

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

November 12, 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

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the October 6, 2008 meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis 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 October 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 - None

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on November 5 and the following topics were discussed: McKenna & Associates explained and reviewed the concept of form based zoning as an option for the Blue Star Highway Corridor. There was no representation for the request for amendment to the special use permit from the 64<sup>th</sup> Street Bakery.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Bob Scanlan

The Board will meet on November 24 and it will be the second meeting this year.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Terry Burns

Terry Burns reported that the Director for the Commission on Aging resigned to relocate out of state. The Veterans Services Director will oversee both services for the interim. The county and state revenue sharing information through 2009 is available on line for public review. More information will become available in the near future relative to governmental changes at the federal level. The M-40 Corridor will have a bridge replaced in Hamilton in 2009. The proposed jail costs will be available in the upcoming months but little is known at this time how this project might be funded due to the state of the economy.

D. DEPUTY SHERIFF – Deputy Bob Curnick

Deputy Bob Curnick reported that overall accidents have been down for this year. He asks that drivers be aware of the deer movement in the Township. Over 500 glow sticks were distributed on Halloween night which is down slightly from previous years. The children just love the glow sticks and appreciate receiving them. Bob thanked the Board for allowing this practice to continue.

E. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

Chief Haverdink reported on the response calls for the month of October as follows: 22 calls total, 14 calls from Laketown, consisting of 11 rescue and 2 fire, 7 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 5 rescue calls and 2 fire. Both departments assisted in 1 rescue call to Hamilton. Cal noted that calls are down considerably.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – Chuck Strabbing

Chuck Strabbing reported that the Parks Commission met on October 15. The Felt Mansion hosted a haunted house in the carriage house during the Halloween season and it was very profitable. Holiday decorations are underway with many new volunteers including a four generation family that has recently joined the volunteer base. Chuck invited residents to visit during the holidays. Supervisor Hofmeyer stated that the mansion is very beautiful during Christmas. The next Board meeting will be held there on December 10.

G. BUILDING AUTHORITY – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin reported that the Carriage House haunted house netted \$2,980.00 profit.

H. DDA – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin reported that the DDA met on October 29 and reviewed the McKenna and Associates plan draft for the Blue Star Corridor. The Authority has asked that McKenna and Associates provide a formal proposal for review to move forward in the planning process. The next meeting is

on November 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

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

Cal DeMaagd of 3719 64<sup>th</sup> Street expressed concern that in regards correspondence from his attorney not reaching the Township officials relative to the proposed bike path. Terry Hofmeyer responded that he has received two letters and has tried to contact the attorney several times but has not been able to reach him. Cal also pointed out that the Township residents voted overwhelmingly against the law enforcement millage. Terry thanked him for his comments.

## ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

### A. SINGLE WASTE HAULER PROPOSAL

Al Meshkin gave a brief overview of the Township survey which had a response rate of about 38%. There were 483 votes in favor and 420 votes opposed to the proposal for the single waste hauler. Terry explained that Board members discussed this at the workshop meeting and it was determined that a final contract be brought forward for review prior to the Board vote.

Gary Dewey expressed concern over the very close margin in the citizen survey vote and believes that residents should have freedom of choice.

Wendy Van Huis supported Gary Dewey's concern, however feels that it is a positive proactive action by the Board but can also appreciate those who do not support it. Some decisions are not easy and this one is not. Wendy expressed concern over requesting a contract being perceived as a step forward. The Township will be facing budget constraints this year and the recycling and clean-up days are a considerable expense. In the long run, everyone is paying for this through taxes. This would be a relief to the budget and would be asking the residents to take an active responsibility in the upkeep of the Township.

Bob Scanlan stated that we must keep in mind that the Township will be saving \$28,000 in the general fund budget. Many other surrounding municipalities have gone this way with little or no issue.

Ed Stielstra commented on how this has been initiated in other areas. He stated that there are times when the Board is required to make difficult decisions but when the time comes it will act accordingly. He noted that we are not under a strict time constraint and would like to take time to research what other areas are doing. By not taking action and eliminating the recycling, we risk having residents go back to burning various materials and leaving environmentally unsafe items on properties.

Terry Hofmeyer stated that the City of Holland initiated this over 20 years ago and it has been successful. The recycling and clean up options available are advantages for all residents.

**A motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to direct Al Meshkin to draft a contract for the Board to review at their next meeting before a final vote is taken. MOTION APPROVED, 3 to 2. Dewey and Stielstra dissenting.**

## ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

### A. MECHANICAL INSPECTOR CONTRACT

Terry Hofmeyer gave a brief overview of the contract.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the Mechanical Inspector contract. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

**B. 12k WIRELESS INTERNET CONTRACT**

Terry Hofmeyer gave a brief overview of the proposed contract. Al Meshkin stated that the greatest majority of the Township would be eligible for service with the exception of the dunes area to the west. They would like to construct a 100-120 foot tower on the Township Office property. Residents would pay the \$40 to \$60 per month for the service. 12k would pay the Township either \$100 per month or 15% of gross revenue. Ron Bultje reviewed the sample contract. Al explained that tonight he is looking for authority to negotiate a final contract to be presented to the Board for review.

**A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to authorize Al to negotiate the 12k Wireless Contract to bring back to the Board for review. UNANIMOUS DEICISON – MOTION APPROVED**

Ed Stielstra asked should another vendor come along later, would it still be an open and free market. Al Meshkin responded affirmatively.

**ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS**

Chief Cal Haverdink noted the Board agreed to sponsor the Fall Fest at the Felt Mansion which turned out to be a beautiful day and the event was very successful. It was a great experience for all who attended and he would like to thank the Board for the sponsorship.

Cal DeMaadg of 3719 64<sup>th</sup> Street commented when the board does things on a 3 to 2 vote it is not a true democracy.

**ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to adjourn at 7:33 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

The next Township Board meeting on December 10 will be held at the Felt Mansion.