

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

May 9, 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

Gary Dewey opened the meeting with prayer and Wendy Van Huis led the pledge of allegiance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ed Stielstra

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Charlene Fields – Deputy Treasurer
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 April 11, 2007 meeting. 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. TREASURER'S REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of April, 2007. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Michael Donovan and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve and pay the bills as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE - None

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Al Meshkin reported that the Planning Commission met on May 2, 2007 and the following items were approved: Thompson/Schaap Builders Site Plan, Hendrikson Special Use Permit. Laketown Greenhouse Special Use Permit and The Flying J Special Use Request were tabled and the Blue

Star Corridor Master Plan Sub Area was also discussed.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Michael Donovan reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on April 30, 2007 and the following items were approved: Dusenbury Variance Request, Thompson Variance Request, Sullivan Variance Request, Smith Variance Request and the Marcus Variance Request.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – No Report

D. DEPUTY SHERIFF – Bob Curnick

Deputy Bob Curnick reported the last month was fairly quiet, the parks are being used more with the nicer weather, and also urged residents to be cautious while backing out of drives and parks and encouraged residents to leave valuables at home while using public parking lots.

E. FIRE CHIEF & FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

Chief Cal Haverdink reported on the response calls for the month of April as follows: 28 calls total, 20 calls from Laketown, consisting of 15 rescue and 5 fire calls, 4 rescue and 1 fire calls from Fillmore, 1 assist to Hamilton, Overisel and Saugatuck.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – Chuck Strabbing

Chuck Strabbing reported on upcoming events with Outdoor Discovery, details are listed on the website.

G. BUILDING AUTHORITY – Bob Scanlan

Bob Scanlan reported on the Dedication Ceremony and Historical Conference held today at the Felt Mansion.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. WASTE HAULER LICENSING ORDINANCE

Supervisor Hofmeyer discussed the possibility of establishing a Waste Hauler ordinance. Al Meshkin reviewed the pros and cons of establishing the ordinance; single hauler would reduce truck traffic, noise and pollution within the township, cost savings to the township, elimination of drop-off recycling, annual tickets would be issued to replace bi-annual cleanup, free enterprise and choice may be compromised, seasonal residents and administration may experience increased costs. The Board stated they are seeking public input for further discussion on this proposal.

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. DDA PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION

Supervisor Hofmeyer read the names of correspondence received as follows: Rondell & Doris Brinks, Laketown Alliance for Neighborly Development, Carol & Patrick Sullivan, Lynn & Michael Marcus, Marcia Perry, Kevin & Ellen Fitch. Supervisor Hofmeyer then opened the public hearing.

Peter Kostichak of Shangrila Mobile Associates asked for an explanation of the proposed resolution and also why one large adjacent parcel was not included. Supervisor Hofmeyer noted it would be a

district along Blue Star Highway governed by a sub-committee group made up of 8 – 10 appointed members who have a property interest within the district. The DDA would allow the township to capture a portion of the tax base of any new growth and reinvest the monies within the designated district. Some parcels may ask to be excluded from the proposed district.

Steve Schilling of 3723 64th Street stated he would like to be considered a candidate for any future board/committee and also noted planning would prevent failing. Mr. Schilling also noted that economic conditions may require cuts in state law enforcement.

Don Van Huis of 4079 65th Street asked how annual recycle tickets would be redeemed if the selected provider were located outside the local area. Mr. Meshkin stated the provider would probably be asked to provide a local drop-off station.

Glen Hartson of 6102 Ravine Court stated he was representing the LAND group. Mr. Hartson complimented the Township Board and Planning Commission for their work in reviewing and considering earlier proposals. He stated LAND is not opposed or in favor of the proposed DDA, respects the idea of being pro-active and also expressed a desire for continued dialogue with residents and neighboring municipalities and to be complete existing zoning issues and complete proposed zoning studies before making any decisions. Mr. Hartson also mentioned that a reference guide on DDA's would help residents better understand the concept and questioned the actual board representation.

Rondell Brinks of 3677 60th Street stated he would like to preserve his property as farmland and would like to be excluded from proposed district.

Francis Merva 3665 Shangri-La expressed concern for the proposed district and questioned if specific areas such as a mobile home park could be excluded.

George Smeenge of 3977 Beeline Road apologized to the Board and the Manager for remarks he made at previous meetings. Mr. Smeenge also questioned the need to update existing zoning, encouraged all to consider the effects any decisions may have on the local lakeshore community and asked that decisions be made only after full review without consideration to any economic gain.

Diane Cazabon of 6235 Washington expressed concern for the proposed DDA, stating it may compromise choice.

Ellen Fitch of 3665 63rd Street expressed concern for the proposed DDA stating it would add another level of bureaucracy and that it is typically used as a tool to subsidize the tax base, which may not be needed in this area. Ms. Fitch stated the proposed DDA would encourage growth while proper zoning and ordinances would address and manage growth and proper development.

John Huygee thanked the Planning Commission for their time and effort on earlier issues. Mr. Huygee encouraged patience and stated full review of the master plan and proper planning would provide tools to facilitate the desired development. Mr. Huygee stated he would be willing to serve on any future DDA board/committee.

Shirley Visscher of 6283 136th Avenue echoed Mr. Huygee's comments and stated she also would like to be considered for any future DDA board/committee.

Cal DeMaagd of 3719 64th Street questioned whether Laketown would meet existing DDA requirements.

Tom Crum of 6295 144th Avenue asked if ultimately the DDA committee would control the outcome of the district.

Marcia Perry of 6248 Blue Star Highway questioned the reason for forming a DDA and expressed concern for the unknown details. Ms. Perry also encouraged the Board to consider smart growth with the proper planning and requested the public hearing process remain open.

Dick Darby of Holland stated he has worked with other DDA's and Mainstreet projects and noted it is a means to reach a common goal/vision in a controlled manner. Mr. Darby stated that planning must start somewhere and maybe the Board should consider developing the district in phases. He also noted he would like to be considered on any future DDA board/committee.

Jeff Knudson of 4072 65th Street stated he would like more details before he could embrace the proposal.

A resident from 2315 Forest Trail Circle asked how the board would be established and the process to replace members as terms expired. Supervisor Hofmyer stated the candidates would be selected by the Township Supervisor and approved by the Township Board. Terms may vary and expire at different times.

Supervisor Hofmeyer closed the public hearing. The Board will take all comments into consideration and discuss the DDA proposal more next month.

B. LSL PLANNING PROPOSAL

Al Meshkin stated the Planning Commission recommends the Township Board approve Phase I Master Plan Sub Area Update at a cost of \$8,750.00. Following discussion, Gary Dewey mike Donovan seconded to put on table. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Mike Donovan to approve Phase I Master Plan Sub Area Update at a cost of \$8,750.00. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

John Huygee stated The Red Barn is open and invited all to come and see a show.

Chuck Strabbing expressed concern for the number of waste haulers on the road and encouraged residents to recycle as much waste as possible.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED