

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

January 14, 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

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer 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 December 10, 2008 meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey 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 December 2008. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve and pay the bills as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Hofmeyer stated that one letter was received from Duane Johnson relative to the Board's responsibility given the current economic issues. Mr. Johnson encouraged the Board to be mindful of their roles of serving the residents when making decision during these difficult economic times. The letter was received into record.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on January 7, 2009 in conjunction with the Downtown Development Authority. John Jackson of McKenna & Associates presented a Visual Preference Survey asking members of both boards and the audience to participate in the survey. The results will be provided at the next Planning Commission meeting on February 4. The 64th Street Café/Bakery item remained tabled.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – No report.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – No report.

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 December as follows: 31 calls total, 26 calls from Laketown, consisting of 18 rescue and 8 fire, 3 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 3 rescue calls and 0 fire. There were two assists to Hamilton, one rescue and one fire. Chief Haverdink also reported the call volume for 2008 was 356 total with a breakdown of 206 rescue and 61 fire calls for Laketown Township and 54 rescue and 21 fire calls for Fillmore Township along with 14 assists to other departments. The total call volume was down 15 from 2007. The total fire loss in Laketown Township for 2008 was \$60,000 and \$16,000 for Fillmore Township. A detailed report of 2008 calls will be available in the very near future at the Township Office.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – No report.

G. BUILDING AUTHORITY – No report.

H. DDA – No report.

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

Cal DeMaadg of 3719 64th Street stated that it seems that our Board is making efforts to make a contract for a single waste hauler even though there are over 400 households that do not want it. It seems that we are pushing this on an awful lot of people that do not want it. When we get to the budget things later, most townships don’t have a full-time manager until they have over 12,000 residents and that position is getting paid over \$80,000. Our manager is paid more than four times the amount based on the number of residents.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. SINGLE WASTE HAULER LICENSING ORDINANCE

Al Meshkin explained that the ordinance would allow for one single waste hauler in the township

for all residential building of four or fewer dwelling units. The service is not mandatory. With this ordinance, if the resident has another legal method of removing trash, they would not be required to sign up with the waste hauler. This is a major change from what was previously discussed. The effective date of the ordinance would be April 1, 2009.

Gary Dewey asked how this ordinance would be enforced. Al Meshkin responded that the only real enforcement would be the obvious presence of another hauler in the Township.

Wendy Van Huis commented that it is a real plus that this is no longer mandatory.

Ed Stielstra stated that the bag specified in the ordinance should indicate the strength of the material. Terry Hofmeyer noted that the waste hauler would address that. Ed stated that in regards to 17.02, would it address the size of the waste vehicle and whether it would be fully closed? Al Meshkin responded that the vehicle would have to be enclosed.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the Single Waste Hauler Licensing Ordinance. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. WASTE HAULER CONTRACT

Al Meshkin gave a brief overview of the Waste Hauler Contract. The contract includes the contract itself, the ordinance the request for proposal and the contractor's responses including the fuel surcharge details. The contract includes coupons for Township clean-up options two times a year. There are various services available and ancillary options, such as door service, etc. The billing would be quarterly with the fuel surcharge based on the previous 3-month quarter fuel prices. The potential ranges are detailed in the contract for all levels of service. The length of the contract is five (5) years with the Township's option to renew.

Bob Scanlan congratulated Al Meshkin for putting together a very detailed presentation and documentation. Wendy Van Huis concurred.

Ed Stielstra asked if someone would put regular yard waste in a regular waste receptacle what would happen. Al Meshkin stated that such a practice is against the State law. How would the recycling be handled for Castle Park given their seasonal situations. Al responded that it would be handled in the same manner. The recycling is encouraged. The clean up option for Castle Park seasonal residents would be one coupon per year. Stable waste could be handled with the use of a dumpster receptacle option. Ed stated that the previous rejections raised were handled very well by Al. The free enterprise issue has been discussed thoroughly and due to the current budget constraints for the Township, this is the most cost effective option.

Terry Hofmeyer noted that he and Gary Dewey had attended a meeting today in Saugatuck. The City of Saugatuck is also in the process of moving ahead with the single hauler method and the City Manager also found it to be a cost effective change.

Bob Scanlan stated that if you read the contracts and compare to what we have now, you would see this is clearly the best option.

Ed Stielstra commented that as of the Board workshop a week ago, it was not clear how the vote might go tonight. As recently as a week ago, a number of members of the Board were on the tipping point for their vote. This was not a predetermined decision. Terry Hofmeyer stated that the Board members have raised a number of questions and concerns prior to finalizing the ordinance and contract over the past few months.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the Waste Hauler Contract. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. DDA PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Al Meshkin stated that the DDA was formed in June and they have been working with McKenna & Associates on this broad brush proposal of what might be developed in the Blue Star Highway Corridor. The DDA Plan does not raise taxes but is a method of capturing tax revenue as a result of the development. More discussion is needed with Allegan County to obtain their acceptance with the plan.

Terry Hofmeyer opened for public hearing.

Marcia Perry of 6248 Blue Star Highway stated that she has been involved in the forming of the plan. She mentioned that she has a few concerns about the current document such as the description of the area in that it is somewhat vague and confusing. It is noted that commercial use is the dominant use of the land and does not address the agricultural uses. The goal is to maintain a very rural look with open space and that is not mentioned in the plan. The initial projected growth rate used for the area was 2-3% and she feels this is a very liberal estimate given the current economy. The plan does represent a positive forward step in land usages for the future.

Terry Hofmeyer closed the public hearing.

The item will be tabled until Al Meshkin completes discussions with Allegan County and will be brought back to the Board for approval at a later time.

B. CASTLE PARK WATER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Al Meshkin gave a brief overview of the Castle Park Water Construction Contract. This contract would bring the water line to the entrance of Castle Park.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve the Castle Park Water Construction Contract. UNANIMOUS DEICISON – MOTION APPROVED**

C. WATER & SEWER FEE SCHEDULES

Al Meshkin reviewed the Water & Sewer Fee Schedules. It has been many years since these charges have been reviewed and increased. The inspection and meter fees have not been increased.

Ed Stielstra asked if this would apply to Castle Park. Al Meshkin stated it does not apply to Castle Park as there costs were previously locked in with the special assessment process.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the Water & Sewer Fee Schedules. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

D. RENTAL UNIT REGULATION ORDINANCE

Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the Rental Unit Regulation Ordinance. Al Meshkin stated that this

ordinance requires property owners to meet stated regulations on rental units of more than single family rental dwelling units.

Following discussion **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the Rental Unit Regulation Ordinance. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

E. RECERTIFICATION OF ZONING MAP

Al Meshkin gave a brief overview of the Recertification of Zoning Map. Al explained that this recertification brings the Township Zoning Map up to the current up to date format that is digital and easily reproduced. It will be available on the website or purchased at the Township Office for \$5.00. Any future changes would be done by way of an ordinance and noted accordingly on the map.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the Recertification of Zoning Map. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

F. ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer announced the Annual Meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the date of March 11, 2009 for the Annual Meeting. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

G. SALARY RESOLUTIONS

Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the following Salary Resolutions:

Resolution 2009-02 for Township Trustee - \$3,500.00
Resolution 2009-03 for Township Clerk - \$13,500.00
Resolution 2009-04 for Township Treasurer - \$18,000.00
Resolution 2009-05 for Township Supervisor - \$15,500.00

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the Salary Resolutions as stated. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

H. PC & ZBA APPOINTMENTS

Terry Hofmeyer announced the following appointments as noted for the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals:

Al Dogger – Planning Commission 3-year term
Herb Johnson – Zoning Board of Appeals 3-year term

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the PC and ZBA Appointments. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

I. TIBBE DRAIN PROJECT

Al Meshkin gave a brief overview of the two bids for repair of the Tibbe Drain on 66th Street necessary as a result of the June storm. Al described the details of the area which included 3,000 feet of drain. The total of the project would be \$203,000 which would be shared with FEMA and the County. The expense to the Township would be approximately \$56,000 which could be spread over a 4-year period. The Township has a millage that covers drainage work in the township.

Ed Stielstra asked if there would be work done on the west side of the road and a retention dam built. Al Meshkin stated that the work would be done on the east side of the road only and no retention dam would be done. Ed also questioned size of the riprap and whether or not it is adequate. Al responded that he had discussed this with the engineer and was assured it is adequate. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the bid for the Tibbe Drain Project. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Randy Becksvoort of 3939 Beeline stated that he is appalled that the Township has gone ahead with the single waste hauler limiting the free enterprise. He doesn’t understand how anyone in government can take away the right of small business. As for the drainage, we should be able to pay for the \$56,000 from the savings from the garbage. If we are going to work on the ditch on 66th Street why not fix it right? Al Meshkin stated he believed it is a right of way issue.

Keith Becksvoort 4468 64th Street asked if the drain on 66th Street would be dug deeper. How would that be done? It amazes me that with the last fall that we had the water was running over the road and it undermines how it runs over the ditch. If it isn’t dug out in the west as well, how is it going to be repaired? What about the piece of 145th to the culvert? Al Meshkin stated that the particular engineer involved is Glenn Pomp and he has a strong background of expertise in this area and is also a resident of the Township with a knowledge of the area.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED