

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

REGULAR MEETING
May 13, 2015

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
Cal Haverdink – GFD Chief
Doug Den Bleyker – GFD Assistant Chief
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Trustee Ed Stielstra 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 8, 2015 meeting, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed 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 2015. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Linda 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

Al Meshkin reported that several thank you notes were received in response to the Township's support for Evergreen Commons, Holland Fireworks and the Holland Chorale.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE GAMRAT – No report.
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAPENGA – Dean Kapenga

Commissioner Dean Kapenga reported that he had attended a meeting on the M-40/M89 Corridor. Plans are moving forward to route semi-tractor trailers behind Rock Island and in

front of K & R Trucking and extend 64th Street, the road that goes to the gas station. He also attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new Michigan Works office in Fennville. This new office is a positive move for the towns and will enhance businesses in the area. Kapenga attended a Homeland Security Conference at the De Vos Center. Rail safety issues was a major topic of the conference. There are many more tankers running through the area carrying crude oil. The session highlighted the safety enhancements and investments to the infrastructure declaring this is still the safest way to handle transporting such materials. The conference also included a session on the handling of hazardous waste and emergency response. The County is in the process of working on budget planning including long range planning 15 years out. Eleven different contracts scheduled to end at the same time are under review. Al Meshkin asked if there was talk of another truck stop on the M-40/M-89 corridor. Kapenga responded that there will likely be a proposal for to build a Pilot Truck Stop across the street from Rock Island but those trucks would still be put off the main road. There has been little communication regarding the addition of this truck stop.

C. PLANNING COMMISSION – Linda Howell

Linda Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on May 6 and the following items were discussed: RPE Trust Special Use Request #2 and #3 were tabled; BTB 146 LLC Special Use Request was tabled pending interpretation of accessory building on property where the principle residence is rental property and not occupied by the accessory building owner; a public hearing was held on the Zoning Amendment wherein minor changes to the draft will be completed by the township attorney prior to recommendation to the Township Board.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet in April.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – Jim Johnson

Jim Johnson reported that the Parks Commission met on April 15 and discussed plans for the upcoming year. A potential project discussed is to preserve the monarch butterfly by planting milkweed to attract and grow the population. The board is also beginning to look at the 5-Year Plan. Terry Hofmeyer said it was a fine sight to see the t-ball players using the Township Recreation Park tonight.

F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

Chief Haverdink reported the response calls for the month of April were as follows: 26 calls total, 16 calls from Laketown, consisting of 14 rescue and 2 fire, 6 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 6 rescue calls and 0 fire calls. There were four assists to other departments, 1 to Holland, 1 to Hamilton and 2 to Saugatuck.

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

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. FIRE CHIEF APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer announced that a recommendation has been made by the Fire Board for the appointment of Doug Den Bleyker as the new Graafschap Fire Chief. Al reported that the Fillmore Board of Trustees approved the Fire Board’s recommendation at their meeting last night.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the appointment of Doug Den Bleyker as the new Graafschap Fire Chief. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION - MOTION APPROVED.** Doug's first day as Chief will be June 1, 2015.

B. PARKING LOT BIDS

Al Meshkin reviewed the bids to resurface the parking lot at the Township Hall and Recreation Park. The parking lot is original to 1987 and will now be expanded north and west so cars can park and face the ball diamond. The following three bids were received: \$48,980, \$47,171 and \$34,900. The lowest bid was from Zeeland Blacktop at \$34,900. Linda Howell asked when it will be scheduled to be done. Al said when they are available and he would coordinate it with the sprinkling work in the back. **A motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the bid of \$34,900 from Zeeland Blacktop.**

Ed Stielstra asked if there are any future plans for bleachers and how would it fit in with the parking lot. Al said there are a few bleachers out there now and he would take into consideration the potential placement of additional ones in the future.

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

C. ROAD WORK BIDS

Al Meshkin explained that the Allegan County Road Commission puts its road work out to bid each year on behalf of the Township. Bids were received from Michigan Paving & Materials and Rieth-Riley Construction. The roads being resurfaced this year are 141ST Avenue west of 66th Street and Meadow Lane south of 144th Avenue. The low bid was from Michigan Paving & Materials at \$89,229. Meshkin also requested quotes from Zeeland Blacktop but Allegan County Road Commission does not allow bids from contractors that are not MDOT pre-qualified. Meshkin stated that in the future he would like to be able to accept bids from smaller contractors for small projects. Linda Howell asked what it would take to amend the Allegan County Road Commission policy to consider non-MDOT approved contractors. Meshkin responded that it would take members of the Allegan County Road Commission to change policy. Ed Stielstra asked if there are smaller projects in the upcoming year. Meshkin responded there are a number of areas that could be considered in the future where it would be more cost effective to award the job to a smaller contractor. Ed Stielstra asked that there be more consideration given to narrowing the lanes and widening the shoulders by moving the stripes as it would add space for the cyclists.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the bid of \$89,229 from Michigan Paving & Materials. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS VOTE - MOTION APPROVED**

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to request the Allegan County Road Commission consider amending its policy to accept bids for road work only from MDOT pre-qualified contractors. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS VOTE – MOTION APPROVED**

D. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Supervisor Hofmeyer stated there are vacancies on the Parks Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Six people volunteered to serve on these boards.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the appointment of Jan Lozon to the Parks Commission and Richard Swanson to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS VOTE - MOTION APPROVED**

Terry would like to formally thank those in writing who showed interest in serving but were not selected.

Wendy Van Huis asked if this seat is for an alternate on the ZBA and Al Meshkin confirmed that it is for an alternate.

Linda Howell commented that the open Parks Commission seat is due to the request from Chuck Strabbing to step down. Howell would like to request approval to do a very public and official gesture of gratitude to Chuck for all the many years of volunteer time he has provided in the township parks.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to extend an official gesture of gratitude to Chuck Strabbing for his many years of service in support of the township parks. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS VOTE - MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Randy Becksvoort thanked Chief Cal Haverdink for his many years of service on the Graafschap Fire Department.

Jim Johnson of 6402 Hidden Hollow asked if the drain repair on 145th Avenue is close to being completed. Al Meshkin responded that the culvert should be delivered within the next week and the work should be completed by the end of the month. Johnson asked about the clearing that is being done at the entrance of the Oak Ridge Development. Meshkin responded that it is a part of the drain project. Meshkin added that the Kelly Inter-County drain is the biggest watershed in the township. Ed Stielstra asked who has responsibility to deal with the muck in Kelly Lake. Meshkin said the Inter-County Drain Commission is responsible for that area. That Commission is made up of representatives from Allegan and Ottawa counties and also the State of Michigan Department of Agriculture. Johnson asked if that is a township expense. Meshkin responded that 99% of the drain is in Laketown so Allegan County will pay or portion but the majority of it will be the township expense.

Linda Howell shared statistics from the Bridge Publication noting there are 2,244 households in Laketown Township reporting 3% at poverty level and 16% asset limited income constrained. Allegan County as a whole reported 16% at poverty level and 20% asset limited income constrained.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Linda Howell to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED

Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk

Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary