

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

REGULAR MEETING
November 12, 2014

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,
Ed Stielstra, Linda Howell
MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Dewey
STAFF PRESENT: Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer 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 October 8 regular meeting and special meeting held on November 5, 2014, **a motion was made by Linda Howell and seconded by Wendy Van Huis 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 2014. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed 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 – None

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

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

Linda Howell reported that the Planning Commission met on November 5 and the following items were discussed: Good Intentions Laketown LLC Special Use Request to open and operate a medical marijuana dispensary. The request remained tabled pending the legislative update. Also, Rod Obbink Builders P.U.D. Amendment for which a recommendation was made to Attorney Bultje to prepare a report regarding the noted conditions for review and recommendation at the next meeting.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet in October. The next meeting is scheduled for November 24, 2014.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – No report.

F. DEPUTY SHERIFF – Aaron Hobbs

Deputy Hobbs reported a suspect has been apprehended and is being held pending charges for breaking and entering into more than six area residences and businesses.

G. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

Chief Haverdink reported the response calls for the month of October were as follows: 26 calls total, 21 calls from Laketown, consisting of 21 rescue and 0 fire, 3 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 1 rescue calls and 2 fire calls. There were 2 assist calls, 1 fire call to Saugatuck and 1 rescue call to Park. Chief Haverdink reported that the Fire Board met on November 6 and items discussed were: update on the Emergency Access; future vehicle needs; financial review; upgrading certification from Medical First Responder to Basic Life Support; Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Holland and the upcoming opening for fire chief as Cal has officially announced his retirement.

Supervisor Hofmeyer stated many have known of Chief Haverdink's plan to retire but now the official public announcement has been made. The township has appreciated having you as our chief you will be surely missed.

H. DDA – No report.

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

Art Phillipus of 6422 140th Avenue asked if the letter he submitted on 9/7/14 regarding the law enforcement special assessment was read into the record. Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer said it will be recognized along with all other correspondence received. Mr. Phillipus noted that he also submitted a letter to the Sentinel on 9/9/14 after which time he received notification that he was released as cemetery sexton. He felt this was retaliation for the expression of his opinion in the Sentinel. He understood that he was to train Dan Williams as a back-up but not as a replacement. Clerk Wendy Van Huis said the timing was unfortunate but in no way related. Phillipus was a contractor, not an employee. Van Huis went on to highlight the many times he was called to do something at the cemetery and he was not available. Often times Van Huis would have to cover the work. He was also unwilling to train the maintenance person. The township now has a full-time maintenance position and it only make sense that the duties of the sexton are part of that role.

Jeff Prince of 2393 Valley Avenue, Macatawa Park stated that he had sent several emails trying to make sense of the data representing each parcel in the water project. He and Steve Grunst have reviewed the numbers and it appears that 45 property owners are in favor and 46 property owners opposed to the proposed water project. My question is if there is more opposition why are we going through with the project?

Terry Hofmeyer said the signatures on the petitions are based on the square footage of area owned. This method is required by state law. The comments are appreciated and a decision will not be made on the bids until December. Mr. Prince asked if copies of the original petitions are available. Hofmeyer responded they are public record and available at the township office from Al Meshkin. Mr. Prince added that most people thought they were signing a petition for a study and cost estimate for a water project but somehow it got to be more to executing the project. Many people did not realize that and if you re-pollled more would be opposed.

John Colburn Sr. of 2291 Crescent Walk, Macatawa Park stated that the people who are paying for

the water project should have a pro rata vote versus the weight of square footage. Based on the size of his parcel, he has two votes and a lot of land and has been opposed to it from the beginning. Perhaps everyone here has a fire hydrant within 500 feet from their home but would you be willing to pay \$24,500 for that hydrant?

Chief Cal Haverdink expressed his concern about the inability to get water trucks up in the hills should a fire occur. It is nearly impossible to get a small truck up there and getting a tanker up there would be extremely difficult. In his opinion it would be worth the expenditure should an incident occur.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS - None

A. LAKETOWN – PARK MACATAWA WATER AGREEMENT

Supervisor Hofmeyer explained that this intergovernmental agreement with Park Township allows for any of the residents in the water project area to participate in the project under the same conditions put forth for the Laketown residents.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Linda Howell to approve the Laketown – Park Macatawa Water Agreement.**

Linda Howell clarified that this is not any indication that the project goes forward but if it does the Park Township residents would be able to participate which would also reduce the per parcel cost.

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

ARTICLE XI. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Jeff Prince said that from the comments made it sounds like you are going out for more bids for the water project. One item noted to alter the price would be to resurface Maksaba Trail with asphalt. Asphalt will not hold up as well concrete in the hills so please take that into consideration with the bids and efforts to cut costs. Terry Hofmeyer said if the engineers give us alternatives we will review them. Jeff said secondly we haven’t seen any plans for hydrants or home connections, I have heard that with the redesign it would be a significant distance and the lengths would increase. Is there a design of the proposed lines yet? Hofmeyer responded that the township has not received anything from Prein and Newhof yet but when they are available, the public is welcome to review them at the township office.

John Colburn Sr. questioned the addition of Park Township residents. Linda Howell said because the homes are in a different township, it spreads the cost across the two townships. Of course if more participate, the lower the cost.

ARTICLE XII. ADJOURN

A motion was made Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed Stielstra to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTON APPROVED

Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk

Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary