

MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4338 BEELINE ROAD
ALLEGAN COUNTY
HOLLAND, MI 49423
REGULAR MEETING
July 12, 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
Noah Sall – Deputy Assessor/Deputy Zoning Administrator
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Trustee Ed Stielstra led the pledge of allegiance and offered prayer.

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Howell 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 2017. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Stielstra 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. STATE REPRESENTATIVE – No report
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Dean Kapenga

Dean Kapenga advised that the commissioners are working on the budget. A compensation study was done involving eleven different unions which brought forth both positive and negative feedback which is being worked through. Precinct meetings are on the calendar to discuss “what’s next”. The court house will have 20 new cameras installed and there will be three lockdown exercises. Discussions have occurred regarding the clean-up of the harbor and potential funding conversations took place with Upton. It would take approximately 10+ years to accomplish the clean-up efforts if funding becomes available. The Leadership Conference will be held on October 25 and all things are moving forward at the county level. Meshkin noted the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority plans

to be working on the Kalamazoo River corridor which flows into the harbor and recommended contacting Whiteford and/or Mark Vanden Berg at Gun Plain Township for more information.

C. PLANNING COMMISSION – LINDA HOWELL

Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on July 5, 2017 and the following items were discussed: Pastor & Benson Special Use Request for a dog daycare business was tabled; Holt Special Use Request for accessory building was approved; Glynn site plan for a single-family home was approved; Eldean / Gator Properties Special Use Request for a marina and camp sites was tabled.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – ED STIELSTRA

Stielstra reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on June 28, 2017 and the following item was discussed: Brondyke Variance Request for side yard setback distance on a new pole barn and the request was denied.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – MICHELLE SALL

Michelle Sall said the Commissioners met on June 21, 2017 and the following items were discussed: partnering with the ODC on a grant to treat the Japanese Knotweed which will be no cost to the township. ODC sprayed at Huyser Farm and will be treating other locations soon. Keith Kluting of Black River Habitats, a Laketown resident, will provide an estimate to treat the invasive species attaching the hemlock trees, the woolly adelgid; a request for quote will be issued in the next township newsletter to solicit interested parties who might offer expertise in the renovation and maintenance of the Huyser homestead with a deadline of September 1; next week the Holland City Youth Connections Promise Program youth will begin working in parks 3 days per week for 4 hours per day; on August 16, at 6:00pm, one hour prior to the Parks Commission meeting a meet and greet hot dog dinner will be provided along with draft copies of the 5-Year Parks Plan for residents to review with a public hearing scheduled for September 20 giving residents an opportunity to provide feedback on the plan; a shelter has been constructed at shore acres for protection from the elements for the disk golfers and other park visitors; the July meeting will include a discussion on the pet policy; signage will be installed to warn against the dangers of ticks; responses are pending on grant applications for the Laketown Beach stairs and restrooms at Sanctuary Woods. Hofmeyer recognized the Parks Commission for the good work being done to provide quality parks for our residents and visitors. Sall recognized Al Meshkin for being instrumental in fostering the relationship with ODC.

F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – DEN BLEYKER

Chief Doug Den Bleyker reported the response calls for the month of June were as follows: 59 calls total, 46 calls from Laketown, consisting of 37 medical/rescue and 8 fire, 1 smoke alarm install 7 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 4 medical/rescue calls and 3 fire calls. There were 11 assists, 3 fire assists to Saugatuck, 1 fire assist to Ganges and 1 fire assist to Holland and 1 medical/rescue assist to Saugatuck. Den Bleyker stated this has been the busiest month ever. The ISO rating was lowered so that will help with residents with home insurance premium rates. The last payment was made on the fire station so that is free and clear. A FEMA grant in the amount of \$141,000 was granted to buy new air packs. This is the largest grant awarded to the fire department. The chief and two staff members will travel to do the final inspection on the new engine with anticipated delivery in mid-August. After delivery, it will take about one more month to fully equip the unit for service. There were a record number of attendees (1420) at the pancake breakfast on 4th of July. Van Huis asked where the money is used for and Den Bleyker responded that it goes for non-budgeted items and donations to Girls on the Run and the Cancer Society. Stielstra asked how often we call for assists. Den Bleyker explained that we have auto aid with Holland City, which was used today on a medical emergency but in general it evens out between the departments in the program. Meshkin mentioned that the township insurance risk management representative was in last week, an audit which occurs every 2-3 years. Chief Den Bleyker was asked 4-6 questions, all of which were above satisfactory in response. Den Bleyker credits this to the work the full-time staff members at the department who are able to support these efforts. It is becoming more and more difficult to staff during the daytime and particularly on Saturdays between 6am-6pm. The department will present a proposal for potential solution to the Fire Board at the August meeting.

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

Keith Becksvoort of asked what the chief does with the old air packs and Den Bleyker responded that depending on where the new ones are purchased, they may be used as trade-in.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION RESIGNATION

Hofmeyer announced a letter of resignation from David Weishaar from the Planning Commission. Hofmeyer recommends accepting the letter with regret.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Stielstra to accept the letter of resignation from Weishaar with regret.**

Becker asked what the process is to replace a board member and Hofmeyer said recommendation is made by the supervisor but we are open to other recommendations. Ideally, a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals will also serve on the Planning Commission. If that is not an option, it is open to a wider pool of candidates.

Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

B. LARGE CULVERT COST SHARING RESOLUTION

Hofmeyer said Resolution 2017-12 Large Culvert Cost Sharing is a request to have Allegan County Road Commission return to their previous practice of sharing the cost of culverts 36 inches in diameter and greater at a 50/50 split with townships. This practice was abandoned when monies were limited but now that revenue has increased, the request is the practice be reinstated.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Stielstra to approve Resolution 2017-12 Large Culvert Cost Sharing. Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64th Street asked Howell who owned the Lamar property being proposed for a camp site and Howell responded that it is currently owned by Bob Lamar.

Mitra Delaney of 6298 144th Avenue asked that the minutes be posted on the township website sooner noting that the workshop minutes from July 5 has not yet been posted. She also made a request to have the microphones turned up during the meetings.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Howell to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED

Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk