of Holland on many projects such as the library, the pool, MACC, wastewater, etc.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. FIRE, ROAD, BICYCLE PATH AND DRAIN MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION RESOLUTION

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed Resolution 2016-07 Fire, Road, Bicycle Path and Drain Millage Renewal with set a millage renewal for Aug 2 primary election.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell and seconded by Stielstra to approve the Fire, Road, Bicycle Path and Drain Millage Renewal Proposition Resolution 2016-17.**

Howell confirmed it is a renewal of an existing millage. Meshkin confirmed that it is and has changed slightly due to the Headley Act, when the tax rate was reduced to 1.9894 mils. Historically it has been 2 mils since the late 1970's and 3 mils in the 1960's when it was first implemented. Hofmeyer added that it is a fantastic millage, for what it accomplishes for bike paths, roads and the drains.

Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion to approve Resolution 2016-07. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

B. OLD ORCHARD PARK CONDOMINIUMS P.U.D. CONTRACT

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the Old Orchard Park Condominiums P.U.D. Contract.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Howell to approve the Old Orchard Park Condominiums P.U.D. Contract.**

Hofmeyer said the original was with the Old Orchard Park Condominiums which included the bank property at the time. The contractor is planning additional improvements to the property where he now has his business and Meshkin stated that when the Planning Commission approved the amendment, restrictions were put in place for outside storage and this formalizes those requirements. Should the contractor decide to add a proposed triplex unit in the future, it would come before the Planning Commission for another amendment.

Supervisor Hofmeyer asked for a vote on the motion approving the Old Orchard Park Condominiums P.U.D. Contract. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED.

C. KERSEY CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT

Hofmeyer stated that we are looking at a contract in three parts for total of \$18,000 which includes the opportunity to interrupt or terminate after any one of the three phases which would be paid in \$6,000 increments.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell and seconded by Van Huis to approve the Kersey Consulting Services Agreement for a total expenditure of \$18,000.**

Stielstra asked if we are going to vote on the expenditure of one third of the contract at \$6,000. Meshkin stated it was discussed at Workshop that the agreement would be set for approval with the ability to terminate after any one of the three phases. This is a proposal and the actual contract will be generated stating as such. Stielstra said we are spending money on the project before voter approval and if it does not go through then we are only obligated for the \$6,000. Meshkin confirmed and Stielstra supported the expenditure.

Supervisor Hofmeyer asked for a vote on the motion approving the Kersey Consulting Services Agreement. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS - None

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Howell to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED

Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk

Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary