

MINUTES  
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
4338 BEELINE ROAD  
ALLEGAN COUNTY  
HOLLAND, MI 49423  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 9, 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

Township Clerk Wendy Van Huis led the pledge of allegiance and offered prayer.

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the July 12, 2017 meeting. **A motion was made by Howell and seconded by Dewey 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 July 2017. 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 – No report
- C. PLANNING COMMISSION – LINDA HOWELL

Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on August 2, 2017 and the following items were discussed: Pastor & Benson Special Use Request for a dog daycare business was approved; The township attorney was directed to draft a resolution and report on the Eldean / Gator Properties Special Use Request; Treacy site plan review for single-family home approved; Blood special use for accessory building approved; Bindon special use for accessory building approved; presentation by

Main Street Planning for Master Plan. A comment was made during citizen comments regarding the lack of public transportation in the township.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – ED STIELSTRA

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

E. PARKS COMMISSION – MICHELLE SALL

Michelle Sall said the Commissioners met on July 19, 2017 and the following items were discussed: updating the map and plan for shared use paths and bike lanes; Youth Connections Group in the parks for one more week, doing a great job; beach stairs were clear in July; signs explaining the dangers of ticks; invasive species partnership with ODC and Japanese knotweed was sprayed; Black River Habitat will provide a quote for a treatment plan for the invasive species affecting the hemlock trees; pickle ball courts; reviewed policy on leashed dogs in the parks; Day of Caring projects in September; at the August 16 Parks meeting a meet and greet session will be held one hour before the meeting at 6:00 pm. Dokk's Firehouse Dogs will be served along with draft copies of the 5-Year Parks Recreation Plan for resident review and comments. Dewey suggested contacting the Parks Commission Chair of Park Township to share information about the treatment of the Japanese Knotweed. Sall explained that the treatment done in Laketown was through a grant that was partnered with ODC.

F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – DEN BLEYKER

Chief Doug Den Bleyker reported the response calls for the month of July were as follows: 65 calls total, 47 calls from Laketown, consisting of 32 medical/rescue and 14 fire, 1 smoke alarm install 10 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 7 medical/rescue calls and 3 fire calls. There were 8 assists, 3 fire assists to Holland, 1 to Saugatuck and 1 to Ganges; 3 medical assists, 1 to Fennville, 1 to Hamilton and 1 to Holland. The final inspection of the new fire engine was done at the contractor build location and should be delivered in the next 2-4 weeks. The new engine will be 4-wheel drive.

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

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64<sup>th</sup> Street asked Sall if the roadways were sprayed or just the parks as he has seen some Japanese Knotweed dying along the roadside. Sall responded that it was done in parks only and Meshkin added that some had been done near Huyser Farm and it is possible that private property owners may be spraying. Becksvoort said he had heard that property owners could be responsible for it infecting neighbors' property and wondered how one would be held responsible for that. Becksvoort asked for clarification of the Laketown Village Partial Drain Abandonment Resolution stating that he is on that drain. Meshkin said it is the drain near Laketown Village Condominiums on Lugers / 61<sup>st</sup> explaining that part of the drain will be in West Wind development so it is merely an exercise of correcting paperwork. Becksvoort said a lot of times with new drains and new complexes, the old drains divert and no one maintains them. Meshkin said orphan drains are a problem because no one has jurisdiction over them. There are no township drains, only orphan, county or road commission drains. Meshkin said the engineer for the Allegan County Drain Commissioner is very thorough and effective in reviews of new developments.

Mitra Delaney of 6298 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue asked if the township's annual financial report has been made available from the public accounting firm. Hofmeyer said it has not yet been made available to the township staff. Delaney asked the status of the emergency access near Robin's Flowers. Hofmeyer said the attorneys are meeting to work out terms to be agreeable. Delaney said she is working on it herself and residents are recommending it not be done. Delaney asked if new township positions are approved in the budget and then posted on the website and how do people apply for open positions. Meshkin said he would be happy to answer the questions at the proper time and which is at citizen's comments at the end of the agenda. Delaney also commented on the volunteer form found on the website. Hofmeyer explained that this portion of the agenda for citizen comment is for old and new business listed on the agenda and not open comment.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. WEST WIND LAKE ESTATES DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Hofmeyer reviewed the West Wind Lake Estates Development Agreement for the Planned Unit Development. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell and seconded by Dewey to approve the West Wind Lake Estates Development Agreement.** Dewey commented that it was highly detailed and thorough plan. **Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. LAKETOWN VILLAGE PARTIAL DRAIN ABANDONMENT RESOLUTION

Hofmeyer explained the Laketown Village Partial Drain Abandonment Resolution. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Dewey to approve Resolution 2017-14 Laketown Village Partial Drain Abandonment.** Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. **UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

C. POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES RESOLUTION

Hofmeyer reviewed the Poverty Exemption Guidelines Resolution updating the Federal Poverty Guidelines used in the determination of poverty exemptions. This for the benefit of the Township Board of Review as there are requests from residents to be exempted from their township property taxes and this document will be available for those requesting an exemption to better clarify the criteria.

Stielstra asked what the annual average is for exemptions granted. Hofmeyer said there was just one declined and three to four were approved. Many of the requests are annual in nature.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell and seconded by Stielstra to approve Resolution 2017-13 Poverty Exemption Guidelines.** Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. **UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Mitra Delaney of 6298 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue what the process is for township staff positions and how they are budgeted. Meshkin responded that township budgets can be amended throughout the year as needed. The Township is just beginning the fiscal year and amendments are not yet needed. Township employment positions are not required by law to be advertised and internal candidates are considered first. Delaney referred to the volunteer form found on the website asking if a qualified individual completes the form how are they selected for the task.

Mike Teekamp of 6292 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue asked what the plan is for the Huyser farmhouse. Hofmeyer explained that it is under the jurisdiction of the Parks Commission. Michelle Sall, Park Commission Chair responded that the commissioners have discussed the upkeep and vandalism issues for a number of years. Approximately one year ago the electric was connected and there has been discussion of the Building Authority addressing the building rehabilitation and upkeep. There are a few people in the community that have expressed interest in working on the restoration of the farmhouse. A request for proposal has been done to solicit interest from anyone who might be interested and have ideas on how to restore the farmhouse and potentially buildings on the farm. The deadline to submit proposals is September 1.

Karen Massengill of 6271 143<sup>rd</sup> Avenue stated “hats off to Charlene” of the office staff. Massengill said she is uncertain what the protocol is to ask and get questions answered that are raised in the meetings and/or in the township in general. She suggested putting responses in the quarterly newsletters to document the subtle questions/concerns that are raised in the community.

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64<sup>th</sup> Street advised Massengill to attend the township meetings on a regular basis instead of once or twice a year to stay informed.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Stielstra to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 P.M.  
UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED**

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Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk