

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

March 9, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Township Supervisor Linda Howell called the regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the township hall. Zoom option also available for the public, though video of township board was not functioning. Audio was working.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Delaney, Linda Howell, Jim Johnson, Michelle Sall

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Dewey

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – township manager
Doug Den Bleyker – Graafschap Fire Department chief
Jim Hayden – public information officer

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board members reviewed the minutes of the Jan. 12, 2022, meeting. **A motion was made by Sall, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE**

3. FINANCIAL REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE BILLS

The board reviewed the bills from January and February. **A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Sall, to approve the January and February bills as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE**

4. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- a. State Sen. Aric Nesbitt: Written report submitted.
- b. State Rep. Mary Whiteford: Written report submitted.
- c. County Commissioner Kapenga: Shared Allegan County update.
- d. Herrick Library Representative Gary Dewey: Written report submitted.
- e. Holland Aquatic Center Director Jack Huisingh: Written report submitted.
- f. Planning Commission Chair Randy Becksvort: Shared commission activity.
- g. Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Casey Kimes: Delaney shared recent ZBA activity.
- h. Parks Commission Chair Tom Shuff: Shared activity, handed out examples of signs to be installed at township parks,
- i. Friends of the Felt Estate Director Patricia Meyer: Written report submitted.
- j. Graafschap Fire Chief Doug Den Bleyker: Written report submitted, shared overview of

activity; reviewed February fire/rescue calls with 44 total calls, Fillmore – 2 fire calls, 8 medical/rescue calls; Laketown – 6 fire calls, 27 medical/rescue calls; Assists – 1 fire calls (1 Holland).

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

Halcyon Hills Board of Directors: Letter regarding policing. Howell responded to the letter and the issues will be addressed at workshop.

Mitra Delaney, 6298 144th Ave.: Sall shared an email she received from Mitra Delaney that supported Meshkin's retirement, saying the township should not accept Meshkin's proposed contract and the board should meet with its attorney regarding the contract.

Charles DeVries, address unknown: Howell was contacted by DeVries regarding contracted services in the proposed budget.

Karen Massengill, 6271 143rd Ave.: Fire department, first responders doing great work.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Sall, to approve the FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. FY 2022-2023 Budget Hearing

Howell opened the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Charles DeVries letter, no address: Meshkin noted a message received from DeVries and explained the change in funds in the Contracted Services line in the proposed budget, noting the amount decreased from \$86,000 proposed in 2021 to \$65,000 amended for 2021 due to moving items from Contracted Services to Training & Membership category. The proposed 2022 amount increased to \$138,000 due to the addition of \$75,000 of American Rescue Plan Act money to distribute to nonprofits.

Karen Massengill, 6271 143rd Ave.: Asked the board to sensitive to taxpayers who have had it tough the last 2 years and save as much money as possible; focus on residents not the tourists coming to the area; website needs to be improved.

Tom Shuff, 4706 Forest Ridge Dr.: Improve communications in the township.

Randy Becksvoort, 3930 Beeline Road: Asked for explanation of road budget proposed increase from

\$275,000 to \$680,000. Meshkin explained road and bike path repairs for the season.

Darcie Hengst, 6249 143rd Ave.: Asked the board to consider using American Rescue Plan Act funds for Fieldstone Farm and Hospice. Meshkin suggested she send a letter of interest with nonprofit documentation to him as soon as possible with funding request.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to close the public hearing at 7:38 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE

Board members discussed the proposed budget and commented:

Delaney: Asked about \$20,000 budgeted for website. Meshkin said it is still in the budget.

Sall: Asked Meshkin to explain roads repair process and American Rescue Plan Act funding restrictions. Meshkin explained.

Howell: Introduced staff members, thanked them and the fire department as well as other township employees; noted township is paying off debt early to save money; and building a fund balance.

A motion was made by Sall, seconded by Johnson, to approve the FY 2022-2023 Budget as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE

b. Building Authority Appointment Resolution

The board discussed the building authority appointment resolution. Appointments of Robert Schaftenaar through Dec. 31, 2022; Thomas Shuff through Dec. 31, 2023; and Albert Meshkin through Dec. 31, 2024.

Sall asked if the authority can have more members. Meshkin will investigate.

Delaney said the board needs for foresight and should have seen this bond issue coming months ago and painted itself into a corner by waiting too long.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Sall, to approve Resolution 2022-06 a Resolution Approving Appointment of New Members of the Commission of the Laketown Township Building Authority. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION APPROVED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE. YES Howell, Sall, Johnson. NO Delaney.

c. Bond Call Resolution

The board discussed paying off \$40,000 in principal maturing in 2027 plus bond counsel fees of \$375.

A motion was made by Sall, seconded by Johnson, to approve Resolution 2022-07 a Resolution Approving Redemption of Part of the Callable Outstanding Laketown Township Building Authority Building Authority Bonds Series 2007 Prior to Maturity. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION APPROVED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE. YES Howell, Sall, Johnson. NO

Delaney.

d. Manager's Contract

The board discussed the proposed contract with Meshkin. Johnson explained the contract.

Delaney said Meshkin does a great job but has a fantastic contract and gets whatever he needs when he wants it so he asked who is driving the contract? The board should be, he said. Delaney said Meshkin has a "fantastic golden parachute." Delaney said he does not support any monetary changes to the current contract.

Johnson said Meshkin's increases are in line with the rest of the staff who received 5 percent increases.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Sall, to approve the manager's contract as presented. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION APPROVED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE. YES Howell, Sall, Johnson. NO Delaney.

8. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Doug Den Blyker, Graafschap Fire Department Chief: Asked the total money amount of grants Meshkin has brought in over 32 years as manager. Johnson said \$5.6 million.

Kevin Stoike, 3734 64th St.: Voting experience in the township has been great, efficient and proper; find ways to enhance voter participation.

Karen Massengill, 6271 143rd Ave.: Need to bring in someone to trail with Meshkin before he leaves.

Deb Kryger, 6236 144th Ave.: Wants better access to Lake Michigan.

Mitra Delaney, 6298 144th Ave: Thanked everyone for service; addressed the planning commission members present, said the owners of Fellinlove Farm who addressed the planning commission March 2 were treated with disrespect and planners were rude; Cheryl Kaletka, an owner of the farm, is not a country bumpkin but is a professor and needs to be treated with courtesy.

Tom Shuff, 4706 Forest Ridge Dr.: Meshkin more than qualified for what he is receiving in the new contract due to his 32 years of experience in the township.

Howell thanked everyone, noting issues she has been having recently at the family level.

9. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Delaney, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.