

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

January 10, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

Township Supervisor Linda Howell called the regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the township hall. Zoom option available for the public.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amber Davis, Jim Delaney, Patrick Dietrich, Linda Howell, Jim Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Doug DenBleyker – Graafschap Fire Department chief
Al Meshkin – Township manager
Michelle Sall – Community development director
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dietrich, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes of Dec. 13, 2023, as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE

3. FINANCIAL REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE BILLS

The board discussed the proposed bills.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Davis, to approve the December bills as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE

4. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- a. County Commissioner Jim Storey: Not present. No report.
- b. Planning Commission: Johnson. Reported on Jan.3 meeting.
- c. Zoning Board of Appeals: No report.
- d. Parks Commission: No report.
- e. Graafschap Fire Department: Chief Doug DenBleyker presented December calls: Fire/rescue calls -- 56 total, Fillmore – 0 fire calls, 16 medical/rescue calls; Laketown – 8 fire calls, 26 medical/rescue calls; Assists – 4 fire calls, 1 to Saugatuck, 1 to Hamilton, 1 to Overisel; 1 to the Allegan County Sheriff's Department Drone; 1 Medical/Rescue Calls Assists – 1 to the Allegan County Sheriff's Department for drone; 1 error page.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

Start: 6:06 p.m.

Two people spoke.

Topics: Parks salary, budget, board salaries, burn ordinance.

End: 6:12 p.m.

6. OLD BUSINESS -- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Open Burning Ordinance Amendment

Meshkin said the township has received more correspondence about proposed Ordinance No. 209 on open burning.

A motion was made by Dietrich, seconded by Delaney, to table for a new draft at the March meeting the proposed Ordinance No. 209 on open burning. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE

b. Salary Resolutions

The board discussed the proposed annual salaries for board members.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to approve Resolution 2024-01 Trustee Salary Resolution as presented.

An amendment to the motion was made by Davis, seconded by Dietrich, to add a 3 percent pay increase to Resolution 2024-01 Trustee Salary Resolution. Howell called for a vote on the amendment. ROLL CALL. YES – DAVIS, DELANEY, DIETRICH, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO—NONE. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0.

An amended motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to approve Resolution 2024-01 Trustee Salary Resolution as amended. Howell called for a vote on the amended motion. ROLL CALL. YES – DAVIS, DELANEY, DIETRICH, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO—NONE. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0.

A motion was made by Dietrich, seconded by Johnson, to approve Resolution 2024-02 Clerk Salary Resolution as presented.

An amendment to the motion was made by Dietrich, seconded by Johnson, to increase the salary to \$26,500.

An amendment to the amendment of the motion was made by Deitrich, seconded by Johnson, to approve Resolution 2024-02 Clerk Salary Resolution at \$16,500, plus a 3 percent increase in pay and \$10,000 for the additional elections for a grand total of \$26,995. Howell called for a vote on the amended motion. ROLL CALL. YES – DAVIS, DELANEY, DIETRICH, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO — NONE. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0.

A motion was made by Delaney, seconded by Dietrich, to approve Resolution 2024-03 Treasurer Salary Resolution as presented. Davis made a friendly amendment to add a 3 percent pay increase. Howell called for a vote on the amendment. ROLL CALL. YES – DAVIS, DELANEY, DIETRICH, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO — NONE. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Davis, to approve Resolution 2024-04 Supervisor Salary Resolution as presented with a 3 percent pay increase for a total of \$16,995. Howell called for a vote on the amendment. ROLL CALL. YES – DAVIS, DELANEY, DIETRICH, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO -- NONE. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0.

- c. Poverty Exemption Resolution
Meshkin explained the proposed poverty exemptions.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Davis, to approve Resolution 2024-05 Poverty Exemption Guidelines Resolution as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. ROLL CALL. YES – DAVIS, DELANEY, DIETRICH, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO -- NONE. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0.

- d. Parks Commission Interviews
Howell explained the process for interviewing three finalists for the opening on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Candidates to be interviewed: Paul Eshenaur, Gray Gogolin and Tom Hoekman. As the first candidate was interviewed, the following went outside so as not to hear the interview.

The Township Board interviewed Eshenaur, Hoekman and Goglin.

The Board discussed the candidates. **A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to appoint Tom Hoekman to the opening on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the balance of the term. Howell called for a vote on the motion. ROLL CALL. YES – DAVIS, DELANEY, DIETRICH, HOWELL, JOHNSON. NO -- NONE. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0.**

8. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Start: 7:39 p.m.

Five people spoke.

Topics: Parks, salaries, restroom millage request, open burning, inaccurate information from township in press releases.

End: 7:48 p.m.

Howell commented that she spoke with the former parks chairperson about his resignation because of personal reasons. She also said she and the township received many calls about

problems with snow removal, that the Allegan County Road Commission plows the roads, not the township and residents should not be rude or angry with township staff. She said about 3 percent of her taxes go to the township.

Johnson said about 3 percent of his taxes go to the township. He attended the annual meeting with the Allegan County Road Commission.

9. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.