

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

July 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, Gary Dewey

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Doug Den Bleyker – Graafschap Fire Chief
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 June 8 and June 20, 2016 meetings. **A motion was made by Van Huis 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 2016. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey 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 KAPENGA – No report.
- C. PLANNING COMMISSION – No report.

The Planning Commission did not meet in July.

- D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – No report.

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet in June.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – No report.

F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – CHIEF DEN BLEYKER

Chief Den Bleyker reported the response calls for the month of June were as follows: 43 calls total, calls from Laketown, consisting of 24 rescue and 10 fire, 3 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 2 rescue calls and 1 fire call. There were 6 assists to other departments consisting of 2 fire assists and 2 rescue assists to Holland and 2 rescue assists to Hamilton. The Fire Board met and approved a new engine and the purchase contract was signed this week. Other projects being worked on are energy efficient lighting in the apparatus bay, 6 lights being replaced for \$1,020 with a rebate of \$828.35 for a total out of pocket cost of \$191.65 and a monthly savings of \$50 on the electric bill; replacement of parking lot lights at a total cost of \$1,000.30 with a rebate of \$982.45 for a total out of pocket cost of \$17.85. The annual 4th of July Pancake Breakfast was a success with 1185 attendees, on track with previous years' attendance. Hofmeyer said the breakfast and the car show were great. Howell asked when the new truck would be delivered and Den Bleyker responded it will take between 195-320 days to be built and delivered. It is the department's first 4-wheel drive engine being built by Rosenbauer with a 750-gallon capacity for compressed air foam. The 4-wheel drive will be advantageous for snow-covered roads, 2-tracks in Fillmore and other challenging terrain.

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

Diane Kooiker and Sara De Vries from the Herrick District Library gave a presentation on the current state of the library. A packet was provided to board members that included statistics regarding the library, its multiple uses, resources, programs and remote capabilities. The library is funded by the millage supported by City of Holland, Park, Holland and Laketown Townships. Kooiker explained that the millage will be on the August 2, 2016 ballot with verbiage implying it is a "new" millage. In actuality, it is a renewal of the current millage but will be the first time it is voted on as a "district". The amount is the same 1.5 mil that was approved 20 years ago. If approved, the millage will be in effect for 14 years.

Dewey stated he often arrives at the library at 9:00a.m. and there are always people waiting to get in the door. Hofmeyer agrees it is community treasure and a needed one at that.

Becky Bruns of 4033 60th Street asked if there was a meeting to determine if the fiber optic project would be put on the November ballot. Hofmeyer stated that nothing has been decided; he and Meshkin met with representatives from Charter Communications to gather more information and discuss various ideas but nothing else. Bruns asked if there are minutes from the meeting and Meshkin responded that it was not a public meeting so minutes were not published. Bruns asked if another survey would be considered and Hofmeyer stated that he could not answer that question at this time. Dewey said by state law, a special assessment cannot be done for the project and added that State Representative Whiteford may explore other funding options.

Julie Bronsink of 4529 Amphitheater asked if there is a time limit to get items on the November ballot and Meshkin stated it must be done by mid-August. Bronsink asked if it is mid-August, will the board make a decision before that and behind closed doors. Hofmeyer said it would be public.

Kathy Mc Cleod of 4530 Cottage Avenue asked if consideration has been given to the inequity of the cost to certain property owners who are non-homesteaded and could pay as much as 30% but have no voice in the vote. Hofmeyer asked if she was also opposed to the library vote.

Matthew Gebben of 3963 64th Street stated that he talked to State Representative Daniela Garcia suggesting a Rural Utility Services grant for rural communications, which may reduce the cost of the project. Meshkin responded that if approved, the township would be eligible for a very small amount due to its demographics.

Dick Becker of 2382 Valley Avenue stated there are too many unanswered questions at this point, to meet the deadline for the November ballot. He expressed concern about the cost of the project.

John Fulenweider of 4513 Amphitheater stated that he was satisfied with the initial vote and the majority rules in a democracy. He also questioned why the township would want to be in the cable business. What is in it for you? Residents would be stuck paying for the system whether they wanted it or not. The township tax collection should be for roads, utilities, and the library but not for broadband Internet. He stated that he would vote against it again.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. RECOMMEND RELEASE OF TEMPORARY EASEMENT

Supervisor Hofmeyer explained the County of Allegan Board of Public Works has a temporary easement, which is no longer needed over an existing sewer main.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Van Huis to recommend approval of the Temporary Partial Release of Utility Line Easement. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. CONSIDER CLOSED SESSION TO REVIEW CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY CORRESPONDENCE ON PENDING LITIGATION

Supervisor Hofmeyer proposed a closed session to review the confidential attorney correspondence on pending litigation. If approved, the audience is asked to leave the room for that portion of the meeting. **A motion was made Dewey and seconded by Howell to go into closed session to review confidential attorney correspondence on pending litigation. Supervisor Hofmeyer asked for a vote on the motion. Roll call vote: Stielstra – Aye; Van Huis – Aye; Dewey – Aye; Howell – Aye; Hofmeyer – Aye.**

After closed session the board returned to open session.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

John Fulenweider of 4513 Amphitheatre Drive requested published responses to the questions previously asked in the meeting. Meshkin responded that some of the questions had been answered and others are pending more information. Fulenweidr also stated that the notice of this meeting should have been emailed to which Meshkin responded that the meeting notices are in the newsletter, posted on the website and also noted on the board in the township hall.

Helen Heneveld 4539 Hemlock Drive expressed appreciation and commended the emergency responders for the manner in which they handled a situation that occurred in Castle Park last month when someone had to be air lifted for treatment. She cannot say enough good things about the responders and volunteers for their professionalism, calmness and determination in how they handled the emergency. Hofmeyer thanked her for the comments.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Howell and seconded by Van Huis to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED

Township Clerk, Wendy Van Huis

Recording Secretary, Diane Ybarra