

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

REGULAR MEETING  
November 11, 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, Gary Dewey

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the October 13, 2009 meetings. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey 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 October 2009. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve and pay the bills as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer reported that Sue Higgins from the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council is retiring. There will be a retirement party for her on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30-7:30pm at Yacht Basin Marina. Prein & Newhof is hosting a holiday event on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – 2:00pm at the Zeeland Charter Township Offices. Allegan County MTA Chapter is hosting a

Christmas dinner and party on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Trestle Stop in Hamilton. Please see the invitations and submit an RSVP for those events you plan to attend.

Terry reported receiving a letter from the Castle Park Association in regards to asking for permission to connect to the water system that is built in the park's area for use of watering their clay tennis courts. We have asked for advice from the Township Attorney in regards to this request. Ernie Kelly, the President of Castle Park Association will be in town next week and Terry plans to meet with him to further discuss.

#### ARTICLE VI. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE GENETSKI – No report.

B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER BURNS – Terry Burns

Commissioner Burns reported that he was in Lansing last week for a special meeting on agriculture and tourism. This includes a consortium of eight representatives for the lakeshore area. Typically, the state and counties collectively fund marketing efforts at approximately \$180,000 for these two items. There is only \$3,000 earmarked for these efforts in 2010. There is a sub-committee that will focus on raising more funds to promote the state in these areas.

C. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on November 4 and the following topics were discussed: the Zoning Ordinance proposal; approved the Zalsman Special Use Request to construct an accessory building; approved Rosie Trust Special Use Request to reconstruct a home and garage due to fire damage.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Bob Scanlan

Bob Scanlan reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on October 26 and the following topics were discussed: Zalsman Variance Request was withdrawn, approved Herr Variance Request.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – Chuck Strabbing

Chuck Strabbing reported that the Parks Commission met on October 21. The weather speaks for itself – enjoy. Terry Hofmeyer commented on the progress being made on the non-motorized path.

F. DEPUTY SHERIFF – No report.

G. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – No report.

The response calls for the month of October as follows: 27 calls total, 22 calls from Laketown, consisting of 16 rescue and 6 fire, 5 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 3 rescue calls and 2 fire.

Terry Hofmeyer reported a letter of gratitude that was received from a resident in noting the assistance she was given by the fire department in regards to a down power wire.

H. DDA – No report.

I. COMMISSION ON THE AGING – No report.

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

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64<sup>th</sup> Street commented on the expenses being discussed to move the Gibson Church building to the Felt Mansion property. Mr. Becksvoort stated expenses that have been put forth for numerous improvements and events at the Felt Mansion. He expressed his opposition to these expenditures. He does not feel we need another white elephant in the Township. The church will need too much work to renovate and \$50,000 is too much to spend. The old Township Hall has also been a project for many years that has not been finished. He commented on the additional \$15,000 spent on the free dirt which he feels is too heavy for the uses intended. If this dirt is worth \$100,000, why is the dirt by the Felt Mansion only worth \$20,000?

Gene Berghorst of 6468 Spruce Lane supported the comments of opposition by Keith Becksvoort in the moving of the church and the hall. He feels both buildings could be better used for fire fighter practice. He also commented on the misuse of expenditure for the dirt.

## ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

## ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

### A. HERITAGE TRAIL RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer explained that the Heritage Trail Resolution is to designate the Blue Star Highway (old Route 31) as a heritage trail from the Indiana border to Ludington.

**A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the Heritage Trail Resolution No. 2009-17. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

### B. SHARED USE PATH ORDINANCE

Terry Hofmeyer explained the Ordinance No. 158 to regulate the use of the shared path that is currently under construction and looks great. The Ordinance allows people to walk and ride bicycles including the Segway motorized vehicle.

**A motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the Shared-Use Path Ordinance No. 158 with the amendment to allow for Segway vehicles.**

Ed Stielstra questioned allowing the Segway vehicle in the Ordinance and prohibiting any other motorized vehicles. He feels that all motorized vehicles should be prohibited and it should be clarified in the Ordinance.

Gary Dewey stated that the Ordinance is pretty standard. He commented that in California the Segways are allowed but not the motorized scooters.

Terry Hofmeyer asked if anyone has a problem with prohibiting electric scooters. There was no opposition.

Ed Stielstra noted Section 6 in regards to the Parking, Debris and Burning. He questioned where a disabled vehicle should pull over if the side of the road near the shared used path is prohibited. Terry Hofmeyer asked that the Township Deputy be asked for feedback.

Al Meshkin clarified that the Ordinance should be named “Shared-Use Path” and not “Multi-Use

Path Ordinance.”

**Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### C. GIBSON CRC OFFER

Terry Hofmeyer reported that the Gibson CRC offered to donate the small historical church to the Township. If accepted, it would be moved to the Felt Mansion property. He appreciated the comments made by residents noted above. Assuming that it would be moved, it would require a new roof, a foundation and an additional restroom.

Wendy Van Huis noted for the record that she is a member of the church.

**A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to accept the Gibson CRC Offer to donate the historical church to the Township.**

Gary Dewey stated that he would be interested in the offer if there is little to no money needed or of grants can be obtained to cover the expenses.

Ed Stielstra understood that this is on the agenda for consideration and study purposes and not to have a decision made tonight.

Terry Hofmeyer is in favor of retaining historical buildings, this one is over 100 years old. He does not believe the church is expecting the structure to be moved immediately. He feels it would be a good addition to the Felt Mansion property. He referred to the Graafschap Church and their success in the restoration of their old church. If there are grants available, we would certainly want to take advantage of those opportunities. He would like to take it into consideration.

Wendy Van Huis stated that it is difficult to put a dollar amount on a historical building. The church has a history with the mansion given that Dorr Felt’s daughter was married in the original church. She suggested that the church could also be moved to the cemetery. It does need a roof and may need siding in the future. She offered to take the Board members through the church if they desired. Wendy clarified that she does have a passion for the church but is also a Board member and will act in the best interest of the Township.

Terry Hofmeyer asked Al Meshkin if there would be grant opportunities. Al responded that there are two options to apply for grants one with the State of Michigan and also a Federal grant of Saving Sacred Places. There may be others available and of course there are always private donations to be considered. Al suggested amending the motion with a caveat that it would be considered if monies are raised for the move and restoration. The building itself is worth at least \$15,000 and could be used as a match.

Bob Scanlan stated that he feels it would be a great addition to the Felt Mansion property. There is no rush in getting it moved so there is time to raise the funds necessary to do so.

Gary Dewey asked if the motion could be amended to state that the Board is interested but would like to have the option of being able to raise the funds prior to making a commitment.

Terry Hofmeyer understands the concerns. The motion before the Board is to either decline or accept. Perhaps it would be better to state that it is the intent to accept contingent on the ability to raise funds. He feels that there may be a need for some local funding.

**An amended motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to accept the offer contingent upon further research and review of potential funding sources to cover expenses and given a minimum of one year to complete the research and final decision making process. Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the amended motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### D. KELLY LAKE DRAIN RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer explained this resolution is being done to make improvements to the Kelly Drain system. **A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the Kelly Lake Drain Resolution No. 2009-18.**

Al Meshkin explained that due to the excessive rains that have occurred, the Kelly Lake Inter-County Drainage Board has maintained the drain system but cannot exceed \$5,000 per mile per year. This resolution would require approval for expenditure in excess of the \$5,000 per mile. If this is not approved, there would be an assessment to the property owners. Al explained there would also be an intern brought on board from GVSU to study the drain and how things have changed in order to come up with a long-term plan. The Township would fund this intern at approximately \$10,000 and the project would take six months to one year to complete.

**Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### E. OTTOGAN DRAIN RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer explained that this is also an Inter-County Drainage situation similar to the aforementioned resolution. **A motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Ed Stielstra to approve the Ottogan Drain No. 2009-19 Resolution.**

Al Meshkin stated that this resolution will take care of the other work including the clean-up of the debris of the June storm, the permitting process and the engineering of the repair work of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and 147<sup>th</sup> Street. The actual construction costs are shared with the county and other municipalities.

Terry Hofmeyer reported that he has received many comments from residents in regards to both of these road closures and the inconvenience of the detours.

**Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### F. WOOD BOILER ORDINANCE

Al Meshkin explained that this has to do with the wood fire boilers that are located outside of residents home. They tend to create a fair amount of smoke that some residents have complained about. This ordinance would limit the devices to the Agriculture and R-1 zoning districts but would include specific requirements such as the height of the stack. Ed Stielstra commented the ordinance would also regulate what could be burned in the boilers.

Terry Hofmeyer explained that this item is for information only at this time and will be further reviewed for discussion at the December meeting.

#### G. FIRST CHOICE CONFERENCE AMENDED RESOLUTION

Terry Hofmeyer explained that the original resolution approved did not include the entertainment license. Terry feels the conference center has been doing a fine job in the Township after receiving their liquor license. **A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the First Choice Conference Amended Resolution No. 2009-20.**

Al Meshkin explained that this would amend the original resolution to allow entertainment on the premises according to the updated criteria outlined in Liquor License Issuing Resolution 2008-11.

**Supervisor Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### ARTICLE X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Gene Berghorst of 6468 Spruce Lane stated that many residents were out cleaning the roads. He does not believe any of the Board members participate in this volunteer activity and suggested that they should.

Wendy Van Huis stated that she does clean roadsides on a regular basis but not as part of an organized group.

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline Road asked if a permit is necessary for the wood boilers. Al Meshkin stated that a mechanical permit is necessary. Randy is unsure if there is one in his neighborhood or if it is a wood burner inside of a home but the smell is awful. Randy asked about the funding for the Methamphetamine Diversion Program. Are those monies still being used? Randy asked for clarification of the approved motorized vehicles for the shared use path. Al Meshkin responded that the Segways would be allowed but motorized scooters would be prohibited. Randy asked if the Township had recently funded repairs for the Kelly Lake Drain. Al responded that it was the Tibbe Drain but not the Kelly Drain.

Terry Burns explained the methamphetamine program dollars are used for the diversion program but they are running out. There are other means for county agencies to obtain funds and he is working on supporting those efforts. The \$2,500 funded by Laketown Township served as a bridge to help continue the program until these new funds are available.

Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64<sup>th</sup> Street agreed with Gary Dewey concerning the Gibson Church, taking it if there are no more monies involved. He also feels that Wendy Van Huis should remove herself from any interest in this.

#### ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**