

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

February 11, 2009

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

Township Clerk Wendy Van Huis opened the meeting with prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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 January 14, 2009 meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan 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 January 2009. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve and pay the bills as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer noted on record a letter that was received from resident Duane Johnson commending the Board for not taking a pay increase in the upcoming budget year. He also expressed appreciation for Fire Chief Cal Haverdink and his staff. He also asked if it is possible to know whether or not the call numbers have increased or decreased from 2007 to 2008. Chief

Haverdink responded that there were 15 fewer calls in 2008 than in 2007. Mr. Johnson also expressed concern in regards to snowmobiles on the Township roads.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission did not meet in February. The Commission is anticipating a response from McKenna and Associates at the March meeting.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – No report.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Terry Burns

Terry Burns distributed a copy of the notes from a recent revenue and budget meeting he attended discussing the State budget issues and the stimulus proposal. He asked that the Board members review the information and contact him with any questions. He quoted highlights from the information detailing expected revenue income and for 2009 and 2010. In general the State will see a decline in revenue income. He noted that the State has lost an average of \$88 million on the film industry proposal which was intended to increase revenue and employment in the State. The deficit for the General Fund will require an increase in the original funding requests. Terry Hofmeyer noted that it is a grim picture for state and local governments. Terry Burns stated that Allegan County is in good shape fiscally and we need to keep it that way.

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64th Street commented that the Governor is expecting this stimulus package to keep the State afloat. Should we throw everyone out of Lansing and Washington, D.C.?

Terry Burns suggests that residents contact their government officials to voice their opinions.

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 January as follows: 31 calls total, 26 calls from Laketown, consisting of 24 rescue and 2 fire, 4 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 3 rescue calls and 1 fire. Both departments also assisted Holland Township Fire Department in 1 rescue call near the Ottagan borderline.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – No report.

G. DDA – No report.

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

Representative Bob Genetski reported that he has received many calls from residents in regards to difficulties in contacting the Unemployment Insurance Agency. The State did not anticipate the number of clients for the months of December and January. The MARVIN system shuts down at 7:00pm due to technical difficulties. It is recommended to use the on-line service. The revenue conference reported that the State is \$250 million dollars in the red. This includes the anticipation of stimulus monies for the budget. This year Michigan is projected to lose 193,000 jobs. We are expected to bottom out at 11% unemployment rate by the end of this year. The Governor gave

GOP members a brief time to discuss the surcharge on small business tax. Many small businesses are struggling to the point of potential closures. The smoking ban is a topic again and residents should voice their opinion. Transparency are being pushed again to enable residents to see every dollar the State spends. The local assessing process is also being reviewed. On the bright side a resident of Laketown Township gave a raving review on the first responder team in the Township. There was a resident question concerning who is against the transparencies. The Governor's budget will hit desks tomorrow.

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline questioned why Chef Container was given a 5-year contract when other small businesses were given a 3-year option? Why were three references from similar government entities requested? Why did the hauler have to provide a location for township clean ups within a 5 mile radius of the Township? Why did Chef's bid mysteriously come in lower after other smaller hauler business bids were submitted? Mr. Becksvoort questioned why it seems that there is some mystery in the way this was handled.

Judy Fetters of 6471 Maple Lane spoke in support of Mr. Becksvoort in that it does not seem fair how this single hauler situation was handled. She realizes that there was a survey card sent and feels that there was some misunderstanding in the survey distribution. Ms. Fetters stated that she contacted all Board members and was disappointed in the outcome.

Dave Simmons of Macatawa Disposal commented on the price of the single hauler rates. He noted that he has offered service to residents at \$15.00 per month. The way this was handled was wrong and this will cause at least two lost days of work for his employees.

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64th Street spoke in support of Randy Becksvoort's comments.

Al Meshkin responded to comments. The original request for proposal was at a three years plus a three year option. The RFP also asked the vendors for feedback and how the package could be made better. He was advised that a 5-year contract would allow the hauler to amortize the price of the container over the longer time period, thus reducing monthly costs. Only 3 out of 7 haulers responded to the request for proposal. Macatawa Disposal was not one of the respondents. Three municipal references are typical for such a contract. The five mile radius is for the convenience to the residents to drop off for the Township clean up dates. Once again, the vendors could make suggestions on how to improve. Arrowaste suggested doing curbside clean ups. They were willing to come to the homes and pick up. Al Meshkin acknowledges the economic difficulties for the small businesses but also acknowledged the cost savings to the residents, and our residents are our responsibility. Meshkin commented that while the \$15.00 currently charged by Macatawa Disposal is a good rate, now Laketown residents will get the same service, plus additional services, for only \$11.31.

Wendy Van Huis commented that the Board also looked at the recycling option with other haulers only to find that it would be an additional cost with the other haulers wherein it is included with this provider. She also noted that the contract is available for public review at the Township Office.

Bob Scanlan commented that this is the first time these comments have been raised and the topic has been under open discussion for almost two years.

Ed Stielstra stated that he did not realize that Macatawa Disposal was available outside of that specific area. The Board did not wait for a blizzard like day to vote on this topic. He also does not understand the misunderstanding when the Township Office has always been available for questions.

Terry Hofmeyer noted that the single hauler waste topic has been under discussion for at least six or seven months at each Board meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. BELVEDERE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the Resolution 2009-06 to approve the issuance of a liquor license including a dance permit. The application submitted was very complete.

Peter Ta spoke on behalf of the business stating that a very thoughtful application has been put before the Board. The intention is to continue the restaurant, overnight guest and wedding event business.

Al Meshkin noted that the company name should be Belvedere Acquisition Company Incorporated.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and Bob Scanlan to approve the Resolution approving the Belvedere Liquor License Application. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEAL APPOINTMENT

Terry Hofmeyer asked for Board approval to appoint Bob Slikkers and reappoint Carl Blauwkamp to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve the appointments of Bob Slikkers and Carl Blauwkamp to the Zoning Board of Appeals. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Jennifer Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline Road asked if a new request for proposal could be issued for a 5-year proposal for the single waste hauler contract. Al Meshkin responded that it could not be reissued as it would be a violation to the current contract. A new request for proposal may be an option at the end of this 5-year contract.

Cal DeMaadg of 3719 64th Street stated that there are a lot of unhappy residents in regards to the single waste hauler agreement. The Board is supposed to be here to serve the residents and he wonders where that feeling is. He asked the County Commissioner if there is a way for the citizens to overturn the Township Ordinance. It must be doable if the Board acts in opposition of the majority of the residents. He asked that the Commissioner find out what the process would be.

Judy Fetters of 6471 Maple Lane stated that Mr. Hofmeyer runs a good meeting.

Kevin Fitch of 3665 63rd Street stated that the home he lives in was once part of the Belvedere Estate. He spoke in support of the Board's decision to grant the liquor license as the owners have been a very good neighbor and deserve the license.

Terry Hofmeyer asked if there is a referendum process to address overturning the ordinance. Wendy Van Huis stated that only applies to zoning ordinances.

Ed Stielstra stated that in regards to the single waste hauler contract, there was a change in the contract during negotiations that made a difference in the Board's decision making. That change was to not make it mandatory and that was a strong factor in the Board's decision to support the contract.

Gary Dewey commented on the paper distributed by Cal DeMaagd with bold letters at the top stating "BAD GOVERNMENT" and it is not true. He stated that he has served for many years in various positions. There are very few residents that attend the meetings where discussion and decisions are made. Where is the activity in the democracy? It is very disappointing. He stated that he had only received two calls in regards to the contract. He encourages citizens to attend these meetings to voice their opinions.

Keith Beckvoort stated that the meeting time for the workshop meetings is not convenient at 4:00 pm as most people are working at that time.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed Stielstra to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED