

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

September 9, 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

Secretary Ed Stielstra opened the meeting with prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Hofmeyer, Wendy Van Huis, Ed Stielstra, Bob Scanlan, Gary Dewey

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager  
Bob Curnick – Township Deputy  
Cal Haverdink – Township Fire Chief  
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey 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 August 2009. 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

Terry Hofmeyer reported receiving one item of correspondence from the West Michigan News Company which will be discussed under new business.

ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE GENETSKI – No report.
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER BURNS – No report.
- C. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on September 2 and the following topics were discussed: the Zoning Ordinance proposal; approved the Meiste Special Use Request; approved King Special Use Request.

- D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Bob Scanlan

Bob Scanlan reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on August 31 and the following topics were discussed: denied the Holt Variance Request.

- E. PARKS COMMISSION – Chuck Strabbing

Chuck Strabbing reported that Outdoor Discovery Center will be hosting a lakeshore raptor migration class at the Laketown Beach from 1pm to 4pm on October 10. The United Way Day of Caring event is scheduled for September 12 and there will be 56 volunteers working on projects at four different park sites in the Township.

- F. DEPUTY SHERIFF – Deputy Bob Curnick

Deputy Curnick reminded residents that school is back in session and to be mindful of the children riding bikes, walking and the bus traffic. He also noted that the deer are beginning to move and drivers should be cautious on the roads.

- G. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

The response calls for the month of August as follows: 35 calls total, 28 calls from Laketown, consisting of 19 rescue and 9 fire, 5 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 3 rescue calls and 2 fire. There was one fire assist to Holland Department and one fire assist to Hamilton.

- H. DDA – No report.

- I. COMMISSION ON AGING – George Smeenge

George Smeenge reported that interviews are underway to fill the director's position. There are many good candidates to choose from. The programs are going well and continue to serve more than 600 clients in the county. The Commission on the Aging will begin meeting independently on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. There will be a booth at the Allegan County Fair with information about the many agencies and services available to seniors in the county. There are focus groups being formed now through the Disability Network that will concentrate on transportation issues.

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

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64<sup>th</sup> Street asked for a full Treasurer's report. Supervisor Hofmeyer provided a copy to Mr. Becksvoort and stated that this information is always available at the Township Office as a matter of public record.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. SEWER ADMINISTRATION RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer explained that the resolution is an update which dovetails with the new sewer ordinance approved last month. Al Meshkin explained that this resolution will designate Holland Board of Public Works as “Control Authority” under the ordinance.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Ed Stielstra to adopt Resolution 2009-11 for Sewer Control Authority. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. METHAMPHETAMINE DIVERSION PROGRAM FUNDING

Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the funding program that Allegan County is requesting each Township and City to donate \$2,500.00 to the Methamphetamine Diversion Program. Bob Scanlan has a DVD explaining the program and it is also available on the Allegan County website.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve the expenditure of \$2,500.00 for the Methamphetamine Diversion Program Funding. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Bob Scanlan confirmed that there has been a marked increase in the methamphetamine related arrests this year. This program will offer offenders options including an opportunity for a rehabilitation program.

C. NEXT REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009

Terry Hofmeyer explained that due to scheduling issues, the October meeting will rescheduled to Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to reschedule the October meeting to Tuesday, October 13, 2009. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

D. MEDIA ACCESS TO ELECTION BALLOT INFORMATION

Terry Hofmeyer explained the FOIA request from the West Michigan News Company. He acknowledged receipt of the written appeal of the township’s decision to deny access to review the election ballots. Terry proposed the Board review the request and it be considered at the October meeting. Wendy Van Huis reported there were no issues with the Laketown Township ballots at the 2008 general election. All were able to be recounted and no errors were found.

**A motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey to schedule the appeal of the FOIA denial for the October 13, 2009 meeting. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline Road asked what is happening with the dirt and what is the news company hoping to do with the ballots if granted access. Terry Hofmeyer responded that he believes the access is being requested as a result of the contested judge's race in 2008. There was a recount of that race. Wendy Van Huis commented that in some districts there had been question of the ballot containers being sealed with the correct seal, or not being sealed. If the ballot boxes were not sealed correctly the ballots could not be recounted. This was not the case in Laketown Township. All ballots were recounted and resulted in the exact same counts as originally reported. Al Meshkin reported that he is working with the Holland Board of Public Works and the Corp of Engineers on the dirt delivery schedule.

George Smeenge of 3977 Beeline Road asked for an update on the non-motorized bike path and also a response to his previous correspondence concerning the right of way obstructions. Al Meshkin reported that the work will probably begin this week on the bike path but will not be completed until sometime next year. Terry Hofmeyer responded that he has not yet reviewed the question on the right of way but will get back to George before next month's meeting. George noted several sites in the Township such as the 64<sup>th</sup> Street Bakery, the Gibson Store and the Chef Container locations wherein the right of way is obstructed restricting room for human error in navigating through these drives onto the roads.

Terry Hofmeyer stated that there is a vacancy on the Holland Aquatic Center Board for the Laketown Township representation. He encourages all those who might be interested to apply through the Township Office. There is also information available at the Aquatic Center relative to the duties of this seat. He would like to approve a replacement at the October meeting if possible.

#### ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**