

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4338 Beeline Road, Allegan County, Holland, MI 49423
WORKSHOP MINUTES
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Linda Howell called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Delaney

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin, township manager; Michelle Sall, community development director; Doug DenBleyker, Graafschap Fire Department chief; Jim Hayden, public information coordinator

(Zoom not functioning. Reset. Functioning starting about 5:10 p.m.)

ARTICLE II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Davis, second by Johnson, to approve the workshop minutes of Jan. 3, 2024. Howell called for a vote. VOICE VOTE. PASS UNANIMOUSLY 4-0.

ARTICLE III. FINANCES

The board discussed the bills and came to a consensus to put the February bills on the regular March meeting agenda.

ARTICLE IV. TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Howell asked for annual reports be submitted in writing. The Allegan County Legal Assistance Center representatives will be at the regular March meeting.
- b) The board discussed a proposed increase in pay for Board of Review members, raising pay from \$20 an hour to \$30 an hour. Meshkin noted the difficulties in the job and increases in mandated training. The board came to a consensus to put the issue on the regular March meeting agenda.
- c) The board discussed the proposed 2024-2025 budget. Meshkin went through the proposed budget.
 - The board discussed contracted services. Howell said she will reach out to all organizations to come before the board to show how Laketown residents benefit from the contracted agreements. The amounts will be left in the proposed budget.
 - The board discussed staff pay increases which are proposed to be 5 percent. Some board members want that to be 3 percent. The 5 percent increase remained in the proposed budget.
 - The board discussed the pay for election workers. Meshkin explained that early voting is new and he's not sure how that will impact future elections. The amount of \$65,000 proposed for the budget will remain but could be adjusted after the August vote to make sure there are enough funds for November.
 - The board came to a consensus to put the issue on the regular March meeting agenda.
 - The board came to a consensus to put the proposed amended budget on the regular March meeting agenda.
- d) The board discussed the proposed Huyser House demolition bid. The board came to a consensus to put the issue on the regular March meeting agenda.

ARTICLE V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- a) The board discussed proposed changes to Ordinance No. 209 on open burning and agreed it needed more work and will not be on the March regular agenda.
- b) The board discussed the invoices for painting the Old Township Hall. The board came to a consensus to send the invoices back to the Parks Commission for more information.

ARTICLE VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:49 p.m.

Five people spoke.

Topics: Contracted services, staff pay increases, Wolters House, burning ordinance, Blue Star bike path, Felt Mansion, budget.

End: 6:58 p.m.

ARTICLE VII. NEXT WORKSHOP – The next regular workshop is 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Johnson, second by Dietrich, to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Howell called for a vote. VOICE VOTE. PASS UNANIMOUSLY 4-0.