

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

January 10, 2007

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer called the regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer opened the meeting with prayer and Clerk Wendy Van Huis led the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Hofmeyer, Wendy Van Huis, Mike Donovan, Gary Dewey, Ed Stielstra

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra - Recording Secretary
Cal Haverdink – Graafschap Fire Department Chief

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the December 13, 2006 meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the minutes as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. TREASURER'S REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of December, 2006. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the bills as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE - None

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on January 3, 2007 and the following items were discussed: recommended to the Township Board approval of the December 22, 2006 version of the Wind Energy Conversion Amendment Ordinance; tabled the Flying J Special Use Request; recommended to the Township Board to accept the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act Text Amendment.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – No report.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Terry Burns reported spending the afternoon of January 8th at the Laketown Township office. The Allegan County Board has scheduled a strategic planning meeting on January 29th at the Felt Mansion. Additional committee appointments will take place later this month. Steve McNeal and Don Black are the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Allegan County Board of Commissioners. The jail situation is an ongoing issue that will be addressed. Terry Burns presented a list of goals and objectives to be discussed by the Board. One of the goals is county wireless technology. Terry noted making a recommendation to support the Harbor Study and also to dredge the harbor. More information will be provided after the January 11th Allegan County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Terry Hofmeyer commented that countywide wireless would be an excellent service. Terry Burns stated that the economic growth must be considered and these types of things are part of it.

D. DEPUTY SHERIFF – No report.

E. FIRE CHIEF& FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

Chief Cal Haverdink reported on the response calls for the month of December as follows: 25 calls total, 18 calls from Laketown, consisting of 14 rescue and 4 fire calls, 4 rescue and 1 fire call from Fillmore. Both departments assisted the Saugatuck Fire Department with 2 fire calls. Chief Haverdink also reported that there were 322 calls total in 2006, which is about 10-15 calls fewer than 2005. A complete 2006 report will be available soon. There is a Fire Board meeting on January 18th. The new truck will be inspected at the factory later this week by several of the fire fighters. Due to unforeseen issues, it could be mid-February before it is delivered.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – No report.

Chuck Strabbing reported that parks are doing great year around. We have entered into a partnership with The Outdoor Discovery Center that is very exciting as it increases activities and opportunities for the residents. On Saturday, January 27th, there will be a family winter walk at Huyser Park with snowshoes available if the weather is conducive. On Friday, April 13th, there will be a salamander and frog walk at Farview Farm Park and on Saturday, May 9th, there will be a bird watching activity at Sanctuary Woods. All of these dates are posted on the Laketown Township website. There are programs available for young and old and the parks are beautiful even at this time of the year.

G. BUILDING AUTHORITY

Al Meshkin reported that the Building Authority met in December to review finances and discussed potential financial opportunities for the Felt Mansion. The next meeting is January 11 at 4:00pm.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION

Supervisor Hofmeyer reported that the Annual Meeting and Budget Meeting will be held on March 14, 2007 at 7:00pm.

A motion by Gary Dewey and seconded by Mike Donovan to approve the Annual Meeting Resolution. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

B. BOARD SALARY RESOLUTIONS

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer read the Township Trustee Salary Resolution.

Mike Donovan commented that he would vote against the increase for the Trustee position. Serving in this role is really an act of giving back to the community. The positions of the Township Supervisor, Treasurer and the Clerk are far more deserving of the increase.

Ed Stielstra questioned if this action should be taken now or when the next appointment is made. Should we take these increases? Ed stated he would not be opposed to deferring the increases.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the Township Trustee Salary Resolution. Vote 3 -Yes 2 - No Motion Approved**

Supervisor Hofmeyer read the Township Treasurer Salary Resolution.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Mike Donovan to approve the Township Treasurer Salary Resolution. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Supervisor read the Township Clerk Salary Resolution.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Mike Donovan to approve the Township Clerk Salary Resolution. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Supervisor Hofmeyer read the Township Supervisor Salary Resolution.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the Township Supervisor Salary Resolution. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

C. MECHANICAL INSPECTOR RESIGNATION

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to accept with regret the resignation of Mechanical Inspector Robert Van Eyck. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Al Meshkin stated that Park Township is leading the search for a replacement for this position.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – No comments.

Ed Stielstra asked Chief Haverdink if the fire and rescue responses are tracked separately and if so does he see the fire calls decreasing? Chief Haverdink responded that fire calls are not always a true representation due to false alarms and carbon monoxide alarms going off, which necessitates a response. Ed also commented on the office hours being held at the township by the County Commissioner. Ed asked what the last proposed millage was for the Allegan County Jail initiative.

Al Meshkin responded that discussion has been at 2-3 mils and then 1 mil, most recently, but it has never actually been put on the ballot. Terry Hofmeyer asked if the location has been determined. Terry Burns responded that there are many sites being looked at and many responses to be considered. Al Meshkin stated that Susan Stratton would be facilitating the Allegan County Board

of Commissioners retreat later this month. Terry Burns responded that he is looking forward to the meeting.

Mike Donovan stated that he worked with Bob Scanlon on the jail issue and through the deputies, he received a tour of the jail. All anyone has to do is spend a half hour in the facility to see how badly needed a new jail is. Terry Burns stated that every 6-10 days inmates are released due to over crowding. The meth issue is down for now but if it does not continue to be funded, it will go up again. Funding is also needed for alcohol and other drug programs.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED