

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

ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2009

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer called the annual Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE

Ed Stielstra 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
Kathy Stoike – Finance
Mary Geurink – Deputy Clerk
Charlene Fields – Deputy Treasurer
Paul Smith – Township Assessor
Bob Curnick – Township Deputy
Cal Haverdink – Fire Chief
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2008 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the March 12, 2008 annual meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Udellis Kuipers and seconded by Don Van Huis to approve the minutes as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. OPENING COMMENTS – SUPERVISOR TERRY HOFMEYER

Supervisor Hofmeyer thanked the Township Staff for their excellent performance. He also thanked the volunteers for their service in the Township.

ARTICLE V. REPORT OF OFFICERS

a. State Representative – Bob Genetski – not available

b. Allegan County Commissioner – Terry Burns

Terry Burns stated that Laketown Township is a general law township. The Board consists of a supervisor, treasurer, clerk and two trustees. General law townships are funded by revenue sharing. The county cannot and will not oversee laws or ordinances of the township. Terry will provide a detailed description of this information in a document that will be available in the township office. Terry also noted that he has a survey he would like residents to provide feedback and return them to the township office. Health insurance is an issue he would like to address. He went to the county health department asking for information on services available to the township residents. There are limited services for women's health screenings at no charge. There will be stimulus money received by Saugatuck for dredging the channel. There will be some MACC funds available to be used on the roads.

c. Allegan County Commission on Aging – George Smeenge

George Smeenge represents the township on the Allegan County Commission on Aging. George thanked residents for the senior millage that was passed in 2006. It provides great service to the seniors in the county and townships. He also spoke on the homeless program called Allegan County Resource Development Committee that received a one million dollar grant for weatherization for people in need of home repairs. He will leave a brochure with this information. He explained that he is a senior and knows that he is in good health. The senior millage passed in August of 2006 and the committee got off to a rough start but by 2007 there were 600 people helped by \$500,000 in funds and in 2008 1,000 people were helped. The offices of senior and veteran services are at the Dumont Lake Complex. Additional staff will be added this year to resolve the personnel and communication disconnects. There are new contracts out with six new providers for services for things like personal care, respite care, homemaking, hot delivered meals to residents and volunteer transportation. Evergreen Commons are providers for some basic processes. The services starting this year are companion services, senior smiles with comfort and joy, chore services and public education/wellness. The Commission on Aging is not just here to help the people who are old and in bad health. We are here to help the healthy residents, too to stay healthy. Five percent of the effort will be to help younger healthy people to stay healthy and plan for the aging process. Make it a priority to stay well and help those who are not.

d. Planning Commission – Bob Cook

Bob Cook reported that the Planning Commission had a light year. There was one development approved for the Muzzy Farm, the Blue Star Corridor, Chef Container Recycling and the 64th Street Bakery were the major projects for the year.

e. Zoning Board of Appeals – No report

f. Parks Commission – Linda Howell

Linda Howell reported that the Parks Commission had a good year. The Commission took a non-performing asset and turned it into a profitable venture. Nick Otting is renting the small Husyer Farm house. He is staying at the house and watching over the farm and also oversees the other township parks doing light maintenance work. Many improvements have been made in the parks without spending a lot of money. One example is the recycling of the concrete from the old prison structures to be used for a new driveway at the Huyser Farm. The new bike path to connect the township roads to Blue Star Highway into Saugatuck is progressing and work should begin this summer. We continue to work with the Outdoor Discovery Center to partner with their programs. A Coastal Management Grant has been submitted to maintain the Laketown Beach and improve the stairs building them above the sand level. Linda encouraged residents to get out and enjoy the many beautiful township parks and invites those interested to attend the monthly Parks Commission meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

g. Deputies – Bob Curnick

Deputy Curnick reported that there were 1,024 calls in the last year ranging from neighbor disputes to larceny to a fatal car crash. Property damage accidents stayed the same as in 2007, larcenies were down by two and personal injuries were down by 13. Car/deer accidents were up slightly. The deputies helped with the bicycle rodeo, triathlon that was held in the township and also passed out glow sticks on Halloween night. Deputy Curnick encouraged residents to use the parks but when doing so leave your valuables at home or put them in the trunk out of sight to avoid larceny.

h. Felt Mansion Project Manager – Pat Meyer

Pat Meyer reported that on April 13 of 2002 was the date that work first began on the mansion and it is now recognized on state and federal levels. Rental revenues for the last year were projected to be \$45,000 but the actual income was approximately \$82,500. We are looking forward to another successful year in 2009. In addition to the rental business there are many events planned for this year which include the July 19th Green and Blues Festival featuring a reunion of local bands from the 1970's such as Cabbage Creek and others. This will be a fun family event. The mansion also gained status as a 501(3)(c) which will allow for more grant opportunities on state and federal levels. Pat Meyer expressed appreciation for the continued support from the township.

i. Fire Board – Bill Sikkel

Bill Sikkel reported that the law enforcement deputies and fire fighters are people we don't always appreciate but we should. They are a pleasure to work with. The Fire Board represents both Laketown and Fillmore Townships. This year the department was provided with new fire call out gear to improve the safety of the fire fighters. Every year an evaluation is done on the equipment for necessary repair and/or replacement. The last piece of equipment added this year will provide the ability to save many lives. Chief Haverdink will provide more details on that.

j. Graafschap Fire Department – Cal Haverdink

Terry Hofmeyer noted that Chief Cal Haverdink is recognized at the state and county levels. He is an excellent trainer and well respected. Cal Haverdink thanked the residents for providing the funding for training and equipment. The newest piece of equipment is a ranger that replaced the old quad the department used to reach off the road situations. This new ranger is equipped with fire fighting and medical first response equipment. The department converted the old law enforcement Expedition into a licensed medical first response vehicle. The renovated vehicle allows the Chief to respond to calls directly from his home at any time of the day or night. Chief Haverdink invited residents to stop by the station to see the new equipment.

k. Downtown Development Authority – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin reported that McKenna and Associates was hired to work with the DDA on the Blue Star Highway Corridor project. The Authority is working with Allegan County Commission to accept the plan and move forward.

l. Library Representative – Valarie Bouwman

Valerie Bouwman asked how many residents have used the library in the last 6 months. There are 1.3 million items in circulation. The Laketown Township usage is proportional to the residents we have as they make up 4.7% of the total card holders. There has been an increase of 70,170 items available an increase from 2007. The library offers many services such as books, periodicals, audio visuals, electronic resources, events and programs for everyone in every age group. The programs are well attended and many families make use of these free services. Currently we are able to meet the needs of the patrons in regards to computer usage but we will need more equipment in the future. Valerie Bouwman encourages residents to visit the library.

m. Hospital Representative – Jean Martin – not available

n. Pool Authority – Mark Ver Wys – not available

o. Board of Review – Terry Hofmeyer

The Board has been meeting these last few days. The staff does a wonderful job of responding to resident needs for information connected to their properties.

ARTICLE VI. DE MULL AWARD PRESENTATION

Terry Hofmeyer introduced Pat Meyer to make the De Mull Award Presentation. Pat Meyer stated that time is our most precious resource. To be able to recognize someone who gives so generously of their time is an honor to do. This year's Volunteer of the Year is willing to do any task large or small without complaint. Ona Strabbing is the Volunteer of the Year. Ona Strabbing stated it is an honor to receive this award. It is the person who works in a regular full-time job and still volunteers that deserves this award.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

George Smeenge stated caveat emptor - buyer beware in a free enterprise system. In everything out there someone is after your money. Make sure that all of us and our kids know the thread count of our socks. We have to believe what is being told to you or beware please. We have an obligation ourselves to do things that make sense. Beware of what you are doing.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by George Smeenge and seconded by Ed Stielstra to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED