

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

March 10, 2021

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Township Supervisor Linda Howell called the regular monthly Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the township hall with participants using the Zoom application unless noted.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Howell (at township hall), Gary Dewey (Zoom from home),
Michelle Sall (Zoom from home), Jim Johnson (Zoom from home),
Jim Delaney (Zoom from home)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – (at township hall) Township manager
Jim Hayden – (at township hall) Public information officer

ARTICLE II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board members reviewed the minutes of the Feb. 10, 2021, meeting. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

ARTICLE III. FINANCIAL REPORT/REVIEW & APPROVE BILLS

The board reviewed the bills from February. **A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Dewey to approve the February bills as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

ARTICLE IV. WRITTEN REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES – On Website

Howell noted written reports available on the township's website from State Sen. Aric Nesbitt, State Rep. Mary Whiteford, County Commissioner Dean Kapenga, Herrick Library representative Gary Dewey, Holland Aquatic Center Director Jack Huisingh, Planning Commission Chairman Randy Becksvoort, Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Casey Kimes, Parks Commission Chair Tom Shuff, Friends of the Felt Estate Director Patricia Meyer and Graafschap Fire Department Chief Doug Den Bleyker.

ARTICLE V. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

Tom Shuff, 4706 Forest Ridge Drive: Pickleball is the fastest growing sport, needed for the changing demographics of the township, an attraction in the township and a doorway for people to buy homes in township.

Dick Becker, 6436 Copperleaf Court: Work on pickleball started in 2017 and would be a great addition to the township.

Brendan Hagman, 6698 Forest Beach Drive: Pickleball is wonderful, for everyone and inclusive.

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A: FY 2020-2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT

The board discussed amendments to the 2020-2021 budget. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Sall to approve the amended 2020-2021 budget. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A: FY 2021-2022 BUDGET HEARING

Howell opened the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Meshkin read the names of 20 households who commented on the budget.

Mitra Delaney, 6298 144th Ave: Not in favor of a tax increase. Not in favor of pickleball courts because of expense, traffic, noise. Supports cost containment.

Charlie DeVries, no address given: Not in favor. Wanted board to take a look at donations made to nonprofits.

A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Dewey to close the public hearing at 7:25 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

The board discussed the 2021-2022 budget. Delaney said pickleball was an expense not needed and other communities offer the service. Johnson said investments must be made in the township to pay for services. Sall said pickleball has been discussed for many years and is the recreation plan. The proposed millage increase was discussed, as was cash flow, using money from water and sewer funds to pay bills and fund balance. (Note: At 8:02 p.m., Johnson's Zoom froze and he was disconnected. At 8:05 p.m., he was on speaker phone with Meshkin where subsequent discussion and votes came from). **The board voted unanimously to close discussion.**

(Note: At 8:06 p.m., Delaney was no longer on Zoom. At 8:10 p.m., he was on speaker phone with Sall where subsequent discussions and votes came from)

A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to approve the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

Budget as submitted. Howell called for a roll call vote on the motion. YES – Dewey, Johnson, Sall, Howell. NO – Delaney. MOTION APPROVED 4-1.

B: PER DIEM RESOLUTION

The township board discussed the proposed per diems. **A motion was made by Sall and seconded by Dewey to approve Resolution 2021-06 that the per diem rate for the chairperson of the Parks Commission, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Fire Board shall be \$100 per meeting, and the per diem rate for each member of the Parks Commission, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Fire Board shall be \$85 per meeting. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

C: PICKLEBALL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

The township board discussed the proposed pickleball court construction at the township hall. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to approve the MCSA Group recommendation that Katerburg VerHage Inc. of Grand Rapids be awarded the pickleball project with a low bid of \$147,983 with \$8,000 contingency as presented. Howell called for a roll call vote on the motion. YES – Dewey, Johnson, Sall, Howell. NO – Delaney. MOTION APPROVED 4-1.**

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Charlie DeVries, no address given: Board raised millage, spent money on Felt Mansion, pickleball and bike path repair in a year when people are scraping for revenue.

Megan Howey, no address given: The board can't make everyone happy, has no problem with the increase. Why divert resources to non-critical items such as pickleball and Holland Chorale?

Mitra Delaney, 6298 144th Ave: Impressed by how many people on Zoom. Disapproved of raising taxes. Said Felt Mansion should stand on its own.

Howell thanked people for their participation and thanked the staff for their work.

ARTICLE IX ADJOURN

A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to end the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE