

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

REGULAR MEETING  
March 09, 2011

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer called the regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting to order at 8:45 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager  
Kathy Stoike – Office Manager  
Mary Geurink – Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant  
Charlene Fields – Deputy Treasurer  
Paul Smith – Township Assessor  
Mark Lytle – Township Deputy  
Cal Haverdink – Fire Chief  
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve the minutes as submitted.**

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

ARTICLE III. TREASURERS REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

Supervisor Hofmeyer reviewed the bills for the month of February 2011. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to approve and pay the bills as submitted.**

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

ARTICLE IV. CORRESPONDENCE - None

ARTICLE V. CITIZEN COMMENT'S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

George Smeenge of 3977 Beeline Road stated that he has a problem with the right of way situations in the township such as 66 foot right of ways. There are stones, signs and snow in the way of our right of ways. The State of Michigan Road Commission does not want obstacles in the right of

ways. There are many areas where there are stones in the way. They are two feet off the roadway. I will sue the county and the township if I hurt myself or damage my car due to these stones.

Al Meshkin asked where the good sense is of the people who do not know how to stay on the road and not go off the pavement. Al was making reference to the lawn that was damaged at the Laketown Healing Arts building so the owner put up stone. George Smeenge stated it is the right of the way for the traffic not a homeowner or business. Bob Slikkers stated that he appreciated what the owner did to the property at 140<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Street. Ed Stielstra stated that you would be suing the county that put the drainage system along 65<sup>th</sup> Street to prevent motorists from going down into the ditch.

George Smeenge also addressed the non-motorized bike path and he feels we need a good set of rules and guidelines of how to use it. There has been no communication on how this path should be used. He complained about people going onto his property. He also complained about the snow plow trucks that push snow into the right of way. Keith Becksvoort of 4468 64<sup>th</sup> Street asked if no one took care of the right of way, who would take care of it? The township or the county? They wouldn't take care of it.

Udelis Kuipers stated that there are other areas in the township that do not have 66 feet of right of way on some of the roads. There are some structures that do not have adequate setbacks due to the deeded right of way.

George Smeenge stated that either the Township addresses this or he will. Terry Hofmeyer stated that he has forwarded George's correspondence to the County Road Commission. Keith Becksvoort stated that he hopes George won't put a pole on the right of way.

George Smeenge stated that the Township newsletter is outstanding and he appreciates it.

## ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

### A. FY 2010-11 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Al Meshkin reviewed the amended budget. There was an increase in revenue but also in expenses. The bike path and roads were more than anticipated.

**A motion was made by Ed Stielstra and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the amended budget.**

**Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer called for a vote.  
UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

## ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2011-12 BUDGET

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer opened the public hearing.

Al Meshkin explained the proposed budget.

The revenue has three significant changes, property taxes have a slight decrease, there is a significant increase in the state grant and a small increase in the revenue sharing this year. The Township has cut severely in the past years so the state cannot decrease revenue sharing. It is calculated by relative tax effort, the more you tax your residents the more revenue sharing you get. Laketown is at 2.5 tax mil keeping our revenue sharing down.

The Township Expenditures are \$1.7 million. The millage rates are flat.

There is a significant increase in contracted services which includes any partnership and collaborations with other entities. The Friends of the Felt Estate will receive monies for fund raising and marketing. Last year the township funded at \$10,000 and received \$18,000 back.

There are no changes in the Township Manager salary. The Office Staff has remained relatively flat.

Udelis Kuipers stated that he feels the supervisor salary should be raised out of respect and the work that he does. Terry Hofmeyer appreciated his comments but also stated that he enjoys coming in to work for the Township. Udelis also feels that Wendy Van Huis should receive a raise. Wendy responded that all officers are paid the same salary now.

The Buildings and Grounds budget has been increased to address some building maintenance items such as doors, kitchen updates and a new exterior sign.

We currently only have one deputy budgeted in the Township. There is a slight increase in contracted services due to an increase passed on to us from Allegan County. Former Deputy Curnick is certified to be a vehicle salvage inspector. The Township will contract with Bob Curnick and share in the revenue. All police vehicles have been paid off. We had a spare vehicle due to going down from two to one deputy. The Expedition that was on the road will be transferred to the Fire Department which will include certified medical response equipment.

There are some reductions in the Fire Department budget.

There is a significant increase in the Drains budget due to the debt payments from the previous years' storm damage. There was work done on several county drains in the township.

The Roads budget is slightly up with earmarks for a new project not yet determined.

Parks Commission budget was increased for the maintenance on the shared use paths. The final number for our share for cost of construction is not yet known. The numbers for the current year and next year are pretty close.

Total Expenditures are at \$1,680,843.

Graafschap Fire Department revenue is quite flat. The Fillmore percentage of the budget came up 2% based on the formula on tax base and runs. There is a drop in the fund balance to pay for the new vehicle.

Special Revenue Funds for Water and Sewer have not changed much. 2010 was probably the worse construction year since the 1960's at less than \$2 million for the year. We used to average \$1 million per month. Al projected that growth will change in two to three years to the point it will have to be controlled again.

The Downtown Development Authority had little change in budget. They are waiting for the finalization of the ordinances and the county revenue sharing agreement. There may be a request for a small funding after conversations with Allegan County in regards to the revenue sharing.

Debt Service Funds consists of the Graafschap Fire Station and Goshorn Sewer. Bob Slikkers asked how much longer we had to pay on Goshorn Sewer. Al Meshkin stated we have about 15 more years to pay this off. Bob Slikkers asked if we can pay a bond off early. Al Meshkin responded that it depends on how the bond is written. Bob asked what the rates are, commercial or residential. Al responded it is better than commercial and residential and is dependent on many factors. A lot is tax exempt bonding and makes a difference in the interest rate. We are limited to \$10 million per year maximum which is the same for all areas of the state.

George Smeenge asked what the Exit 41 Waste Water Plant Capacity debt is. Al responded it is part of the DDA Blue Star Highway Corridor project. Bob Slikkers asked for clarification of the bond details.

The Felt Estate shows some negative numbers. Some is from ongoing projects, maintenance and some of the accounting adjustments that were required. Bob Slikkers asked for clarification of the deficit. Linda Howell asked what the Sale of Assets is under the Felt Mansion. Al responded it is tax credits sales. The governor's proposed budget eliminates tax credits for historical preservation. There will be an effective date so we are trying to get in early enough to get the project done before that date.

George Smeenge asked if there are any green efforts underway at the mansion. Al Meshkin responded that energy savings at the mansion will save 90-95% on natural gas. We are also looking at a solar array and have applied through Consumers Power for a credit program. They will pay you more for your renewable energy credits than what you pay for your electricity. If that program were to occur and through energy bonds we could potentially make it affordable. Bob Slikkers asked how the local resident does with his solar energy. Patty Meyer explained that with the new system you can control the temperature in each room.

**Terry Hofmeyer closed the public hearing.**

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the FY 2011-12 Budget.**

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

#### B. GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTIONS

Terry Hofmeyer explained there are two resolutions. One is 2011-06 for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant and 2011-07 for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant.

**A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve Resolution 2011-06 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant.**

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

**A motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve Resolution 2011-07 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant.**

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

#### C. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE MEMBER FOR BOARD OF APPEALS - HELEN HENEVELD

**A motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Bob Scanlan to appoint Helen Heneveld as alternate member for the Board of Appeals.**

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

#### ARTICLE VIII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Bob Slikkers asked what the grant application amounts were. Al Meshkin responded \$60,000 each total from the township with a total project size of approximately \$170,000.

#### ARTICLE IX. ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Bob Scanlan and seconded by Wendy Van Huis to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

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Wendy Van Huis, Township Clerk

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Diane Ybarra, Recording Secretary