

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

November 9, 2016

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

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
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Treasurer Gary Dewey opened the meeting with prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

Supervisor Hofmeyer acknowledged Clerk Van Huis and the election staff for their work done on Election Day to run an efficient voting process for the township.

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the October 12, 2016 meeting. **A motion was made by Howell and seconded by Stielstra 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 Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of October 2016. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Stielstra to approve and pay the bills as submitted. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Hofmeyer reported receiving a letter from Laura Judge of 6510 Oakwood Lane asking that the Township support initiatives to shut down the flow of oil through Enbridge's Line 5 pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac to avoid the potential for a natural environmental disaster.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE WHITEFORD - No report.
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAPENGA – No report.
- C. PLANNING COMMISSION – HOWELL

Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on November 2 and discussed the following

items: tabled Master Plan review discussion; approved for recommendation to the Township Board RPE Special Use Request #1 and #2; approved for recommendation to the Township Board Lang Rezoning Request; approved for recommendation to the Township Board Higher Climb Rezoning Request; recommendation to Township Attorney Bultje to prepare a report and resolution regarding the Steele P.U.D. Amendment Request.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – STIELSTRA

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

E. PARKS COMMISSION – MICHELLE SALL

The Parks Commission met on October 19 and discussed survey results. Sall provided a copy of the report and gave a brief overview of the highlights. The Parks Commission will use this feedback in its future planning. Also looking at grants to move the historic township hall to Huyser Farm, which is on a national bike route. The vision would be to utilize a portion of the building for public restrooms. The commissioners are also researching a sustainable solution to keeping the beach stairs cleared of sand. Hofmeyer thanked Sall and noted that the board members would review the survey report and ask questions accordingly.

F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – CHIEF DEN BLEYKER

Chief Den Bleyker submitted a written report on the response calls for the month of October: 29 calls total, 23 calls from Laketown, consisting of 21 rescue and 2 fire, 1 call from Fillmore, consisting of 1 rescue call and 0 fire calls, 4 fire assists to other departments, 1 to Saugatuck and 3 to Holland; 1 rescue assist to Saugatuck. Smoke alarms were installed as follows: 1 in Fillmore and 10 in Laketown. The smoke alarm installation is also reported at the national level. Stielstra asked if electricians are involved in the installation and Chief Den Bleyker advised the alarms are battery operated with 10-year life. Howell asked how residents get on list for smoke alarm install. Chief Den Bleyer responded that residents can call the fire department to schedule an appointment and the units along with installation are at no cost to the homeowner. Meshkin added that the only criteria is it must be an owner occupied residence. Den Bleyer reported that just under 100 smoke alarms and 27 carbon monoxide alarms were installed at the Shangri La Mobile Home Park.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS – No comments.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. LAKE MICHIGAN WATER TRAIL SUPPORT LETTER

Supervisor Hofmeyer read the letter to be submitted in support of the water trail for non-motorized boaters in Lake Michigan.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Howell and seconded by Dewey to approve the Lake Michigan Water Trail support letter.**

Stielstra asked if there would be funding available for the township based on this support. Hofmeyer responded that it would be a show good faith and support to collaborate on this project, which may benefit future grant opportunities.

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

B. ZONING AMENDMENT ORDINANCE #181

Supervisor Hofmeyer asked Howell and Meshkin to review the Zoning Amendment Ordinance #181.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey seconded by Howell to approve the Zoning Amendment Ordinance #181.**

Howell explained this is near the Laketown Golf and Conference Center. The applicant is asking for the rezoning for future use. The rezoning would be consistent with the surrounding parcels and with the Master Plan.

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

C. ZONING AMENDMENT ORDINANCE #182

Supervisor Hofmeyer asked Howell and Meshkin to review the Zoning Amendment Ordinance #182.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey seconded by Van Huis to approve the Zoning Amendment Ordinance #182.**

Howell explained the applicant owns contiguous parcels and will be consistent with the surrounding parcels and with the Master Plan. The applicant would come before the Planning Commission when ready to expand the trucking.

Dewey asked if there were questions of noise. Howell said one question from Marcia Perry and applicant stated he has rules with their drivers and will review that.

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

D. COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the Community Enhancement Program. This is a working group through MACC al sits on it. The program identifies the need for future funding on collaborative initiatives and must be approved by all townships and municipalities involved in the program.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey seconded by Stielstra to approve the Community Enhancement Program.**

Meshkin explained the program has been in the planning stages for 3-4 years to create a cooperative funding source to support mostly non-profits in the area such as Windmill Island, Big Red, local museums, the Holland Area Arts Council, etc. Local units of government trying to give a hand up to support the non-profits that we all benefit from and hopefully leverage private dollars to go with it. The target for the first year is \$50,000 from seven participating government units. Laketown’s share would be \$3,392.00. Hofmeyer added that MACC is setting \$25,000.00 in seed money to get it started.

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

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Brad Moorer 4152 66th Street echoes the supervisor’s comments on the election noting how smoothly it was run. Moore also spoke in favor of the fiber optic project and would like to see it on the ballot in May. He feels high speed internet is a basic utility and should be available in the township.

Dick Becker of 2382 Valley congratulated the board members on their re-election. He asked that board members pay attention to the voters noting that the media was different from the voting population. He commented that 70% of the township has access to some cable service. So far, the township has spent \$30,000.00 on this project. He suggested that the April 2017 budget allow for monies from the General Fund be used to work with Charter Communications to figure out a way to run cable to the underserved area. He does not feel an \$8 million bond is necessary to do that.

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64th Street asked for confirmation of the use of property on Zoning Amendment #181. Howell responded that the applicant would have to come before the Planning Commission with a site plan. Residential use, storage facility or landscaping business was mentioned but again, any special use would have to come before the commission. Becksvoort also commented on the Enbridge Pipe Line stating that it should not be moved because everyone wants gas and oil and without it, businesses could be shut down.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Stielstra and seconded by Van Huis to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

Township Clerk, Wendy Van Huis

Recording Secretary, Diane Ybarra