

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

REGULAR MEETING
November 11, 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, Ed Stielstra
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary
Doug Den Bleyker – Fire Chief

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Township Clerk Wendy Van Huis 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 September 9, 2015 meeting. **A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed 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 Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of October 2015. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey 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 – vacant

David Gernant introduced himself as a candidate running for the State Representative Michigan House District 80 seat. After 36 years in Portland, Oregon, he returned to West Michigan. He practiced law in Portland and held a number of positions including being a judge for several years. He also spent one year in Washington, D.C. He was raised in the Kalamazoo area, is a liberal democrat and feels it is time to give people a choice in what is historically a republican county. He feels his background in law and serving the court system would be beneficial in a legislative seat. He is interested in local government and serving the people of the county.

B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAPENGA – No report.

C. PLANNING COMMISSION – LINDA HOWELL

Linda Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on November 4 and the following items were discussed: Copperleaf Development P.U.D. was tabled pending an updated plan; approved Molengraf Special Use Request for an accessory building; Zoning Ordinance Amendment was tabled until the next meeting. Howell also explained the reason for the Steele/Diversion Properties P.U.D. Contract is to record all previous P.U.D. amendments in one document to include the conditions set forth for all, specifically this recent request to expand the composting operation.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – ED STIELSTRA

Ed Stielstra reported that the ZBA met on October 26 and the following items were discussed: approved RPE Trust Variance Request; Timberstone Variance request to add a covered porch to an existing cottage was tabled pending further information regarding the survey.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – AL MESHKIN

Al Meshkin reported that the Parks Commission met on October 21 and discussed the movement of sand at Laketown Beach. The Commission approved expenditure for snow fencing to be installed.

F. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – CHIEF DOUG DEN BLEYKER

Chief Den Bleyer reported the response calls for the month of October were as follows: 38 calls total, 28 calls from Laketown, consisting of 20 rescue and 8 fire, 6 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 4 rescue calls and 2 fire calls. There were 4 fire assists to other departments, Hamilton, Holland, Overisel and Saugatuck. It was also noted that the Fire Department millage passed.

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

Judge Marge Bakker gave an overview of the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center. The Center is a non-profit developed to aid those not able to pay for legal counsel on civil matters only and not criminal matters. The Center serves as a resource for understanding the process and paperwork needed in a civil matter such as property issues, personal protection orders, etc. Retirees and law students volunteer their time and services assisting more than 5,000 clients over the last 3 years. Judge Bakker shared the story of an adoption wherein two little boys were able to join a family which would not have been possible without the assistance of the Center because the family had no financial resources to do so. There is also a self-help website available for forms and process overviews for most civil legal matters.

Rob Kengis, Chief Assistant Prosecutor introduced himself vouching for the Legal Assistant Center stating it has been a great resource for the citizens of Allegan County. Kengis stated that he has been in the Allegan office for 23 years and hopes to run next year for the office of Prosecuting Attorney to replace an upcoming retirement. He recently presented annual report for the Board of Commissioners. Kengis stated that he is available at any time for questions or visits to township meetings. He reported that it has been a very busy year, primarily murder cases in Allegan County which is unusual; five consecutive months had homicide cases; meth labs; huge spike in heroin and prescription drug use.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. STEELE/DIVERSION PROPERTIES P.U.D. CONTRACT

Meshkin gave a brief overview of the Steele/Diversion Properties P.U.D. Contract and the process that took place leading up to the contract. Basically, the contract is a compilation of all previous amendments to the P.U.D. with all existing and new conditions that address the expansion of the composting operation. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the Steele/Diversion Properties P.U.D. Contract.**

Hofmeyer asked for comments and questions.

Meshkin said the Planning Commission took 4-5 months to review taking into consideration all public comment and correspondence. The new composting operation will be state of the art claiming to be almost odor free. Steele recently held an open house with state representatives from Michigan and Indiana. Everything the Planning Commission approved is in the form of a binding contract signed by Steele. Van Huis asked where on the property the composting will be located and Meshkin responded in the southwest corner. The area will be covered by a canvass with the right amount of moisture and turns speeding up the process from raw to compost in just 6 weeks. Howell said the Planning Commission included the limitation of no road kill or animals be permitted in the process. The landscaping will be maintained so visually it will not be seen except maybe from the highway. Van Huis asked if the neighbors were alright with this. Howell said there were some concerns from residents of Fillmore Township but they were given appropriate contact information on how to deal with any issues of nuisance or perceived violation of the P.U.D. The approval is contingent on the attainment of all necessary state permits. Stielstra asked if they will sell the finished product and Meshkin responded that they will and have probably already have next year's supply sold.

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

B. ZBA RESIGNATION

Meshkin advised that Glenn Vos had resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals alternate position. Supervisor Hofmeyer regretfully accepted the resignation.

C. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Supervisor Hofmeyer proposed the following Board Appointments:

Sara Geisler – reappointed to Pool Authority; Jim Johnson – reappointed to ZBA; Casey Kimes – appointed to ZBA alternate. He added that Kimes lives on 147th Avenue, works at JCI and expressed interest in being active in local government.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Stielstra to approve the noted appointments. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS VOTE - MOTION APPROVED**

D. MACATAWA WATER CONSTRUCTION FUND DEFICIT ELIMINATION PLAN

Hofmeyer explained the Macatawa Water Fund Deficit Elimination Plan is in form of a resolution and asked Meshkin to provide an overview. Meshkin said when showing a deficit, it is necessary to provide the state with how the deficit will be eliminated. The resolution shows the deficit of \$221,040 with the first collection of the special assessment revenue generation of \$216,011.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Howell to approve Resolution 2015-14 Macatawa Water Construction Deficit Elimination Plan. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline Road asked if the special assessment will go just to the North and South Hills of Macatawa and is that how the General Fund dollars will be repaid. Meshkin said throughout the process we have to use the General Fund until the assessment monies start coming in.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Van Huis and seconded by Howell to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 P.M.
UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk

Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary