

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

September 8, 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

Ed Stielstra 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
Diane Ybarra - Recording Secretary

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the August 13, 2008 meetings. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey 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 August 2008. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve and pay the bills as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE - None

Terry Hofmeyer noted that he received a letter from Roger Prins resigning from his positions on the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to accept the letter of resignation with regret. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

Terry Hofmeyer stated that he had received many emails concerning the single hauler waste topic, all of which he had responded to.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on September 3 and the following topics were discussed: recommendation to the Township Board to approve the Blue Star Sub Area Master Plan Resolution.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – No report.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – No report.

D. DEPUTY SHERIFF – No report.

E. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Doug Den Bleyker

Doug Den Bleyker reported on the response calls for the month of August as follows: 27 calls total, 22 calls from Laketown, consisting of 20 rescue and 2 fire, 4 calls from Fillmore, consisting 4 of rescue calls and 0 fire. Both departments assisted in 1 fire assist to Saugatuck Fire Department.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – No report.

G. BUILDING AUTHORITY – No report.

H. DDA – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin reported that the DDA met on August 27 and reviewed material with John Jackson of McKenna and Associates.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS – No comments.

Cal DeMaagd of 3719 64th Street stated that whenever the Board decides to put the law enforcement millage on the ballot please do not waste our time, it was already voted down previously.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. SOUTH HILL WATER S.A.D. PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTIONS

Al Meshkin gave a brief overview of the resolutions.

Terry Hofmeyer opened the public hearing. No public comment was offered. Supervisor Hofmeyer then closed the public hearing.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey to accept the South Hill Water S.A.D. Resolution #3. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION**

APPROVED

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to set the date of Monday, October 6 at 7:00 P.M. for the public hearing of the South Hill Water S.A.D. Resolution #4. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING ON SINGLE WASTE HAULER PROPOSAL

Al Meshkin gave an overview of the Single Waste Hauler Proposal. Al reviewed the document providing details of the gains and concerns relative to the proposal.

Terry Hofmeyer opened for public hearing.

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline Road spoke in opposition of the proposed single waste hauler concept due to the adverse affects that it would have on small businesses and lack of freedom of choice by residents.

Coral Rhoda 6476 Spruce Lane spoke in opposition of the proposal stating that it prohibited free enterprise.

David Weishaar 6204 140th Avenue spoke in support of the proposal. He spoke of the many gains in the proposal.

Karen Walters of 4699 Beech Street stated that she feels this decision should be put on the ballot for residents to vote on. Free enterprise is precious in our country. Karen also commented on the renewal after the 5-year contract once the small businesses are knocked out, how will the rates be then? She also asked if the proposal is passed, how residents will be invoiced.

Doug McIntosh of 3895 64th Street noted several concerns of safety and security for the residents. He noted that door service is important for some residents. He works out of town during the week and an abandoned waste disposal unit is an invitation for someone to break into your home as it has happened to him twice.

Laura Judge of 3880 64th Street spoke in support of the proposal. She stated that the rates are great and the plan also promotes recycling. She also feels that a few more exceptions might be considered such as allowances for small business owners and those residents who may have individual special needs.

Lyle Morris of 4723 62nd Street spoke in favor of the plan because he feels there are too many garbage haulers in the Township right now.

Ken Gusler of 6387 147th Avenue asked about the seasonal basic service. If he is gone for just 2 months can he pay for just the 10 months? Al Meshkin stated that from verbal discussion, residents would only be billed for the months that they receive service.

Clare Ray of 4110 Beeline Road stated that he does not care if it passes or not. He does not use residential service so would an exception be available? Al Meshkin stated that all residents would

be required to use the service per the current proposal.

Pat Dorn of 3707 64th Street spoke in opposition of the proposal and feels it should be put on the ballot for vote.

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64th Street spoke in opposition of the proposal. He also doesn't feel that it would promote recycling.

Carl Hempf of 4782 Pine Hollow Road spoke in opposition of the plan because it reduces freedom of choice, which is a fundamental right of the citizens. Small businesses should not be driven out of business. He also asked who would be in charge of handling issues, would it be the contractor or the Township.

Rich Rhoda of 6476 Spruce stated that he felt there was double talk spoken tonight. If everyone has to pay, why do those residents who are only here seasonally get partial billed?

Jack Van Wieren of 6215 146th Avenue spoke in opposition of the proposal as it would prohibit the small businesses from being in business. He also feels that the clean up on the road side would be a hazard.

Carol Berghorst of 6468 Spruce Avenue stated that Laketown Township is a great place to live. By the response tonight it seems that 80% of the people do not want it so it should be put to a vote.

Kathy Scholten of 61st Street stated that she has a dumpster for her business and four family members who live in the Township also use it. Will she be able to get a deal on a dumpster and what about the family members, who would not be using the curbside service, would they still have to pay?

Gene Berghorst of 6468 Spruce asked how many of the Board members participate in the "Adopt a Road" program. He feels that the Township should stay with free enterprise and not impose this on the residents.

Sam Greydanus 3735 63rd Street stated that he currently buys bags which he only uses about one time a month through Waste Management. What is going to happen to me now? One bag a month is a very small payment. There are a lot of old people that are same way. We recycle as much as we can and we don't have much garbage. You will force us to pay a lot of money with this proposal. I am very happy with how Waste Management handles the elderly.

Pat Dorn stated the \$28,000 for recycling should be renegotiated because the provider is getting money on both sides with the rising profits on recyclable materials today.

Cal Demaagd of 3719 64th Street spoke in opposition of the proposal because it seems to stifle competition and why can't these providers work directly with me instead of the government going through my garbage?

Gordon Cunningham of 4073 Beeline Road stated that the function of government is to provide services to the people that either free enterprise or the individuals cannot provide for themselves. I am against micro management in governmental affairs. He stated that he does not have any waste service other than the recycling and the general pickup that is offered twice a year. I think you are stepping over the bounds here. I am all about free enterprise. Has anyone taken a survey through the community or a straw vote? Is it even popular? Give it some thought.

John Kruid of 6380 144th Avenue concurs with Mr. Cunningham. Mr. Kruid stated he is part of the one third of township residents who do not have service. He stated that he does not really need one.

Jim Stark of 4190 Beeline stated that he has been in the Township for 39 years now and there have been good and bad changes. He referenced an ad for Freedom Village that advertises the freedom of choice. He feels that this proposal is a violation of each resident's freedom of choice. This is America and the freedom of choice should be up to the residents. It should be my choice to subscribe with whatever garbage hauler I want. To bring up the fact that it will help with the safety, you should do something about the semi-trucks on the county roads. That is what the safety hazard is not the garbage trucks.

Mary DeMaagd of 3719 64th Street asked about the fact that one of the vendors would give the Township a rebate. Why are we paying someone \$28,000 a year for recycling when they make money from the waste materials? I am opposed to this idea and feel it should be put on the ballot for resident vote.

David Weishaar of 6204 of 140th Avenue commented on the freedom of choice. What percentage of the hauling do the two vendors do today in the Township? Al Meshkin stated that he does not have that information. Mr. Weishaar feels this is something that we should know to better understand how many small businesses this decision might effect.

Ken Gusler of 6387 147th Avenue asked if the vendors would bill individual residents or would it be put on our tax bill? Al Meshkin stated that it would be a quarterly billing by the contractor.

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline asked Al Meshkin if there would be an exemption for those that would not be using the service. He seems to remember Al speaking of an exemption at previous meetings for those not using the service. Al responded that was never the condition and at this point exemptions are not part of the proposal.

Gordon Cunningham stated that he wished he had the luxury to negotiate with Al Meshkin for a service that would be used all residents. Mr. Cunningham advises the Board to make an informed decision about this service.

Carl Hempf of 4782 Pine Hollow commented that if you want to save us some money renegotiate the recycling contract rather than this proposed single waste hauler. Al Meshkin responded that the recycling costs were renegotiated about five years ago and it was reduced considerably. Maybe we could get a reduction if we attempted to renegotiate again.

Clare Ray of Beeline Road stated that it sounds like everyone here would like this to be tabled until more information can be provided to the citizens and the proposal should be put to vote. This will increase our taxes and they are already going up. I want an exemption as do many others in the Township.

John Kruid asked if 2400 houses would be serviced by this vendor that would be about \$500,000 per year. Right now each household is paying \$26 per year for the recycling service. This new proposal would be a great contract for a vendor.

Gene Lockwood of 141st Avenue commented on the profits made on recycling materials. Al Meshkin agreed that right now recycling is very good. Gene stated that this information is available and there is a lot of money in recycling.

Gene Berghorst stated that the City of Holland has a system. How many townships of our size have this kind of plan? Terry stated that information is not known. Gene asked which of the Board members brought this up. Al Meshkin stated that he proposed it.

Clerk Wendy Van Huis read a letter into the public record from Don and Bev Vandenberg of 61st

Street opposing the proposal.

A letter of support was received from Sharon Harrington of 6471 147th Street. She stated that it has been appalling to see the multiple haulers on the roads and their careless driving.

Rich Rhoda stated that this Board has been elected. We live in America - let's vote on this thing.

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer closed the public hearing.

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

B. CASTLE PARK WATER S.A.D. AMENDING RESOLUTION

Al Meshkin gave an overview of the resolution.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to adopt the Castle Park Water S.A.D. Amending Resolution. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

C. CASTLE PARK / SOUTH HILL S.A.D.'S BONDING RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer gave an overview of the resolution. Terry asked if there is a construction start date. Al Meshkin responded that the construction is tentatively scheduled for October.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Bob Scanlan to adopt the Castle Park / South Hill S.A.D.'s Bonding Resolution. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

A. SET DATE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT MILLAGE PUBLIC HEARING

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to set the Law Enforcement Millage Public Hearing for October 6, 2008 at 7:00pm. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. BLUE STAR SUB AREA MASTER PLAN

Al Meshkin provided a brief overview of the plan. The Planning Commission has approved and made recommendation for approval to the Township Board.

A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the Blue Star Sub Area Master Plan. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Cal De Maagd of 3719 64th Street stated that the citizens' public opinion was very clear tonight and

I hope you were listening.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to adjourn at 8:29 P.M.
UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**