

MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4338 BEELINE ROAD
ALLEGAN COUNTY
HOLLAND, MI 49423
REGULAR MEETING
May 10, 2017

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, Gary Dewey

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Supervisor 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 April 12, 2017 meeting. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Stielstra 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 April 2017. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell 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. ALLEGAN COUNTY CLERK - GENETSKI

Bob Genetski provided a list of the Clerk's Office services and processes. Genetski reminded veterans living in Allegan County to file their DD 214 paperwork if they had not yet done so. This is a one-time filing that is kept on file to qualify for veteran benefits. Genetski asked residents to pass the word to those who may know veterans that may not be aware of this benefit. Genetski thanked the local clerks for attending the deliberations to select the new voting machines and tabulators that will be in place in 2018. There is a \$75,000 cost savings in the first five years of the contract and years 6-10 will be service and maintenance only. Genetski advised that the long term grant money and state tax Help America Vote is gone so township must budget for the future. Lastly, Genetski reported that there is a big customer service effort at the Allegan County Office to serve the residents of the county.

B. STATE REPRESENTATIVE – No report.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – No report.

D. PLANNING COMMISSION – LINDA HOWELL

Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on May 3 and 9, 2017 and the following items were discussed: West Wind Lake Planned Unit Development; Laketown Crossings Landscape Adjustment; Weiss/Troxel site plan review; Pastor & Benson Special Use Request for a dog daycare business; a special workshop meeting was held on May 9 to begin discussions on the Master Plan, looking at several items including density and the hope is to complete the process by the end of the year.

E. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – ED STIELSTRA

Stielstra reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on April 26 and the following item was discussed: Chamberlain Variance Request for restricted road frontage which was tabled pending further information from the applicant.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – MICHELLE SALL

Michelle Sall said the Commissioners met on April 15 and the following items were discussed: presentation by Van Timmerman of MSU Research regarding the entomology study at Huyser Farm; Laketown Beach; Huyser Farm; invasive species; appointed Janel Hagerty as Saugatuck Community Recreation representative; pickle ball; Griggs presentation regarding Huyser farm and reports were given on the annual parks review assignments. Van Huis asked about the mustard weed and Sall responded that she will look into it. Dewey asked if the pickle ball court could be considered at Wolters Woods and Sall responded that she would mention it to the commissioners.

G. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – CHIEF DEN BLEYKER

Chief Den Bleyker reported the response calls for the month of April were as follows: 38 calls total, 26 calls from Laketown, consisting of 19 medical/rescue and 7 fire, 8 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 8 medical/rescue calls. There were 2 fire assists, 1 to Saugatuck Fire Department and 1 to Hamilton Fire Department and 2 medical/rescue assists to Holland Fire Department. The new fire engine chassis is at the manufacturer and hoping to see delivery in late June or early July.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESTATED HOLLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT AGREEMENT

Meshkin explained the Holland Waste Water Plant serves six communities and the last contract was done in 1998. Zeeland Township is now redirecting their flow to Zeeland Public Works which makes sense as it was underutilized and the Holland Plant was experiencing a heavier flow. In 1998 the service areas were separated by northern and southern when the numbers were 70/30 but they have now equalized to 50/50 so the true up will be less.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Van Huis to approve the Restated Holland Wastewater Treatment Agreement.**

Dewey asked if it is all of Zeeland Township going to Zeeland Public Works and Meshkin said it is so they will no longer be a signer on this contract. **Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. MACATAWA WATER S.A.D. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the intent of the settlement agreement.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell and seconded by Stielstra to approve the Settlement agreement for the 83 appeals pending in the Michigan Tax Tribunal concerning the Special Assessment District No. 12, and to authorize the Township's Attorney to execute and file the same with the Tribunal, subject to any stylistic or typographical revisions that can be made in the Township Attorney's discretion prior to filing.**

Dewey asked once we approve this, what will happen with the water assessments collected. Meshkin said those that have been paid will be reimbursed for the amount they paid to the township which is above the agreed upon settlement amount. It has been settled and resolved with residents and will then go to the Tax Tribunal for their approval. Howell said all 83 litigants have agreed with this.

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

C. TERMINATION OF EASEMENT

Supervisor Hofmeyer explained the condition was a 20-foot easement going back to 1979 that could have been used for utility purposes but will no longer be used so the county is releasing terms of the easement.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Howell to approve the Termination and Release of Easement.**

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

D. VOTING SYSTEM GRANT RESOLUTION

Supervisor Hofmeyer explained the Voting System Grant Resolution is a grant to purchase a new voting system, which includes precinct tabulators, Absent Voter Counting Board tabulators, and accessible voting devices for use by individuals with disabilities, and related Election Management System and software.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Howell to approve Resolution 2017-11 Voting System Grant Resolution.**

Van Huis explained several vendors were reviewed and it was hands down to go with Dominion and will be delivered in 2018. Hofmeyer asked how much different it would be and she said not much different. Howell asked what will happen with old equipment and Van Huis said it has not been determined.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64th Street asked how Zeeland Township will change the wastewater flow and how does that work? Meshkin said it is roughly \$6 million to change it. Becksvoort asked if there it is a big deal in Sanctuary Woods with the Hemlock trees and Sall said yes and we are looking at Wolters Woods, too. Becksvoort said the only way to treat it is systemic. Becksvoort asked what the other species of concern is and Sall responded that the Japanese Knotweed is also an issue.

Tom Schoff of 4706 Forest Ridge Drive complimented the Board on the new voting system and feels the country could learn from it. Schoff stated that he was insulted by the remarks made in the Sentinel implying residents were not educated on fiber optics. The project was voted down because it is not a workable solution. You are going to send the kids out and tell them fiber is obsolete; that is part of the educational package. If you bring it up again, and you win do we get another vote? Is it the best

two out of three? Residents have spoken and are not interested in fiber optics. If you need cable you can use Charter.

Dick Becker of 2382 Valley stated that is for the Internet but 70% of the residents have it so the township should not be in the business. Becker said he went to Allegan County and found data on the Fiber Optics Yes including the financial study which is public so remember the no's won. We have roughly 5600 residents and 24 donated to the Yes Committee; people who live on Creekwood Lane, Sand Castle; Spring Beauty Lane; Fiddlers Way; 66th and 147th, the nice spots in the township. The designated record keeper is listed as David Slikkers of Lakeway Drive, the Treasurer is listed and one of the largest two givers is a boat dealer on Ottawa Beach Road. There's a perception problem here, all public record show this is not a legal playing field. One donor is Albert J. Meshkin. Becker suggests the Board freeze the funds that are allocated for this Internet project. Sending the kids out to educate the residents is not going to work. Wait for the S.A.D. of the state to make a decision.

Edward Fody of 6574 Partridge Lane stated that he will debate the plusses and minuses of the issue. Mr. Meshkin is quoted in the article as that there is an express need for resident education and Fody stated that he has 3 scientific degrees and it is an insult and offensive to spend tax payers' dollars on this foolishness.

Jim Allen of 4623 66th Street stated that he is tired of Meshkin trying to push this project thru.

Jim Delaney of 6298 144th Avenue stated that it is all about the cost that is being forced upon the residents. It is a waste of money and he does not feel it should be put up for another vote.

Ronda Allen of 4623 66th Street stated that she researched other areas (Ohio) where this has been attempted and it was documented as a loss of money. She does not feel taxpayer money should be wasted on this project.

David Vander Sluis of 4242 Beeline stated that he is for the Internet but against this approach. He would like to see the actual cost to run, install and monthly fees. He believes it will be \$300 per month and not \$30-\$40 as has been communicated. He feels too much money has been stuck into this project already. The Yes Committee should be obligated to provide details on the total cost.

Marilyn Passmore of Charter Communications stated they are the largest rural operation, wired for advanced fiber. Passmore said there have been good meetings with the township and a formal proposal has been made for \$2.8million. Charter is not going anywhere, is here to stay and grow as they just renewed a 10-year business agreement confirming this is a significant market for Charter. She added that Charter launched a low cost, \$14.99 per month option for seniors and low income households that qualify.

Mitra Delaney of 6298 144th Avenue asked if Charter would go down on 143rd Avenue and Passmore stated it may be possible but would need more details.

Julie Bonsink of 4529 Amphitheater stated that a vote was taken last May and the project was voted down. She is disappointed that the Board is not listening to its constituents.

David Vander Sluis asked if 2,000 people need it, how much it would cost; \$2million for Charter? Laketown will be competing against Charter.

Eric Anderson of 4162 Beeline stated the Board is not listening and asked each member by name why they were not listening.

Mitra Delaney stated the Board listens but does not implement what it is being asked to do by the residents such as the Residents' Goals and Recommendations that was mentioned at the March Annual Meeting. You have given us information on the Felt Mansion but more dialogue is needed to understand how revenue can be raised. No taxpayer money should be used for the Felt Mansion.

Dick Becker asked if the Board was aware of the kids going into the neighborhood. Hofmeyer said yes and it had dollars had been budgeted for program education.

Jack Eggenschwiler of 6395 Blue Jay Lane asked why funds would be appropriated when the project had been voted down.

Diane Eggenschwiler of 6395 Blue Jay Lane asked why wasn't a forum formed with experts to educate residents and answer their questions instead of high school students.

Hearing no further comments from citizens, Hofmeyer closed the citizen comment portion of the meeting.

Hofmeyer stated the goal of the students visiting homes is not a promotional tactic but a way to explain and educate what fiber optic is. He understands the proposal was voted down but there are other ways that need to be explored to provide this service to all residents and not just those that Charter is reaching today. We have been in discussions with Charter but the township does not have 80% of the \$2.8million that they are proposing to make the connection. We are waiting for a response on the S.A.D. bill to see if there might be changes that would support rural connection. There is no simple answer but we must continue to search for an option to meet the needs of the residents. No one is rushing into anything and nothing will be put on the ballot without citizens being notified in advance. We are committed to finding a reasonable solution but no one is rushing into anything.

Tom Crum shouted to Hofmeyer to shut up and stop spending our money.

Stielstra addressed the comment made implying the board members are not listening. The no vote was done to the proposed method of financing the system, not a vote of who does and who does not want the broadband access. One exception he took to Hofmeyer's comments is that he did not recall a student survey to be done. Hofmeyer responded that dollars were allocated for education.

Howell supported Stielstra's understanding for the vote and not a vote to shut down the whole topic. Residents are still asking for it and that is why she continues to research options as she feels it is her obligation to answer the needs of all of the residents' concerns.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Howell to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED

Township Clerk, Wendy Van Huis

Recording Secretary, Diane Ybarra