

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

RESCHCEDULED  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 10, 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, Gary Dewey  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Ed Stielstra  
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager  
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Township Treasurer Gary Dewey 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 10, 2015 meeting and the special meeting held with Fillmore Township on April 14, 2015 **a motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Gary 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 2015. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy 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

Al Meshkin reported receiving one letter regarding the outdoor boilers and which he will follow up on.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE GAMRAT – No report.
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAPENGA – No report.
- C. PLANNING COMMISSION – Linda Howell

Linda Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on August 5 and the following items were discussed: 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; Steele P.U.D. Amendment Request was tabled pending additional information; a public hearing was held on the Voetberg Rezoning Request which was approved for R-1 to R-2 for the parcel located on 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 64<sup>th</sup> Street; DeJong Site Plan for new home construction was approved; Monhollon Site Plan for new home construction was approved and the Laketown Special Use Request for a solar array system that will exceed 6 feet in height where above the ground utilities are present was also approved.

- D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – No report.
- E. PARKS COMMISSION – No report.
- F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin noted due to EMT training, Chief Den Bleyker was not available for the meeting but reported the response calls for the month of July were as follows: 52 calls total, 39 calls from Laketown, consisting of 33 rescue and 6 fire, 10 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 10 rescue calls and 0 fire calls. There were 3 fire assists to other departments, 1 to Holland 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 DEPARTMENT MILLAGE PROPOSITION

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer explained the resolution to place a ballot proposition on the ballot for the November 3, 2015 election, to ask Township electors to raise funds for the Graafschap Fire Department. The proposal is levy 1 mil for five years, 2015 through 2019, inclusive to provide operating funds, equipment and apparatus for the Fire Department.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Linda Howell to approve the Fire Department Millage Proposition Resolution 2015-11.**

Gary Dewey asked if the within the budget we have for roads, bike paths and fire, how does the budget look? Al Meshkin responded that the fire department uses more than 1 mil of the current 2 mil levy. The department needs its own mil to maintain the equipment and operating expenses. Wendy Van Huis said we are falling behind on the roads due to budget constraints. Meshkin stated the cost to resurface roads has increased considerably and at this point, the budget allows for approximately one mile of resurfacing per year and there are sixty miles of road surface in the township. At the same time, the fire department call activity continues to increase. Van Huis confirmed the levy had been at 3 mils in the past. Dewey said the fire and road upkeep are the most important things for the residents. Meshkin added that residents are not assessed for drain expenses. **Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a roll call vote on the motion. Linda Howell - aye, Gary Dewey – aye, Wendy Van Huis - aye and Terry Hofmeyer - aye. UNANIMOUS DECISION - MOTION APPROVED.**

B. APPOINTMENT OF PLUMBING INSPECTOR

Al Meshkin said Gary Raak has been the Plumbing Inspector for at least 10 years and has announced his retirement effective August 31, 2015. Raak recommended Bob Modreske, the Mechanical Inspector as his replacement. **A motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve the appointment of Bob Modreske to the position of Plumbing Inspector.**

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

#### C. SCHEDULING OF MACATAWA WATER HEARING ON ROLL

Supervisor Hofmeyer explained this is to schedule a public hearing for the special assessment roll assessing the cost of water main improvements in Macatawa. The proposed date for public hearing is Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 7:00pm to be held at the Laketown Township Hall Office. Al Meshkin added that a pre-meeting in the manner of an open house will be held at 6:00pm with the engineers and contractors involved in the project. Hofmeyer commented that he expects a high level of attendance for this meeting as this is one of the more costly projects but critical for the protection of the residents in the Mac Hills. There are several Park Township parcels that may be included in the plan and those residents have been invited to participate in the project.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve the public hearing date of August 26, 2015 at 7:00pm for Macatawa Water Project. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS VOTE - MOTION APPROVED**

#### ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Jim Stark of Beeline and 142<sup>nd</sup> Streets submitted documentation regarding his concerns with the lack of maintenance at the old township hall. He is most concerned with the dead ash trees that fall on or near his property. The recent storm resulted in a tree falling on his fence. He also noted that the neighbor to the east is at risk of trees falling on his pole barn. Mr. Stark feels there is a situation of eminent danger on public property that the township has not addressed. He asked what would be done to repair the damage to his fence as he feels it should not be at his expense as he had duly warned the township manager of his concerns last year. After some discussion, Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer agreed to visit the site at the close of tonight's meeting.

Herb Klemm of 6502 Creekwood Drive posed the following questions: What is the Macatawa Water Project? Is it possible to build a tunnel through the dune at Laketown Beach for easier access? Why is the additional 1 mil needed for the fire department? Supervisor Hofmeyer explained that the Macatawa Water Project would provide municipal water to the residents in the noted area of the Mac Hills. Currently, most are on wells which are ineffective when trying to fight a fire. There have been many fires over the years and while the roads leading there pose an issue for the fire equipment, the lack of water is an even bigger challenge. This would provide the residents with much needed water resources. The cost would be paid by the property owners in the district. In regards to the tunnel through the dune, the stairway is a high maintenance expense for the township and a tunnel would be great but the cost is very likely prohibitive. Linda Howell added that the Parks Commission has discussed several ideas for improving the access to the beach and there may be state or federal grant monies available but there is one area still held by a private resident who has not been willing to sell or relinquish ownership. The township owns approximately 200 feet of beach frontage. There is also limited parking available so to provide more access would only add to that problem. Lastly, the 1 mil for the fire department is needed to meet the growing operating and equipment costs of the department. Currently, the department shares the 2 mils levied for roads, drains, bike paths and the fire department. Due to the rising operating costs of the department, there is very little left to maintain the roads, bike paths and drains. The department needs its own operating mil to continue to provide adequate service to the township.

#### ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED**

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Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk

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Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary