

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

December 10, 2008

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

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

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE

Gary Dewey opened the meeting with prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Scanlan

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

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the November 12, 2008 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. TREASURERS REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of November 2008. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve and pay the bills as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE - None

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on December 3, 2009 and discussed the proposal from McKenna & Associates. The Commission voted to ask the planner to move forward with preparing a final draft of Task A of the Zoning Ordinance review proposal. The DDA will be present at the next meeting will be in January.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Al Meshkin

The Board met on November 24 and tabled the Nykerk Variance Request until the January 26, 2009 meeting.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Terry Burns

Terry Burns reported that the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission provided information on disaster relief funds through FEMA related to the storms in June of 2008. The funds are available for those with household incomes of less than \$41,000. The Allegan Health Department is working on better disposal of old medicines instead of flushing them into the sewer/septic system. There will be more information forthcoming on this. The organizational meeting will be held on January 9, 2009.

Ed Stielstra commented on the conversation he had with the new person that is in charge of the toxic waste issues in Allegan County. He found her very helpful was very impressed with her knowledge.

D. DEPUTY SHERIFF – No report.

E. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

Chief Haverdink reported on the response calls for the month of November as follows: 25 calls total, 18 calls from Laketown, consisting of 14 rescue and 3 fire, 8 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 6 rescue calls and 2 fire. Chief Haverdink reported that it appears that the overall calls for the year will be less than last year, which he attributes to less road traffic as a result of higher gas prices.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – Chuck Strabbing

Chuck Strabbing expressed appreciation to the Board for the support given to the Commission this year. The Parks Commission has accomplished many great things this year and would not be able to do so without the support of the Board.

G. BUILDING AUTHORITY – No report.

H. DDA – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin reported that the DDA met on December 3 and approved the draft document of the McKenna and Associates plan.

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

Kevin Fitch of 3665 63rd Street asked when the meeting is with the DDA and Planning Commission. Al Meshkin responded that it will be January 7, 2009 at 7:00PM. He also noted that he would be submitting a letter to the Board stating that he and his wife are very pleased with the direction that the Planning Commission is going and encourages them to continue to seek the advice of the professional planners in regards to the Blue Star Corridor Project.

George Smeenge of Beeline Road stated that he is on the Commission for the Aging and said it has been going very well. He has been appointed to continue his role on the Commission for three more years. He reported that the millage that was approved in 2006 for the aging residents of the Allegan County is being put to very good use.

Keith Becksvoort of 64th Street stated that it is nice to see such a good turnout for this meeting tonight and suggested that everyone should be at every meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. I2K LEASE AGREEMENT

Al Meshkin gave a brief overview of the lease agreement to install a wireless internet tower on the Township property.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the I2K Lease Agreement. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Ed Stielstra asked if we would have the ability to put our own antennas on the tower for public safety purposes. Al Meshkin responded that yes, the Township would have that option.

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION AND FEE

Terry Hofmeyer gave a brief overview of the application and fee details.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the Liquor License Application Form and Fee. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. SCHEDULE DDA PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Al Meshkin explained that the DDA completed and approved the final document for the TIF Plan and has recommended approval from the Board for the public hearing on January 14, 2009.

A motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to schedule the DDA Plan Public Hearing for January 14, 2009 at 7:00PM. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

C. PARKS COMMISSION SIZE REDUCTION RESOLUTION

Al Meshkin explained the request for a reduction in the size of the Parks Commission.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the Parks Commission Size Resolution. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

D. VARIOUS APPOINTMENTS

Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the various appointments and reappointments for the following positions:

Planning Commission: reappointment of Al Dogger and Ed Stielstra
Zoning Board of Appeals: reappointment of Bob Scanlan
Building Authority: John Capotosto
Board of Review: Don Van Huis, Warren Rasmussen, Laura Canaan and Robert Jaskulski

Following discussion a **motion was made by Gary Dewey and Wendy Van Huis to approve the above noted reappointments. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

George Smeenge of 3977 Beeline Road stated that he appreciates the improvements made on 140th Street. He stated that he is also on a Transportation Survey Board in Allegan County. The Survey Board is interested in finding out what the needs are in the county and from that put together an improvement plan to the current services. There will be focus meetings and opportunities to take the survey. George is able to provide information for those interested. He expressed the importance to support this type of program.

Terry Hofmeyer commented that he was on the Disability Network Committee and understands that Ottawa County is also planning to do a survey.

Cal DeMaagd of 3719 64th Street asked if the Township is looking at what the budget might look like if we are getting less revenue from the State and Federal funding. If we fear that we are not in good shape, are we looking forward as what to do? Terry Hofmeyer explained that we are very aware of the financial concerns and continues to be under review. It is taken into consideration in all planning. Cal asked if we know if we are getting what is planned for or if it will be less. Al Meshkin stated that we will probably budget for the same amount of incoming revenue as was used last year in an effort to be conservative.

Gary Dewey stated that the State revenue sharing funds have been decreasing for a number of years and we budget accordingly.

Terry Burns stated that the revenue sharing is based on a number of criteria and is rather complicated to explain. Al Meshkin stated that there are new legislators in Lansing that are trying to change the formula currently used based on the population of the Township. The greater the population, the more of the funding you receive. The larger municipalities receive the most shares and Townships are expected to do more with much less.

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline asked about the bike path and the single waste hauler. He asks that the Board take into consideration the small businessmen who would be losing their employment should the single waste hauler concept be approved. In today's economy we don't need any more unemployment.

Terry Hofmeyer stated that in regards to the bike path conversations have begun with the engineers on alternatives for different routing options that might be more acceptable to those in opposition. It may address some of the concerns with the placement of the path at certain areas.

Marty DeHaan of 4229 Beeline stated that he does not want the bike path to come by his house. He wants the kind of setting that he has. He understands fully why the other side might want it. How would he go about being involved in the decision making process. Terry Hofmeyer stated that he could certainly come in to the township to speak to Al Meshkin about the plans.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED