

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

May 8, 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: Al Meshkin – Township manager
Doug DenBleyker – Graafschap Fire Department chief
Michelle Sall – Community development director
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Davis, to approve the minutes of April 10, 2024, as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE

3. FINANCIAL REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE BILLS

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

4. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- a) County Commissioner Jim Storey: Submitted in writing.
- b) Planning Commission. Minutes available online.
- c) Zoning Board of Appeals. Did not meet.
- d) Parks Commission. Minutes available online.
- e) Graafschap Fire Department: Submitted in writing. Dietrich reported the fire board met and is looking at capital improvements, additional employees. The department is installing LED lights to save money in the long term. New website is up.

5. PRESENTATIONS BY CONTRACTED SERVICES NON-PROFITS

Howell said presentations should be limited to 10 minutes.

- a) Evergreen Commons – Mark DeWitt presented.
- b) 70 X 7 – Lisa Mathews presented.
- c) Fellinlove Farm – Mary Jo Bertolino presented.
- d) Holland Chorale – Jennie Reyes presented.

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

Start: 6:40 p.m.

Two people spoke.

Topics: Fire department, millage.

End: 6:44 p.m.

8. OLD BUSINESS None

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Planning Commission Resignation

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to accept with regret and appreciation the resignation of Richard Becker from the planning commission. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE. Howell will have a replacement recommendation for the June meeting.

b) 2024 Road Resurfacing Bids

Meshkin reviewed and explained the bids received. **A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Dietrich, to accept the bid from Michigan Paving and Materials Co. as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.**

c) Fire, Roads, Bike Paths and Drain Millage Renewal Resolution

Meshkin explained the proposed renewal of 2 mills for Fire, Road, Bicycle Path and Drain proposal. The millage expired on Dec. 31, 2023.

The board discussed the possibility of breaking up the categories in the millage. Meshkin recommended the board use the next two years before the next renewal to study the issue, possibly breaking it into two options – fire and infrastructure -- but to approve the current resolution today.

A motion was made by Dietrich, seconded by Davis, to put Resolution 2024-08 Fire, Board, Bicycle Path and Drain Millage Renewal Resolution as presented on the Aug. 6, 2024, ballot. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

d) Contracted Services

The board discussed contracted services funding. Meshkin stated he has modified the contracts to meet legal requirements outlined by the township attorney. He explained fireworks funding is through the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council.

Discussion followed. Howell asked Delaney for his list of recommended changes. Delaney listed his recommendations.

Dietrich said the township doesn't have to contract for these services. The township needs to have control of the agencies it funds. He supports more money for Fellinlove Farm because it's based in Laketown Township.

Johnson said all are good groups, but the township can't fund them all. Other townships and cities do not fund these groups. Howell asked Johnson to detail his suggestions.

Davis said the groups provide many services to township residents.

Howell said residents use these services and they make the community stronger.

The board asked Meshkin to provide the revised contracts to review. He will email the contracts tomorrow. Howell stated the issue of funding for contracted services will be on the June agenda.

9. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Start: 7:30 p.m.

Seven people spoke.

Topics: Contracted services, millage, budget process, bill approval, right to farm.

End: 7:46 p.m.

Howell explained the bill approval process. Johnson explained how he looks over bills.

Dietrich asked what happens if the millage fails? Meshkin said the fund balance would cover most of the expenses for a year, but then the fund balance would be depleted.

10. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.