

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

ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 9, 2016

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

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

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Hofmeyer, Wendy Van Huis, Ed Stielstra,
Gary Dewey, Linda Howell
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Kathy Stoike – Administrative Assistant/Finance
Jennifer French – Deputy Clerk
Staci Veldt – Event Coordinator
Paul Smith – Township Assessor
Doug Den Bleyker – Fire Chief
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary
Dan Williams – Township Maintenance

ARTICLE III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2015 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES –
Clerk Wendy Van Huis

Clerk Wendy Van Huis reviewed the minutes of the March 11, 2015 annual meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Udelis Kuipers and seconded by Dave Slikkers to approve the minutes as submitted. Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. OPENING COMMENTS – SUPERVISOR TERRY HOFMEYER

Supervisor Hofmeyer recognized the Township employees, board members and Al Meshkin who leads the team for their fine service and stated we are looking forward to another good year. We have had a busy year, the Planning Commission has been exceptionally busy; a number of things we've all worked on and greatly appreciate approving the Graafschap Fire Department millage. All township employees appreciate the cooperation and engagement of the residents, particularly the faithful few who show up to the monthly meetings, we appreciate your comments.

ARTICLE V. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- a. State Representative – Mary Whiteford

Representative Whiteford thanked everyone, is humbled and anxious to work for everyone and will forward her contact information. Her office will officially be open on Monday and she looks forward to serving the public.

b. State Senator – Tonya Schuitmaker / Deb Shields

Deb Shields, District Director for Senator Schuitmaker provided the update. Schuitmaker is currently supporting the following initiatives: Bills to Combat Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse; Legislation to Clarify and Streamline Final Arrangements for Loved Ones; Free Webinars and Seminars for Entrepreneurs and Legislation to Improve Government Efficiency. Shields also mentioned respect being paid to long-time local radio personality Juke Oss who passed away on March 7. A copy of the full report is available on www.SenatorTonyaSchuitmaker.com

c. County Commissioner – Dean Kapenga

Commissioner Dean Kapenga said it is great to see so many people at the meeting. The County works on a 5-year operational budget and a 12-year capital budget fund approximately 350 programs county-wide. There was a 2.5-3% uptick in revenue funds due to the increase in the taxable value of homes. Kapenga recognized the county employees for the hard work they do and the executive team for the structure to hold people accountable and justify the programming provided. He specifically noted Scott Corbin, the Emergency Services Response Plan Coordinator for the work that he has done with Wolverine Pipe Line holding them accountable for testing their pipeline and having an emergency response plan in place. He also recognized the work of the Economic Director for initiatives in employment training and business expansions. Focus is also being put on the 23% of the population that is living in or at the poverty rate and how they can be helped to gain the tools they need to be successful. Over 60,000 meals were served to senior citizens in the last year. The Community Corrections Committee is working with inmates on programs to reduce the rate of recidivism and addressing the many health issues of inmates. The Allegan County Substance Abuse Prevention Committee is creating awareness of the effects of marijuana on our youth. The oils and edibles being produced today are much more potent than the marijuana from the 1960's and 1970's. Lastly, Kapenga recognized Chief Den Bleyer for the work that he and other local chiefs on doing on the new 911 emergency operation system that will be installed in the county. It is a \$9-\$12 million dollar expense for the county but is long overdue.

d. Library Representative – Gary Dewey

Gary Dewey reported that long-term employee Diane Kooiker had been hired as the new director at Herrick Library. She has a lot of creative ideas including making the library more user friendly for its patrons. There has also been much collaboration with local schools and colleges. By distribution, the Herrick Library is the fourth largest in the state. Dewey reminded residents of the upcoming millage, not a new millage but the same 1.5mil that was introduced 16 years ago. Dewey thanked residents for allowing him to serve as the township's representative.

e. Pool Authority – Jack Huisingh

Jack Huisingh reported that the pool is doing very well. He recognized Kevin Stoike in the audience who recently retired thanking him for his years of service on the maintenance staff. He also recognized Sarah Gessler, representative from Laketown Township who was recently voted board chairperson. Huisingh recognized Staci Veldt, thanking her for her many hours as a tireless parent and mom of two very active daughters in competitive swim. Laketown is very well represented at the pool. There are 7 pools and one big fitness center and everything is running well with kids learning to swim, growing opportunities for scholarships and productive team members. We really focused this year to change demographics of the people who came to the pool and those who serve them. Now over 50% of front the desk staff speaks Spanish as second language and we are also increasing the diversity in our life guards and other staff. There are 10-12 full-time staff and approximately 100 part-time staff members of multi-cultural descent. We took on the management of the Bouws Pool, not as an asset but the programming and maintenance which has worked out very well. As a whole we are a \$25mil asset and we receive 1mil in operation funding. There are resident and non-resident fees. We operate on a \$2mil budget and happy to say we have been working toward one half of that for operations and adding capacity in programming. We have hosted YMCA State Finals and many large competitive events throughout that year that bring many visitors to the city to requiring the use of our hotels and restaurants. Current debt was refinanced in the amount of \$2.7mil which will now be paid off in about 4 years after which time we will focus on growth as we begin to reach capacity

in our current facilities. The goal is to provide a facility that draws top athletes from around the surrounding states and Canada. We finished our eighth consecutive audit with no issues; the fund balance has increased for the first time in 9 years in spite of the maintenance needs of our aging facility. Some of our existing equipment dates back to 1968 and 1998. Huisingh stated that his office is always open come and welcomes visitors to talk about what comes next as we begin to think of the future.

f. Zoning Board of Appeals – David Weishaar

David Weishaar stated it is a privilege and pleasure to be here to represent you and keep things in accordance with the zoning ordinance. There were six meetings last year consisting of 16 different variance requests 9 new and 7 rollovers that were tabled and heard again. Most were issues of setback requirements and accessory buildings. The reviews the requests and works toward making balanced common sense rulings.

g. Planning Commission – Linda Howell

Linda Howell reported that the Planning Commission met almost every month last year highlighting the following requests: Chef Container amendment to the P.U.D. for composting; lot size issues in Macatawa Hills; P.U.D. amendment for Rod Obbink to relocate his office to the former bank property on 32nd Street; accessory buildings; an accessory building request wherein the main house on the property was going to be rented meaning two different uses of the property which resulted in a withdrawal of the request and most recently the condo project on 147th and 64th Streets which resulted in a 17% reduction in units after many months of working with the developer and residents. The Planning Commission will begin to review the current Master Plan and Howell invited residents to attend the meetings and participate in the process. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at the Township Hall.

h. Parks Commission – Michelle Sall

Chairperson Michelle Sall reported 2015 was busy year for the Parks Commission highlighting the following projects: Township Hall Recreation Park was completed; partnering with the ODC on 12 free park activities; two new board members, Jan Lozon and Jim Johnson; controlled bow season deer hunt at Huyser Farm; United Way Day of Caring on September 17 with volunteer crews at Farview Park, Huyser, and Sanctuary Woods utilizing over 50 volunteers from six local companies. Special thanks to Huntington Bank, Macatawa Bank, Talmer Bank and Trust, Consumers Energy, Spectrum Health Zeeland and DeLong & Brower; creation of a parks use reservation permit providing guidelines for groups of 20 or more who want to organize and host events; improvement so Shore Acres parking lot and continued success with sand removal at Laketown Beach. The 2016 plans include a resident survey, Parks and Recreation 5-year plan, Adopt-A-Park program; grant opportunities and Day of Caring.

i. Felt Mansion Project Manager – Pat Meyer

Pat Meyer reported she has 14 different accomplishments for 2015 as follows: new farm fencing; paved west drive; exterior stairway on Carriage House; Carriage House doors; tent on Carriage House stage for concerts and events; landscaping for 2016 tent west of mansion; successful tour season; sold out Downton Abbey and Kendall Fashion Show events; rest room project at Carriage House; granite counters in kitchen; new roof on Carriage House and barn; largest one-day tour crowd on New Year's Day; 100 KW solar array installed and concert series that brought hundreds of visitors out. Meyer noted that there are free passes for mansion tours located on the refreshment table and encouraged members of the audience to come out for a visit. Meyer thanked the Friends of the Felt Estate Board and all those who support the mansion.

j. Graafschap Fire Department – Doug Den Bleyker

Chief Den Bleyker thanked Commissioner Dean Kapenga for being available to the Department. Chief Doug Den Bleyker reported there were 453 calls in 2015. Laketown had 316 runs; Fillmore had 94 and there were 43 assists to other departments. This was a 4.14% increase over 2014.

Estimated losses for the year of 2015 were \$60,000. Three firefighters were added to the staff, two of which are in the fire academy and the other is fully trained. The Department is preparing for the ISO Audit. We are currently in the process of specifying requirements for a new fire engine to replace the 1985 model and delivery is anticipated for early 2017. Later this year or early 2017 a voluntary Home Safety Survey Program will be offered to assist homeowners with identifying unsafe conditions or behaviors in and around the home. A first ever Capital Improvement Plan has been created for the Fire Department and will be presented to the Fire Board at the April meeting. The plan has identified our future building and equipment needs for the next 20 years and will be one of numerous guides for the Fire Board to use in planning and budgeting.

ARTICLE VI. DE MULL AWARD PRESENTATION

Terry Hofmeyer explained that the volunteers in the township really make things happen. The De Mull Award is presented to an outstanding volunteer each year to recognize efforts made above and beyond the call of duty. Pat Meyer presented this year's award to Tammy Bloomfield. Tammy has been a volunteer for many years in the township and the mansion going above and beyond the call of duty.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – No comments.

Steve Bearden of 3881 64th Street commented that he bikes and runs in the township noting that most residents take incredible care of their property. Do we have an ordinance for those who do not? At 3719 64th Street, there is a guy who does not take care of his property; the house hasn't been lived in for a number of years. He understands that the owner was taken to court twice but the second time the township lost the case. He asked if it would be possible for the township to appeal that decision as the appearance of the property affects neighboring property values. If we don't currently have an ordinance to address this perhaps we could get one. Hofmeyer acknowledged the concerns and will work to address the issue noting that there are 2-3 other properties in the township with the same issue. Bearden said if the judge or court system needs a petition, there are many people who would sign it. Meshkin said the last time we needed witnesses that would come and testify in court and there were none. Bearden said there would be people perfectly willing to be witness to this issue now.

Ryan Bosscher of 967 Laketown Drive spoke in opposition of the \$8.5mil fiber optic project being proposed for the township on the May ballot. He stated the project would cost him \$1500. Bosscher complained about the manner in which the resolution was first approved at the township's rescheduled February meeting which was not noted on the township website. Bosscher stated it is in violation of the Freedom of Open Meetings Act and feels the approval should be rescinded to allow for public comment.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Udelis Kuipers and seconded by Richard Stec to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm.