

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

REGULAR MEETING  
July 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, Linda Howell  
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 June 11, 2014 meetings, **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 June 2014. 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

ARTICLE VI. PRESENTATION BY JUDGE BAILLARGEON

Judge Baillargeon provided an update on the activities of the 57<sup>th</sup> District Court. He highlighted three specialty courts those being the Drug Treatment, Mental Health and the Veterans Court. The Drug Treatment Court has shown incredible successes, it is a program that saves lives, families and ultimately money for the county. The Mental Health Court addresses the needs of those in the penal system as a result of their mental illness. It finds the right treatment program based on the type of mental illness allowing those individuals to be taken out of the penal system and into programs to address their illness. The program has been so successful that judges from other jurisdictions are coming to Allegan to observe and learn what we do. Finally, the Veterans Court is the first one in the state to be a regionalized court serving both Allegan and Van Buren Counties. It is a hybrid between substance abuse and mental health supporting the invisible injury of posttraumatic stress which drives many of our veterans wrongfully into the penal system. Each participant is matched with mentor who

is also a veteran which has put an added incentive for the veteran to engage in the program so as not to let down a brother veteran. The Veteran Administration has been very collaborative providing support for access to therapists, treatment follow-up and guidance to resources for the veteran and family members. We have an obligation to address those with the invisible injuries in the same manner as we do those with physical injuries as they are all a result of serving our country. Wendy Van Huis asked if they do anything with the families of the veterans. Judge Baillargeon responded there are resources for family members of the veterans. Ed Stielstra applauded the special courts and the efforts put into them. Ed asked if they have to hire specialized trained staff for the Veteran Court. Judge Baillargeon responded that the Veteran Administration provides resources for staff training including the presence of advocates in the court room when necessary. Ed commented that the mental health issue of prisoners has been discussed for a long time. It seems there are some efforts underway to support but so much more has to be done. Linda Howell asked how to reach the Veteran Court support and/or resources and the Judge responded by contacting the County Office.

## ARTICLE VII. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE GENETSKI – No report.

B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAPENGA – DEAN KAPENGA

Commissioner Kapenga commended Judge Baillargeon and his staff on the excitement and dedication to help those in the penal system instead of just handing sentences down; real efforts of reform. It saves lives, families and money for the County. The senior millage is coming up on August 5 and Dean recommends that everyone vote for in favor of it to continue the support of its many programs helping more than 900 people in our area. In the past month he has also been working with the Macatawa Trail group trying to get support for the Blue Star Trail. The group has raised \$275,000 toward the first phase of the project but it will take the support of the County to make this happen for our residents and visitors coming into our area. Dean has been a voice regarding the ATV issue supporting the position that it should be a township and city issue and not an overall county law. Each city and township is unique in how it would address the use of ATV traffic in its area. Ed Stielstra asked if it would make it more difficult for the ATV users to know the various laws for the townships. Dean said there are various townships asking not to make a blanket statement because areas are different. In regards to the court house complex, the jail will be coming down soon. It is necessary to address how prisoners will be transported from the jail to the court house or if a poly com system could be used to eliminate the need for transporting. The Commissioners are working on applications for a number of grants including one that would provide funding for such a system and additional staffing. There is concern over the People vs. Cunningham proposal that would affect the ability for judges to make decisions on prison sentences including that of the re-hearing for juvenile lifers. Dean noted that the 2015 budgeting process has transitioned to a 5 year operational plan and 10 year business plan. Terry Hofmeyer commented on the ATV rules noting that he does not see it as a problem in Laketown Township but assumes many are interested in obtaining road access to reach the state trails. Dean agreed and stated that he has approached the DNR regarding land recently purchased south of Fennville as an area for trail riding.

C. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on July 2 and the following items were discussed: Stone Special Use Request to expand an existing day care business on 62<sup>nd</sup> Street from six to twelve children. The request was approved. Draisma Rezoning Request to change an I-1 Industrial to R-1 Rural Estate. The rezoning request has been recommended to the Township Board for approval.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Al Meshkin

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

E. PARKS COMMISSION – Linda Howell

Linda Howell reported that the Parks Commission met on June 18 and discussed the progress on the Township Hall Recreation Park. Linda also noted that it was her last meeting as Chair on the Parks Commission due to her appointment to the Township Board position.

F. DEPUTY SHERIFF – No report.

G. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

Chief Haverdink reported the response calls for the month of June were as follows: 42 calls total, 32 calls from Laketown, consisting of 21 rescue and 11 fire, 6 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 6 rescue calls and 0 fire calls. There were 2 fire assist calls to Holland City and 2 fire assist calls to Saugatuck. Chief Haverdink said the pancake breakfast served about 1200 attendees. Chief Haverdink explained that the pancake breakfast was also used as a fundraiser to purchase a new piece of emergency rescue equipment for the department. He demonstrated the Lucas Chest Compression device that is used when applying CPR. The new device applies 100 compressions per minute and stops for two breaths then continues the compression. The device would allow the responders to meet the new CPR requirements set forth by the American Heart Association. The unit provides a hard surface to be easily placed under the patient, arm straps and the ability to transport while continuing to administer treatment. This device would give residents a much higher chance of survival. Last year alone there were eleven cardiac arrest calls in the Township. The department has raised a portion of the \$13,000 cost and has the commitment of a local business to provide the balance if funds cannot be raised.

H. DDA – No report.

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS - None

Steve Schulz introduced himself as a candidate running for State Representative of the 80<sup>th</sup> District. He has lived in Allegan County his entire life and is married with a family lived. He has been the Allegan Township Supervisor for 14 years, has chaired and been involved in numerous boards in the Township and County. He is active in his church, Kids Hope and endorsed by Right to Life. If elected, he would focus on jobs, roads (infrastructure) and taxes. Mr. Schulz provided several examples of his engagement in various successful programs in the County and provided campaign materials for review. He feels he has the experience, leadership and ability to attain results for the people in the 80<sup>th</sup> District.

ARTICLE IX. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE X. NEW BUSINESS

A. HIGHER CLIMB REZONING REQUEST

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed Amendment Ordinance No. 176 which addresses the rezoning of parcel #0311-036-005-00 from I-1 Industrial to R-1 Rural Estate.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to adopt Amendment Ordinance No. 176 as requested by Higher Climb. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS VOTE - MOTION APPROVED**

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Hofmeyer said it was discussed at work session last week and recommended that Ed Stielstra be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Linda Howell**

**to approve the appointment of Ed Stielstra to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

C. PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer stated that Linda Howell is leaving the Parks Commission and will be appointed as the Board representative to the Planning Commission. It was recommended that Jim Lorence fill the open seat on the Planning Commission.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the appointment of Linda Howell as Board Representative on the Planning Commission and also the appointment of Jim Lorence to the Planning Commission. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED.**

ARTICLE XI. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS - None

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline Road asked why the left field appears to run downhill on the ball field at the new Recreation Park behind the Township Hall. Linda Howell said it has to do with the drainage regulating the wetland permit. Al Meshkin stated that he hasn’t actually walked out there but will do so to determine if it is indeed sloping downhill or only appears that way from a distance.

Eric Mosier 3896 65<sup>th</sup> Street asked if there are any ordinances for noise. Al Meshkin said there are no noise ordinances per se but parts of our code for disorderly conduct or general disturbance may address noise. Mr. Mosier stated that on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July between the hours of 6-7:00pm he was playing music and his neighbors came over to complain. He was curious to know whether or not he was violating a Township Ordinance. His home is on approximately 3.5 acres and he did not feel he was being too loud. There have been issues with people in that area complaining. Terry Hofmeyer asked if this was for the 4<sup>th</sup> or Saturday. Eric said it was on the 4<sup>th</sup> during a time when there were many fireworks going off. He understands the issues of the past but wanted to be clear that there is not a special ordinance. Eric asked if the Township Clerk deals with write-in applications for precinct delegate. Wendy Van Huis said she would provide the information.

ARTICLE XII. ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED**

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Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk

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Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary