

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

May 13, 2009

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 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
Cal Haverdink – Fire Chief
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the April 8, 2009 meeting. 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 April 2009. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed Stielstra 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 May 6 and the following topics were

discussed: 64th Street Bakery remained tabled; approved DeYoung Site Plan; approved Adoption of Revised Rules of Procedure.

Terry Hofmeyer asked for clarification of the request for a temporary permit approval at the 64th Street Bakery. Ed Stielstra explained that the Planning Commission was also somewhat uncertain about this request. The applicant must submit proper plan documentation to move forward with the special use permit request.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Bob Scanlan

Bob Scanlan reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on April 27 and the following topics were discussed: Budden-Bronsink Request for Variance from June of 2007; tabled Molengraff Request for Variance; denied Nykerk Request for Variance.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Terry Burns

Terry Burns asked that the residents keep the family of Allegan County Human Resource Director Deb Daniels in their thoughts and prayers. Terry also discussed the recent meeting on the new jail. It was decided that a consultant would not be hired but a charrette will be done in place of a consultant. The hope is that the group will meet soon to avoid further delays on the project. The Commission is also reviewing a 911 Authority.

D. DEPUTY SHERIFF – No report.

E. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

Chief Haverdink reported on the response calls for the month of April as follows: 18 calls total, 11 calls from Laketown, consisting of 9 rescue and 2 fire, 4 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 0 rescue calls and 4 fire. Both departments also assisted 2 fire calls, one in Holland and one in Hamilton and one rescue call in Holland.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – Chuck Strabbing

Chuck Strabbing reported that the Parks Commission met on April 15. On April 26th there was a mustard weed pull at the Saugatuck State Dunes Parks that was very successful. There will be more mustard weed pulls at local parks and reserves. Recently there was a group of school student volunteers that shoveled the stairs at Laketown Beach. Laketown Township is partnering with the Outdoor Discovery on several upcoming events such as a salamander hunt on June 8 at Sanctuary Woods and introduction to nature for pre-schoolers on June 12 at Wolters Woods. All of these events can be found on the Laketown Township website. In general, there has been an increase in the activity at all parks and many volunteers have come forth.

G. DDA – No report.

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

Steve Chapman of 6259 Oakhurst spoke on behalf of families in his neighborhood. They are opposed to the yard waste contract. The cost at Chef is \$20.00 per load for Laketown Township residents. It is not possible to burn in this area and they feel it is unfair. Mr. Chapman feels the decision should be reversed as the yard waste container will not suffice for the amount of waste especially in the fall. The city residents are not required to pay and can put their waste at curbside.

Bill Kolean of 6258 Oakhurst stated that he is really opposed to the yard waste contract as it is a fire

hazard if residents would burn. He asks if in October and November residents could be allowed to dispose of the leaves somewhere else at no charge.

Terry Hofmeyer asked if there was once an opportunity to dispose of grass clippings at the Township. Al Meshkin responded that at one time this was allowed when the recycling was at the Township, but it became a dumping area for all kinds of rubbish. It moved to Chef when the recycling bins were moved. The city tax millage is much higher (15 mil v. 2.5 mil) and affords this sort of service. There is an option of an additional waste container for additional charge per year. Mr. Chapman stated that he would like to see a coupon for waste disposal. Al Meshkin stated that he would look into a compost site or research a seasonal option.

Rich Rhoda of Cherrywood Subdivision stated that he was under the impression that with the voucher system that the waste would be picked up at the end of the driveway. Al Meshkin stated that it was an alternate vendor that had offered that when the contract was out for bid.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. FIRST CHOICE LLC LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the Resolution 2009-08 for approval of issuing a liquor license. Terry stated that the application was very well written.

Attorney Bill Sikkel spoke on behalf of the First Choice LLC in its request for the Liquor License. In general, the client has owned the facility since 2005 and it is well utilized for a variety of events. Previous to this all rental clients were obligated to provide their own alcohol when desired and unable to have a cash bar therefore often taking their business elsewhere. The approval of this license would provide more opportunity to increase business and maintain stability in the Township.

If the license is granted there would be additional employees added and some minor changes to the facility. An increase in business would also benefit other establishments in the area. The Zoning Ordinance contained a number of requirements be met and those have been accomplished.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the Resolution approving the First Choice LLC Liquor License Application. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Gary Dewey noted that it was a very thorough application. Ed Stielstra confirmed that liquor sales would be for event circumstances only.

B. PLANNING COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT ORDINANCE

Al Meshkin explained that the State of Michigan has changed the rules in that the Planning Commission be established by Ordinance and no longer by Resolution. This change will meet the requirements of the new State law.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the Planning Commission Establishment Ordinance 154. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

C. HERRICK LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

Terry Hofmeyer explained that Gary Dewey's term on the Board will expire in June of 2009. His desire is to continue serving on this Board.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the appointment of Gary Dewey to the Herrick Library Board. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Gene Berghorst of 6464 Spruce Lane thanked the volunteers that worked on the roadside pick up last weekend. He also asked if any of the Board members were involved in this activity. Terry Hofmeyer responded that there is no official assignment of members to this event. Mr. Berghorst suggested that the Board members volunteer in the future. Al Meshkin stated that JCI has approached the Township to volunteer for the Adopt-A-Road project.

Cal Haverdink stated that he has received comments from several other residents in the Oakhurst neighborhood that expressed concern over the removal of their yard waste with concern that some households will want to burn the waste.

Randy Becksvoort 3930 Beeline Road quoted Gary Dewey in a comment he make about making difficult decisions concerning the budget. He did read that the Board had approved a \$10,000 gift to the Felt Mansion Blue Grass Event. Is this a small stimulus of some sort? How is it that a governmental municipality can make a donation such as this? Terry Hofmeyer explained that the Friends of the Felt Estate are a 501(3)(c) non-profit that is contracted by the township to raise money for the mansion. The money is expected to come back to the Township maybe two fold if the event is as successful as anticipated. The event is scheduled for July 19th and Terry encouraged citizens to attend.

Terry Hofmeyer recognized the Holland Christian and Allegan students in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Chuck Strabbing noted that Park Church does volunteer yard clean up of elderly homes and each year Park Township donates trucks for hauling the waste away from the Maatman Center. Could the Township do the same for the Oakhurst area residents? Al stated that he would be concerned about the expense and the policing of the drop off site. Terry Hofmeyer stated that the MACC will be meeting at the Township Hall on May 18th and he will raise the question at that forum to see how this is being handled in other areas. Cal DeMaadg of 3719 64th Street stated that we should get a motion camera that would identify offenders leaving garbage and other junk at the yard waste drop off site. It would cost approximately \$200 to purchase and install.

Andrew Geurink of 4457 64th Street asked about the stimulus money for the two additional deputies. Al Meshkin stated that Allegan County had applied for the funding of five additional officers in the county with two to be assigned to Laketown Township. We have not received a response yet. Terry Burns stated that there is \$50 billion of stimulus money available for law enforcement but it is coming slower than expected.

Andrew Geurink asked if there have been a lot of problems in Laketown that it needs two more deputies. Terry Hofmeyer stated that we had three in the past and this would be a way to pay for at least two more for the next 3-4 years and allow the Township to build up fund balance in the budget. Wendy Van Huis stated that not all three deputies are on duty at the same time but would allow for better coverage.

Bob Scanlan said the jail issue could reduce the number of officers in the Township as the Sheriff may need to take resources from the road patrol and divert them to jail operations.

Gene Berghorst asked if the Township would have to supplement the grant monies. Al Meshkin said salary and benefits would be paid 100% for three years and the Township would be responsible for 100% of the fourth year. It equates to a 75/25 grant. Gene asked if this would be going against what the citizens have voted against in the past. Wendy Van Huis explained that it would not. The residents voted against an extra millage.

Terry Hofmeyer stated that he has spoken with Deputy Todd Vander Hulst and it is very likely that he will be continuing his medical leave due to further complications. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Terry Hofmeyer and seconded by Bob Scanlan to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED