

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

June 10, 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, Bob Scanlan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Dewey

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 May 13, 2009 meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed Stielstra 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 May 2009. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan 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 June 3 and the following topics were discussed: Asked Township Attorney Ron Bultje to prepare a report resolution for the 64th Street Bakery Special Use Amendment for a Flea Market; approved Scholten Special Use Request.

B. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Bob Scanlan

Bob Scanlan reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on May 21 and the following topic was discussed: Denied Budden-Bronsink Request for Variance.

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Terry Burns

Terry Burns reported that the Commission approved moving forward on the jail project. The contractor requests for bid will be sent out in the very near future. It is imperative that we have a new jail. The capacity of the current jail is 125 and the current population is 173 inmates. The overflow prisoners will be sent out to other locations. The animal shelter will also be out for proposal. It would cost \$200,000 to repair the current building and \$625,000 to build a new shelter. There were costly water and sewer issues in the past so the most cost effective option would be to build a new facility. The dedication of the Allegan County Family Probate Court was done last Thursday.

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 May as follows: 20 calls total, 12 calls from Laketown, consisting of 10 rescue and 2 fire, 8 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 5 rescue 3 calls and fire. The 4th of July breakfast will be on Saturday this year. Chief Haverdink extended an invitation to the Board for volunteer opportunities and also the residents to enjoy the breakfast. Volunteers should contact the Fire Chief.

F. PARKS COMMISSION – Linda Howell

Linda Howell reported that the Parks Commission met on May 20. A local Eagle Scout presented a proposal to remove the old water tower from Sanctuary Woods. The recycled soil will be discussed later in the agenda. The disc golf course at Shore Acres should be up and running soon with credit to Ben Barton for his hard work and efforts. The new drive is in at Huyser Farm and looks great. We may strategically place boulders to deter the quad runners.

G. DDA – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin reported that the DDA met on May 27th and approved recommendation to the Township Board for approval of the amended DDA/TIF Plan.

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

Vern Fuder of 789 Myrtle Avenue stated that he has lived in Laketown Township for over 30 years. He expressed his concerns about making alcohol available at the Shore Acres Park referring to the article in the Holland Sentinel. He also referred to the flyer on the Saugatuck Water Front Film Festival noting the advertisement of a beer tent for a family event. He expressed concern of children exposed to an event that includes alcohol.

Terry Hofmeyer responded by stating that there is much thought and contemplation given to the decision the Board makes. Unfortunately, the Holland Sentinel interprets things in their own way. Terry also noted the letter of opposition from resident Ray Buursma stating much of the same as Mr. Fuder has expressed. There have been two liquor licenses issued and the Board does have concerns and there is much thought given to its consequences.

Mr. Fuder asked if it is true that the Film Festival would include children where there is a beer tent present. Terry Hofmeyer stated that the Township does not have any control over the decisions made there in Saugatuck. Mr. Fuder thanked the Board for listening to the concerns of his wife and himself.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. DDA/TIF PLAN ORDINANCE

Terry Hofmeyer gave a brief overview of the process for the plan approval.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve Ordinance No. 155 for the DDA/TIF Plan. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. COMPOSTING

Al Meshkin reported that research was done by Township Attorney Ron Bultje noting that the Township would not be in violation of the Chef Container contract if the Township wanted to have a composting site. It would be an additional expense to the budget. Al would like to further explore options with Chef Container for seasonal yard waste disposal. If this is not possible the Township could continue to research the option. Al also noted that it might be beneficial for residents to do their own backyard composting.

Terry Hofmeyer requested that a recommendation could be presented at the July meeting.

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. TOWNSHIP HALL PROPERTY CLEARING

Al Meshkin stated that the Township and the Parks Commission had created a plan for an onsite recreation facility. There is an option for free soil available as a result of local lake dredging process. The first thing that needs to be done in order to accept this free soil is to clear the property. There were five bids submitted to remove all growth under six inches and all brush and scotch pine trees. There was a very wide range of bids. Al recommends accepting the low bid of \$7,400.00 from Quantum Construction. Wendy Van Huis asked if the Parks Commission has funds in the budget for this. Al responded that there is money in the budget for this.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Bob Scanlan to accept the bid of \$7,400.00 from Quantum Construction. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Ed Stielstra asked how many trees would be removed and what types of trees there are. Al Meshkin responded that he does not have a count on the number of trees. Ed asked if there would be additional expenses. Al responded there may be if there are additional trees to be removed but it would not be significant.

Wendy Van Huis asked when the delivery of the dirt would occur. Al Meshkin stated that it would be available as early as July. Wendy asked if it would be safe materials to bring into the Township. Al responded that the dirt has been tested and has a designation of inert from the MDEQ.

Bob Scanlan asked if there is a formal contract with the Board of Public Works. Al responded that at this point it is a verbal agreement. Bob suggested that a written agreement be submitted and

signed before the dirt is delivered. Al stated that he will attempt to secure an agreement but cannot commit to it.

Ed Stielstra asked if the quote includes the chipping of the trees removed. Al said the chipping is included.

Terry Hofmeyer advised that there is an agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Board of Public Works. Terry clarified that while this action may be taken, the Township is not in a position to move forward with the entire project but this is a good first step.

Ed Stielstra asked if there are any neighboring property owners that would be concerned. Al gave a brief overview of the property owners. Ed stated that there should be a plan to have contingency monies available to control any dust issues that might occur. Al stated that the material is of dense organic content that will grow vegetation almost immediately. Ed asked that Al look into the option of seeding the cleared property.

B. PARKS AMENDMENT ORDINANCE

Terry Hofmeyer gave a brief overview of Ordinance No. 156. He asked for clarification of Section 3 concerning the Amendment to Regulations – Weapons. Al explained that the State of Michigan law overrules the Township Ordinance in that citizens are allowed to carry weapons if they have a concealed weapon permit.

Bob Scanlan stated that this property is surrounded by state park property which allows alcohol so he doesn't see any reason not to approve it.

Ed Stielstra expressed concern over the approval of alcohol in the park. The deputies in the Township and County are already overtaxed and this would just add to their load. He would recommend tabling it for further discussion.

Wendy Van Huis stated that she can appreciate Ed's concerns and also the citizen concerns that have been expressed. She feels if we move forward with it, it should be done with much caution.

Terry Hofmeyer stated that he agrees with Wendy in that the feasibility of allowing alcohol in the park may not be a big problem. He feels the Board should adopt the ordinance but if it becomes a problem, there should be an option to rescind the action. He would like to assume that we have responsible citizens and give it a try.

Bob Scanlon commented on the fact that it is possible that the Township may not own this property long-term.

Ed Stielstra stated that as long as it is under the Township jurisdiction, he cannot support it.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlon and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve Ordinance No. 156 Park Regulation Amendment Ordinance. 3-1 Motion Approved, Stielstra dissenting.**

C. BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the Resolution 2009-09 for the Bluegrass Festival on July 19, 2009. Al Meshkin clarified that this resolution applies to this specific event only.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Bob Scanlon to approve the Bluegrass Festival. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Ed Stielstra asked what the hours would be. Al Meshkin responded that the gates would probably open at 11:00am and the event would end by dark. Music is from 1pm to about 7pm. Ed also asked who would be the sponsor. Al responded that it would be the first fundraiser held by “The Friends of the Felt Estate.”

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Keith Becksvoort of 64th Street asked what would happen with the wood chipping on the Township site. Al Meshkin responded that they would be left on site and he will attempt to sell them or use them in other parks.

Ed Stielstra stated that it might be an option for residents to pick up the chips for personal use.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bob Scanlon and seconded by Ed Stielstra to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED