

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

September 12, 2007

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 Michael Donovan led the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Hofmeyer, Wendy Van Huis, Gary Dewey, Michael Donovan, Ed Stielstra

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Diane Ybarra - Recording Secretary
Cal Haverdink – Graafschap Fire Department Chief
Bob Curnick – Township Deputy

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the August 7, 2007 meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Michael Donovan 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 August 2007. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Michael Donovan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve and pay the bills as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Supervisor Hofmeyer also noted that annual audits for both the Township and the Graafschap Fire Department are available for public review in the Township Office.

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Hofmeyer noted several invitations available to Board members for various meetings. Please see Kathy Stoike for reservations. A letter was received from a resident at 4660 Sailview stating a complaint about construction vehicles in the roadway. Supervisor Hofmeyer will ask Township Manager Al Meshkin to follow up with the resident.

Supervisor Hofmeyer read a letter of concern from resident George Smeenge relative to what he perceives as unacceptable service by the Board in the Township in regards to a variety of issues he has noted in his documentation. A letter of response by the Board will be sent to Mr. Smeenge to address each of his concerns.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Mr. Ed Stielstra reported the Planning Commission met on September 5, 2007 with the following actions: tabled the Flying J Special Use Request, approved the resolution for the Laketown Greenhouse Special Use Permit Request, approved the resolution for the Kleinjans Planned Unit Development Request, approved the Eldred Special Use Request, requested the Township Attorney prepare a report for the Muzzy Farm P.U.D. Request.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – No report.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Terry Burns

Commissioner Burns stated that the JCC Committee will provide a recommendation for the placement of the new jail at Dumont Lake and he supports that location. More information should be available later this week. Allegan County has a fund balance of over \$5 million dollars to support the jail project. Mr. Burns also spoke about an immigration law that originated in West Virginia to address illegal immigrants in the County which he feels could be beneficial in Allegan. Section 287 G of Congress addresses this issue. Wendy Van Huis asked the status of the traffic light at 64th and Blue Star. Terry will research and report back. Terry noted that street light replacement bulbs will be installed along 64th Street.

D. DEPUTY SHERIFF – Bob Curnick

Deputy Curnick reported that last month started out quiet but progressively became tragic with the fatal accident on Sunday morning. This is the second fatal accident due to speed that has occurred within the last 2 years. The law enforcement team is working on getting the message to teen drivers and the residents are encouraged to provide input. Terry Hofmeyer noted a letter to the editor in the Holland Sentinel relative to the accident. Terry asked if the Department of Transportation does a review of this particular stretch of road. Deputy Curnick stated the roads are designed for a speed of 50 mph and the speed in this case exceeded 60 mph. The accident continues to be under investigation.

Beth Poll of 6616 146th Street spoke to the many, many cars that drive through the stop sign at the intersection of 146th and 66th Streets. She suggested more signage be installed at this sight. She invited the Deputies to park in her driveway to monitor the intersection. This issue of passing through the stop sign occurs all hours of the day and night by all types of drivers.

Deputy Curnick noted that in many intersections in the Township, residents treat stop signs as yield signs. He said he would follow up on the request to add signage.

Bob Poll of 6616 146th Street noted that drivers are completely ignoring the stop signs at the intersection. He also asked for additional signage that would provide more awareness.

George Smeenge of 3977 Beeline Road spoke of the reckless driving in the Township. He suggested putting a cross and flowers at the base of the stop sign at this intersection as a reminder of how tragic this kind of driving can be.

Ed Stielstra noted that it is important that we distinguish the difference between the conditions of the accident and the issue of ignoring the stop signs. It is also possible that drivers do not see the stop signs. Ed spoke to Bill Nelson of the Allegan Road Commission about putting rumble strips at this particular intersection. Ed feels the Board should contact the Commission to address the issue

at this particular site.

Michael Donovan noted that the Board should consider using part of the Township budget to increase the law enforcement road patrol.

Terry Hofmeyer asked Ed Stielstra for more details on the rumble strips. Ed responded that he only asked the procedures for such an application. A suggestion was made to increase the signage and add vertical reflective strip. Ed also noted that the Muzzy Farm P.U.D. would increase the traffic at that intersection by 16 homes.

Terry Hofmeyer asked Deputy Curnick if he could incorporate the suggestions made tonight as part of the accident study. Deputy Curnick responded that he would speak to Bruce LeBrea and report back to the Board. Ed Stielstra stated that the normal traffic issues must also be addressed.

Wendy Van Huis noted that the millage for additional road patrol was defeated but perhaps now is the time to review that need again.

Ed Stielstra is very confident in what our deputies are doing. He asked if we are getting an adequate allocation from the other deputies in Allegan County. Terry Hofmeyer responded that the County allocates support for back up when it is needed.

E. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Cal Haverdink

Chief Cal Haverdink reported on the response calls for the month of August as follows: 24 calls total, 17 calls from Laketown, consisting of 14 rescue and 3 fire, 5 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 5 rescue and 0 fire. Both departments also assisted the Holland Fire Department with 1 rescue and 1 fire call. Chief Haverdink explained one rescue to Graafschap Road should have been through Ottawa County and that issue has been resolved.

Gary Dewey asked if a plea bargain was reached in regards to the charges issued in the lakeshore fire tragedy. Cal Haverdink responded that it has not been settled yet.

Beth Poll commended Cal Haverdink and his department on how they handled the accident situation on Sunday morning.

Bob Poll also thanked Cal Haverdink and his department on their support for to Equestrian Team.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – No report.

G. BUILDING AUTHORITY

Terry Hofmeyer stated that Building Authority met last week.

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

George Smeenge of 3977 Beeline Road thanked the Board for reading his letter. He also stated that he learned a person could drill as many wells as they want on their property without seeking permission. Supervisor Hofmeyer stated that well permits are needed for health department standards. Ed Stielstra stated that a deep well driller does work with the County. Supervisor Hofmeyer asked that George Smeenge follow up after the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. CASTLE PARK WATER RESOLUTION #4

Supervisor Hofmeyer gave a brief overview of the history of the Castle Park Water Resolution #4. The public hearing will be held on October 10th at 7pm.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve the Castle Park Water Resolution #4. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. FRIENDS OF THE FELT ESTATE 501(c)(3)

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the Friends of the Felt Estate 501(c)(3) and asked the Board members to review the document for future discussion at the October meeting. Ed Stielstra confirmed that the 501(c)(3) Board would be for fund administration only.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None

Cal DeMaagd 3719 64th Street asked for copies of the Board's response to the letter submitted by George Smeenge. Terry Hofmeyer responded that he would have copies available in the Township office.

George Smeenge asked who approves the 501(c)(3). Michael Donovan responded that the IRS approves this. Terry Hofmeyer also stated that it becomes a requirement for some philanthropist givings.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Hofmeyer adjourned the meeting at 8:05 P.M.