

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

August 13, 2008

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, Bob Scanlan, Ed Stielstra

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Dewey

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra - Recording Secretary

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the July 9, 2008 meetings. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the minutes as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. TREASURERS REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of July 2008. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve and pay the bills as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE - None

Terry Hofmeyer noted that he received many emails concerning the refuse topic, all of which he responded to. A letter was also received from Alex faith concerning the shared use path.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on August 6 and the following topics were discussed: approved the Muzzy Farm P.U.D. Amendment and reviewed responses to the Blue Star Sub Area Plan.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – No report.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Terry Burns

Terry Burns distributed a document detailing the Allegan County services that would be moved downtown once the new jail is built. This is a preliminary list at this time and is subject to change. Terry also invited the Board and the law enforcement officials to either a luncheon or dinner both of which will be held on August 28 on the Griswold Auditorium grounds. Please contact him for more information.

Terry Hofmeyer asked if local municipalities would be asked for input on the proposed agency moves. Terry Burns responded that contact with the various townships would be made to solicit feedback.

D. DEPUTY SHERIFF – Bob Curnick

Deputy Curnick stated that in general the summer has been going well. He reminded citizens to lock their valuables in their trunks out of site or leave them at home when visiting the parks. There have been a few break-ins at the Laketown Beach location. He also noted that low speed vehicles such as golf carts are not permitted to be on the roads. An article in the Holland Sentinel recently may have misled people to believe that they may be used on the roads.

E. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Cal Haverdink

Chief Cal Haverdink reported on the response calls for the month of July as follows: 34 calls total, 28 calls from Laketown, consisting of 21 rescue and 7 fire, 6 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 5 rescue calls and 1 fire. Cal also reported that there was a record crowd at the annual pancake breakfast serving 1350 attendees. Cal reported that FEMA has approved disaster relief monies for Allegan County in the amount of \$1570.00. Terry Hofmeyer asked if there are any additional funds being allotted. Terry Burns responded that more information should be available at a meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – No report.

G. BUILDING AUTHORITY – No report.

H. DDA – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin reported that the DDA met on July 23 and heard a presentation by McKenna and Associates. A two hour brainstorming was held that included a landscape architect.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Mary DeMaagd of 3719 64th Street stated that she is opposed to the proposed bike path on 64th Street which would be on her side of the street. She noted that the right of way of 56 feet is not necessary and would require many mature trees to be removed. She also objected to construction on this street due to the high volume of traffic and also the cost of the project to the residents. She

feels that alternate locations such as 65th Street could be considered. She asked what the upkeep and liability would be to the homeowners. There are specific trees in question and how they will be addressed on the path. She requests letters be addressed to each property owner and a meeting scheduled to discuss the width of the right of way and other issues she has mentioned.

Terry Hofmeyer stated that the right of way on that road is a full 120 feet per the county officials. Terry noted that it is not the County's intent to be malicious in destroying any properties in this project. The engineers and county officials have spent countless hours researching this project. There are funds coming from the State and Federal Governments which are received after the start of the project. Mary DeMaagd asked why the right of way cannot be at 33 feet instead of the 60 feet. Terry responded that there are many people interested in having this path constructed. Mary stated that she is not opposed to the path but is concerned with the number of trees that would have to be removed for the larger right of way. Terry stated that he would share her concerns with the engineers and county officials. He also invited Mary to attend the Parks Commission meeting on August 20th at 7:00 P.M.

Ed Stielstra asked if the Parks Commission has reviewed the final plan. Al Meshkin stated that the final plan has not been completed but should be available next week. This should be available for the August 20th meeting.

Tricia Dorn of 3707 64th Street stated that she does not approve of the construction of the bike path in excess of the 33 foot right of way and objects to the removal of many old trees on her property. The removal of the trees will be detrimental to her property in many ways. Tricia provided research data to support her concerns. She also expressed concern relative to property owner liability. She noted alternate options that would be more beneficial and less detrimental. She requests the project be put on hold until the noted issues are addressed. She provided the Board with her detailed comments in written form. Tricia Dorn asked where to go for additional information relative to the concerns mentioned. Al Meshkin stated that engineers Scott Post and Ken Thompson would be willing to come out to each property owner's home to discuss issues. There are certain federal guidelines that must be adhered to. Al Meshkin offered to call the engineers to attempt to obtain answers to the questions.

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64th Street stated his opposition to having one waste hauler in the Township. He has asked that it be put to a vote for the residents. He also expressed concern over the police officers having their own cars to take home. He noted that there are two cars that sit at the parking lot of the Graafschap Fire Station. Why is it necessary to have two cars? He would also like to have figures on the crime. Why do we have to have more officers in the township when I never see them? He claims to have seen them at the grocery stores and on Washington Avenue but not in the Township. Should we build a jail in the Township, too? This should be put on the ballot, too. Is the Township going to take over the snow removal for the dead end roads? Al Meshkin stated that the Township does not have responsibility for snow removal on streets.

Rich Rhoda of Cherrywood Subdivision stated that there are approximately 8-10 garbage trucks coming through his neighborhood every day. Why not go to an alternative solution and require them only to do their pick up certain days? There are other options than going to one hauler and putting the little guys out of business. How will the trash hauler be paid for? Terry Hofmeyer stated that it will be discussed later on the agenda. There are options for part-time residents. The billing could be done through the Township or directly to the resident.

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline Road asked that capitalism not be allowed concerning the single trash hauler. If there is additional law enforcement, will there be 24 hour coverage in the Township? With 3 other entities of law enforcement, why is it necessary?

Deb Scanzillo of 3675 64th Street asked how commercial dumpster use would be affected if the

Township is forced to one vendor. Al Meshkin stated he was sure that all residents' needs would be addressed. Also what about the bike path liability concerning heavy equipment crossing driveways? Who would be responsible for maintenance? Al Meshkin stated that the residents would not be responsible for maintenance. The liability would be the same as it is for the road in front of your house.

Cal DeMaagd of 3719 64th Street stated that it is frustrating to be a citizen in Laketown Township. The citizens have never clamored to have a bike path. The residents have not asked for it and do not want it. Now you want to take more than 33 feet from my property. My survey and my neighbors' surveys state that it is only 33 feet and not 60 feet of right of way. Where did it come from? I don't think you have it right. At a previous meeting, Al Meshkin was instructed to explore other alternatives, was that ever done? What about 65th Street or the old Interurban? Why can't we have a much wider shoulder and leave everyone's driveways alone. If this has been studied, none of us have been told about it. It seems that the Board is steam rolling a decision which is the pattern of this Board. The same is true for the single hauler nonsense. A millage for more law enforcement does not make sense. Holland City, Saugatuck, Douglas, Allegan County and the State Police all pass in front of my house every day. We do not need more police protection. Who is this Board working for? You are doing a lot of stuff that the citizens do not want you to do.

Terry Hofmeyer responded that it is frustrating to him when comments are made that are based on unfounded information. The topic of the bike path has been of interest on every parks survey done. On 64th Street there is a 120 foot road right of way. As far as the single hauler, we would like to save the residents money and alleviate extra damage to roads. Concerning the hiring of additional deputies, they will be made aware of the stated policies to be followed and held accountable. There are often numerous police agencies traveling through the Township for various justifiable reasons. If you had attended the meetings wherein there was a presentation on the cost of accidents and crime, you would have been made aware of the data provided to support the need for additional preventative action.

Cal DeMaagd stated that the Board may think this is a good idea but the last time it came up for vote, it was turned down by more than a 2 to 1 ratio. What has changed?

Terry Hofmeyer stated that the residents may now be more cognizant of the increased need for more coverage.

Al Meshkin stated that the vote in 2005 was an off year vote and a very small voter turn-out occurred which was not representative of the township residents. This year will be an election year and the turn-out will likely be at 80% or more.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. SOUTH HILL WATER S.A.D. RESOLUTIONS

Terry Hofmeyer gave a brief overview of the resolutions.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the South Hill Water S.A.D. Resolution No. 1. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED.**

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to**

approve South Hill Water S.A.D. Resolution No. 2, setting the date of Monday, September 8 at 7:00 P.M. for the public hearing. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

B. SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON SINGLE WASTE HAULER

Al Meshkin gave a brief overview of the RFP (Request for Proposals) received for the single waster hauler. Al reviewed the requirements for the bids that included a choice of container sizes, curb side service, allowances for the handi-capped and Township clean-up dates to be held within a 5 mile radius of the Township two times a year. There would be a 3-year price guarantee with the exception of variables for the fuel surcharge.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the date for the Public Hearing on Single Waste Hauler for Monday, September 8 at 7:00 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Ed Stielstra asked if a bag option versus container would be feasible. Al Meshkin stated it would not be an option due to the vulnerability of animal issues with the use of bags.

C. LAW ENFORCEMENT MILLAGE RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer gave an overview of the resolution that would place a .95 mil on the November ballot.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the Law Enforcement Millage Resolution on the November millage vote. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Bob Scanlan noted that there are other benefits to having additional law enforcement in the Township that would reduce costs and increase the safety of the residents. The coverage for Allegan County is very, very low as it stands today. The State Police are not on the streets after 1:00 A.M in the morning.

Ed Stielstra encouraged those who would want to present research on any of these topics have valid facts to present not based on emotion.

Al Meshkin clarified that the Allegan County patrol cars parked at the Fire Station are those of officers living in Ottawa County that cannot be driven home.

D. FALL FEST/FIRE SAFETY WEEK AT FELT MANSION

Al Meshkin stated that the Felt Mansion holds a variety of events that are available to the residents for stated fees. This event would be free to the residents and anyone in general. Food would be served along with demonstrations by the Fire and Police Departments. The amount being requested for approval by the Board to support this event would not exceed \$3,000.00.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00 for the Fall Fest/ Public Safety Event at the Felt Mansion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Al Meshkin stated that this would be a family event with a number of activities for children.

Bob Scanlan asked what the occupancy is at the mansion on a weekly basis at the mansion. Al

Meshkin stated that it is booked almost every weekend through the remainder of the year.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Keith Becksvoort 3364 64th Street asked if the public hearings would be published in the newspaper. Al Meshkin stated that all public hearings are published in the newspaper.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to adjourn at 8:13 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED