

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

June 11, 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 Bob Scanlan led the pledge of allegiance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the May 14, 2008 meetings. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey 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 May 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 Terry Hofmeyer stated this will be the last Township meeting to be broadcast on the MAC-TV due to changes in the programming and financial support. All meeting coverage and broadcasting will be terminated on June 25, 2008. The Township is investigating alternatives options.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on June 4, 2008 at which time they approved the Westshore Recycling P.U.D. Amendment, approved the McAuliffe Site Plan and partially approved the 64th Street Bakery and Café Special Use Request for retail indoor sales only on the first floor and the restaurant/café.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – No report.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Terry Burns

Terry Burns congratulated the Fire Department on the fine work they did supporting the relief efforts due to the storms. Terry recognized Al Meshkin as the recipient of the John Swainson Award for Outstanding Contribution to Historical Restoration. He also commented on the great Blue and Green Event held at the Felt Mansion last weekend. Terry reported that the RFP has been sent out for the jail planner and he also gave details on the proposed millage levy.

Terry Hofmeyer also recognized Al Meshkin for the award he received and Bob Scanlan commended Al on his efforts.

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 May as follows: 27 calls total, 22 calls from Laketown, consisting of 18 rescue and 4 fire, 4 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 3 rescue calls and 1 fire. Laketown also assisted in 1 rescue call to the Holland Fire Department. The annual 4th of July Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Graafschap Fire Department and everyone is invited to celebrate the 40th Annual Breakfast. The American Legion Band will also be on hand to provide entertainment.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – Chuck Strabbing

Chuck Strabbing reported that the Parks Commission met on May 21 at the Huyser Farm. The next meeting will be held at Shore Acres Park on June 18. The summer meetings will be held at the various parks. The next volunteer work meeting is scheduled for June 23 from 6:30-8:30 at Laketown Beach for a general cleanup. Last month we were asked about the mustard weed so we have asked the West Michigan Land Conservancy to assist with the clean up in the spring. There is a wonderful park by Castle Park that is part of the Conservancy that has great trails throughout the preserve. The Felt Mansion is looking for excess plants to be donated and used on the grounds. Chuck invited anyone to come help work on the landscape at the mansion.

Ed Stielstra asked if you want annuals and/or perennials. Chuck said both are welcome.

Terry Hofmeyer noted that Chuck Strabbing is one of the most avid volunteers in the Township.

G. BUILDING AUTHORITY – No report.

H. DDA – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin reported that the DDA met on May 28 and reviewed the responses to the RFP for planning consultants. Two weeks from tonight they will be interviewing the three respondents to

the RFP.

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

Cal De Maagd of 3719 64th Street asked why we are getting a sales job from the Allegan County Sheriff. It is my feeling that we have more than enough of them already. I often see cruisers parked and I feel there is no shortage of them.

Terry Hofmeyer stated that we are looking at contracting additional deputies in an effort to be responsible to our citizens. There may be a millage proposal put on the ballot to increase to four deputies in the future.

Ed Stielstra spoke to the recent severe storm and the fatalities last week-end noting that there is a condition on 66th Street that comes very close to potential for erosion. Ed would like to alert residents to this condition.

Cal Haverdink stated that the other side of that specific creek on 66th Street is eroding under the trees causing potential to fall.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION BY ALLEGAN COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT (presented at the beginning of the meeting after approval of minutes)

Under-Sheriff Jim Hull and Lieutenant Frank Baker provided a presentation on road patrol and road patrol strength. Information was provided on the cost of accidents and crime in Allegan County. Laketown Township has contracted 2 of the 59 county officers serving the Township. Lt. Baker provided an overview of how deputies are assigned to duty per shift throughout the county. The Township could have 24/7 coverage if two contract deputies would be added to the force. General patrol deputies cover six counties during their shift versus a dedicated township patrol deputy.

Ed Stielstra asked if there is specific data available on road miles within the township and on tax base of the township as both relate to deputy coverage.

George Smeenge commented that he has seen nothing in the presentation that convinces him that we need more coverage. He would like to know actual data on number of calls and response time. Lt. Baker responded that he could provide additional information.

B. LIQUOR LICENSE ISSUING RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the topic and stated that there is a proposal on the ballot in regards to liquor sales in the Township particularly in a restaurant food service environment. Al Meshkin noted that the area for tabletop sales is limited to the Downtown Development Area. The resolution provides guidelines on how the license would be approved. Copies of the resolution are available for resident review. Terry advised that the intent is to table the item tonight to allow for citizen review.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to table the Liquor License Issuing Resolution until the July 9th meeting. UNANIMOUS DECISION –**

MOTION APPROVED

C. CULVERT REPLACEMENT ON ISLAND LAKE ROAD

Terry Hofmeyer gave a brief explanation of the need for the culvert replacement on Island Lake Road. Al Meshkin explained that the Allegan County Road Commission is responsible for culverts that are 30 inches or below. This culvert is 36” and requires the Township to cover the cost of replacement. Ed Stielstra asked what the Township liability might be for similar situations. Al responded that the majority of the culverts are concrete and very few are steel which require replacement approximately every 15 years.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the Culvert Replacement on Island Lake Road. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Bob Genetski introduced himself as a candidate as state representatives. He is a teacher of high risk students in the area who live in challenged conditions. He reviewed the current issues of the state economy and his opinion of what should be done to correct the issues. He also addressed the prison system, the college expenses and prevailing wage. He would like appreciate consideration on August 5th.

Chuck Strabbing stated that the deputy isn’t here but he would like to make residents aware of the Bike Rodeo at Park Reformed Church on Saturday, June 21 at 10am-1:00pm. Both the Fire Department and the Laketown Township Deputies will be at the event along with free hot dogs and beverages. There is no charge for the event.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to adjourn at 8:17 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED