

**MINUTES**  
**LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP**  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
4338 BEELINE ROAD  
ALLEGAN COUNTY  
HOLLAND, MI 49423  
**WORKSHOP MEETING**  
Wednesday, October 1, 2014

**ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER**

Terry Hofmeyer called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Hofmeyer, Ed Stielstra, Linda Howell, Gary Dewey, Wendy Van Huis  
MEMBERS ABSENT: none  
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin  
OTHERS PRESENT: Sheriff Blain Koops

**ARTICLE II. MINUTES** – A motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve the Workshop minutes from September 3, 2014, and the Special Workshop Minutes from September 16, 2014. Unanimous decision – Motion approved.

**ARTICLE III. TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. OLD BUSINESS**

1.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Joint meeting with the Kelly Lake Inter-county Drain Board to report on the 145<sup>th</sup> Avenue Culvert project
2. Termination and release of Easement in Macatawa Park
3. Utility Line Easement Amendment

**ARTICLE IV. NON AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Bills from September were handed out for review.
2. Correspondence: Annual meeting of Michigan Township Supervisors is being held Oct. 22, 23, 24, in Holland – Terry plans on attending.
3. Sheriff Koops reported the County has reduced detectives from 12 to 4; overall staff is down about 9 from the 1990's. The County Board is committed to 24 road patrol, not including the contracted officers – the most the County will have on at one time is 4. Terry gave an update on the history of Laketown's special millage elections and our budget constraints. Sheriff Koops explained the precinct model and that the current State Police Post Commander is not willing to sign the document of permanent supplement. Sheriff Koops believes there has to be a ground-swell of community support vs. a push from the Board or the Sheriff's department to bring about a successful law enforcement millage. He reported that the main State Police office is in Wayland with a Saugatuck detachment. He gave statistics that for a home with a taxable value of \$100,000, 46cents a day is for County Law enforcement and Court security. A County-wide millage has been tried and defeated 3 times. There was at one time a 50 member "Citizens for Safe and Secure Allegan County" group supporting an effort

for a County-wide Law Enforcement millage, but was stymied by pressure from the County Commissioners to push the election date, giving insufficient time to build a case. Sheriff Koops also touched on the concept of Community Policing and value in alleviating crime in neighborhoods. The Township Board discussed various ideas on how to proceed. Terry will address the issue in his Township Newsletter article. It was the consensus of the Board to include a survey post card in the next Township Newsletter as well, which Al will formulate.

4. Al handed out the auditor's letter and Annual Financial Report Year Ended March 31, 2014 for the Board's review. Discussion again centered on the dwindling fund balance and ways of shoring up the balance. The Board was in agreement that this needs to be a priority.

**ARTICLE V. NEXT WORKSHOP & SPECIAL MEETING** – The next regular Workshop meeting is scheduled for 4:00 p.m., November 5, 2014.

**ARTICLE VI. – CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - NONE**

**ARTICLE VII. – ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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Wendy Van Huis, Clerk