

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

REGULAR MEETING
May 11, 2011

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer called the regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer opened the meeting with prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the April 12, 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 IV. TREASURERS REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

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

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

ARTICLE V. PRESENTATION ON DRUG COURT – JUDGE BAILLARGEON

Judge Baillargeon explained that the Drug Court will provide a program for offenders that will include incarceration and then a program to provide follow-up and supervision. It will include regular and random drug testing, calls and home visits. The program is a minimum of 18 months and will be very intensive outreach for offenders to gain sobriety by completing a five phase plan. Offenders must stay in the program to avoid incarceration. Judge Baillargeon presented a PowerPoint overview of the program providing details and statistics of the program and its goals.

Statistics were given for the percentage of various crimes that involved substance abuse. The Judge also touched on the strength of medical marijuana that has been introduced into society.

Ed Stielstra asked about the Judge's reference to the "future" program. Judge Baillargeon explained that the program will be launched in June.

Wendy Van Huis asked if there would be counseling for the family as part of the program. Judge Baillargeon responded that is something that will be developed as the program expands.

Cal Haverdink asked if the success rate was discussed in the presentation. Judge Baillargeon responded a Michigan study shows a 19 times reduction in recidivism. The national study shows a reduction from 72% to 15-16% with a successful program. The cost of incarceration in Michigan is \$35,000 per year on average per person with no treatment program in place. With this 18 month program, the offender must either be in a tech program or gainfully employed.

Terry Hofmeyer asked how the program is funded. Judge Baillargeon responded that funding is coming from LCC (liquor tax) fund. It is to be used to address alcohol abuse issues. The initial outlay for the county is \$25,000 for the first four months. Much of the staff needed for the program is already in place with the superstructure of the court system. The total cost of the program is budgeted to be \$90,000 for the first 18 months, which is low in comparison to the cost of incarceration for offenders at \$35,000 per year.

Ed Stielstra commented on the Judge's enthusiasm. With all the success that has occurred with the drug court method, have the courts looked at this methodology for other criminal offenses that are behavioral issues. Judge Baillargeon responded that he is looking into a veteran's program for post traumatic syndrome.

Terry Hofmeyer commented on the presentation he has seen from Ottawa County. Judge Baillargeon agreed that Judges Jonas and Knoll have an incredible program that has been nationally recognized.

ARTICLE VI. CORRESPONDENCE – None

ARTICLE VII. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. STATE REPRESENTATIVE GENETSKI – No report.
- B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER BURNS – Terry Burns

Terry Burns commented on the Drug Court program and what a great asset it will be to the county. Terry noted that there is no agency in Michigan that currently provides practitioners substance abuse licensing. There is no department in place at this time so Terry has written to the state representatives and has not received an adequate response. The commissioners discussed the validity of the County Planning Commission that costs \$12,000 annually. The budget will be about \$250,000 short from last year. Bids will go out in June for construction of the new jail.

- C. PLANNING COMMISSION – Ed Stielstra

Ed Stielstra reported that the Planning Commission met on May 4, 2011 and the following items were discussed: approved the resolution report to approve the Lewis Special Use Request; approve the Kortman Special Use Request; continued the Zoning Ordinance Discussion.

- D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Bob Scanlan

Bob Scanlan reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet in April.

E. PARKS COMMISSION – Chuck Strabbing

Chuck Strabbing reported that the Gibson Church has been moved to the Felt Estate and the work is progressing. The other parks are highly used. The disc golf course was mentioned on Fox news and has more than 40 participants in its league activities. The next Parks meeting is May 18. The debts crew has been working on clearing the stairs at Laketown Beach. Things are looking very good in the parks.

F. DEPUTY SHERIFF – No report.

G. FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE BOARD – Chief Cal Haverdink

The response calls for the month of April are as follows: 19 calls total, 17 calls from Laketown, consisting of 14 rescue and 3 fire, 2 calls from Fillmore, consisting of 2 rescue calls and no fire. This has been one of the lower call months in some time.

H. DDA – No report.

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZEN COMMENT’S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS -
None

ARTICLE IX. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE X. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2011 ROAD WORK

Terry Hofmeyer reviewed the 2011 proposed road work for an estimated cost of \$177,500.00. The work will involve the following roads: 61st Street from 140th Avenue south to cul-de-sac; 62nd Street from 140th Avenue north to cul-de-sac; repair to culvert o 145th Avenue 4 roadside mowings and dust control on 63rd south of 144th Avenue, 62nd Street south of 142nd Avenue and 66th Street north of State Park Drive. **A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to approve the 2011 Road Work.**

Al Meshkin commented that the culvert 145th Avenue is being closed by the Allegan County Road Commission. The cost to replace it would be \$175,000 and the Road Commission is unwilling to pay for any portion of the cost. Terry Hofmeyer asked if the Township could fund the cost over time. Al Meshkin responded that there are a couple of options available but it may be difficult to get funding and DEQ approval to complete the project this year. Wendy Van Huis confirmed that the budget shows \$50,000 for the repair. Bob Scanlan asked if Al has spoken to the Road Commission in regards to getting the DEQ permit. Al responded that he had but they would not provide support.

Ed Stielstra expressed his concern about getting the culvert replaced on 145th Avenue to get the road open and accessible. He feels we should cut other areas to ensure a firm commitment from the board to get this done without debating with the Road Commission. He feels strongly about getting it done. He will not support the 2011 Proposed Road Work plan without that commitment.

Terry Hofmeyer stated that the residents of the Township have been supportive of the work that has been done. He feels that over the years we have made the commitments to provide quality roads in the Township. He does not feel there should be a debate with the Road Commission as that would be unproductive. Given the necessary DEQ approval and financial support needed, the project will very likely carry over into the next fiscal year. Terry is in favor of going ahead with the resurfacing.

**Terry Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion.
4 Yes Votes and 1 No Vote - MOTION APPROVED Stielstra voting no.**

B. KUIPER DRAIN MAINTENANCE RESOLUTION 2011-09

Terry Hofmeyer explained an inspection has been done and it was determined maintenance is necessary. The cost is estimated to be \$5,000.00 per mile or \$64,000. This is a farm drain that runs close to the interstate. The Township is responsible for a portion of the cost.

Al Meshkin stated that Fillmore Township approved their portion of the financial responsibility. Terry Hofmeyer commented that he had one call from Udelis Kuiper asking if he would be assessed.

A motion was made by Wendy Van Huis and seconded by Gary Dewey to approve the Kuiper Drain Maintenance Resolution.

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

C. WATER CONTRACTS AMENDMENT

Terry Hofmeyer explained the Township is working on amendments to the water contracts with the City of Holland and they should be available for the June board meeting.

ARTICLE XI. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Randy Becksvoort of 3930 Beeline commented that he was not initially in favor of the Gibson Church move but after seeing it, it was a great idea.

Randy asked if the Judge was disheartened with the passing of the Medical Marijuana Act. Judge Baillergeon responded that the Medical Marijuana Resolution is a bit of a mess and poorly, broadly worded with many things that need to be addressed. The level of impairment has not been established under this act. The current tests are not conducive to the act. There are many people walking around with a medical marijuana card and abuse has increased. It does not make things easy for the Drug Court Treatment Program. The program deals primarily with felony related substance abuse issues.

Cal Haverdink asked if a person that has a medical marijuana license can lose it. Judge Baillergeon stated that there is nothing in the law right now. In the Drug Treatment Program he will not allow anyone to have a medical marijuana card. The program will also address legal prescription drugs that are addictive. The cost of methamphetamine waste clean-up is exorbitant and many counties do not have the funds to clean it up.

Al Meshkin suggested declaring it a Brownfield situation as it is a toxic waste clean-up and grant money may be available.

ARTICLE XII. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Gary Dewey and seconded by Bob Scanlan to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 P.M. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED