

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

June 12, 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 (late; in at 6:01 p.m.), 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 Dietrich, to approve the minutes of May 8, 2024, as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE (Delaney not present for voting)**

3. FINANCIAL REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE BILLS

**A motion was made by Davis, seconded by Dietrich, to approve the May 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. Reported Allegan County issues.
- b) Planning Commission. Jim Johnson. No meeting. No report.
- c) Zoning Board of Appeals. Jim Delaney. Reported on meeting.
- d) Parks Commission. Brad Laninga. Reported on Huyser House, task forces.
- e) Graafschap Fire Department: Doug DenBleyker. Gave report for May: 69 total calls. Fillmore – 7 fire calls, 17 medical/rescue calls; Laketown – 8 fire calls, 29 medical/rescue calls; Assists to other departments or agencies – 5 fire calls, 2 to Hamilton, 1 to Holland, 2 to the Allegan County Sheriff's Department with the drone; 3 medical/rescue to Holland; Assists to Graafschap Fire Department from others – 1 from Saugatuck, 1 from Holland Township, 1 from Hamilton. Pancake breakfast is July 4. Dietrich reported on fire board.

5. PRESENTATIONS BY LAKESHORE ADVANTAGE – Mandy Cooper

Cooper explained activities involving Lakeshore Advantage.

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

**Start:** 6:45 p.m.

Seven people spoke.

Topics: Contracted services, community recreation plan, open burning, offices for Aug. 6 election.

**End:** 7:07 p.m.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a) Contracted Services

The board discussed fiscal year 2024-2025 township board contracted services. Davis handed out a list of proposed funding:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Davis Proposal</b>
Evergreen Commons	\$5,000	\$4,000
Holland American Legion Band	\$1,000	\$500
Holland Fireworks	\$2,000	\$1,775
Seventy X Seven	\$1,000	\$1,000
Resilience	\$2,000	\$2,000
Reach for Recovery	\$1,000	\$1,000
Allegan County Legal Assistance	\$1,000	\$1,725
Holland Chorale	\$1,000	\$500
Escape	\$1,000	\$2,000
Holland Symphony	\$1,000	\$500
Mediation Services	\$1,000	0
FellinLove Farm	\$1,000	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>

Davis said these contracted services make life better for township residents.

**A motion was made by Davis, seconded by Dietrich, to approve the FY 2024-2025 Township Board Contracted Services as presented by Davis.**

Dietrich said if this is done next year, it should be based on need.

Johnson said these payments seem like donations.

Delaney said FellinLove should get more American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Howell said Laketown is part of a larger community.

**Motion by Dietrich to drop Evergreen Commons from \$4,000 to \$1,000. No second.**

**Howell called for a vote on the motion from Davis. MOTION APPROVED 3-2 ROLL CALL VOTE. YES – DAVIS, HOWELL, DIETRICH. NO – DELANEY, JOHNSON**

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Open Burning Ordinance Appeal

Meshkin explained the township passed a new ordinance that did not allow open burning west of 66th Street. The ordinance includes an appeal process for people who want to burn. Paul Denhartigh, 4604 66<sup>th</sup> St., has requested to burn. He has open access with paved roads, near fire hydrants.

**A motion was made by Dietrich, seconded by Johnson, to grant the Denhartigh appeal based on the property being along paved streets and water on the property and other conditions presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.**

Meshkin suggested several options to handle future appeals including giving the fire chief authority to decide exceptions, list all parcels west of 66<sup>th</sup> Street and decide which ones should be exempt, or exempt any parcel that fronts 66th Street from the burn ban.

Howell instructed the original committee that developed the ordinance to meet with the chief and prepare an amendment to give the chief the authority to deal with exceptions.

### b) Macatawa Assessor's Replat

Meshkin explained the Macatawa assessor's replat, noting township approval is the first step in the process. All costs will be covered by the Macatawa group so there is no cost to the township.

**A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Davis, to approve Resolution 2024-10 Resolution to Proceed with Assessor's Plat as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 ROLL CALL VOTE. YES – DELANEY, DAVIS, HOWELL, JOHNSON, DIETRICH. NO – NONE.**

### c) Planning Commission Appointment

Howell explained her appointment of Jay Cravens to fill the remaining term of Dick Becker on the planning commission. That term expires Dec. 31, 2026.

**A motion was made by Howell, seconded by Dietrich, to appoint Jay Cravens to fill the remaining term expiring Dec. 31, 2026, of Richard Becker on the planning commission. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.**

### d) Community Recreation Plan Resolution

Meshkin explained the Laketown Township Parks and Recreation Commission Community Recreation Plan, noting the work of Sall on the plan.

**A motion was made by Dietrich, seconded by Johnson, to approve Resolution 2024-09 Community Recreation Plan as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 ROLL CALL VOTE. YES – DELANEY, DAVIS, HOWELL, JOHNSON, DIETRICH. NO – NONE.**

e) Zoning Map Amendment Ordinance

Meshkin explained the rezoning request for two parcels on Blue Star Highway from C-1 Neighborhood Business District to MU Multi-Use District. The planning commission held a public hearing and earlier approved the request.

**A motion was made by Davis, seconded by Dietrich, to support the zoning map amendment Ordinance No. 210 as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 5-0 ROLL CALL VOTE. YES – DELANEY, DAVIS, HOWELL, JOHNSON, DIETRICH. NO – NONE.**

9. CITIZENS COMMENTS

**Start:** 7:46 p.m.

Seven people spoke.

Topics: Planning commission appointment; contracted services, manager replacement, speed sign, ditch mowing, community recreation plan.

**End:** 7:55 p.m.

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.**