

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

ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 14, 2018

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

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

ARTICLE II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE

Supervisor Terry Hofmeyer 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  
Charlene Fields – Deputy Treasurer  
Jenifer 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 2017 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES –  
Clerk Wendy Van Huis

Clerk Wendy Van Huis reviewed the minutes of the March 8, 2017 annual meeting. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Udelis Kuipers and seconded by Bob 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. Hofmeyer recognized Township Assessor Paul Smith for his 22 years of service and recent announcement to retire this year.

ARTICLE V. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- a. State Representative – Mary Whiteford

Representative Whiteford reported on her initiatives on House Bill 5439 to develop and maintain a state database for mental health services; House Bill 5670 which creates the Broadband Investment Act to help expand broadband service to areas of need in the state; House Bill 4522 which would allow parents of a stillborn child to qualify for a one-time tax exemption within the same tax year; House Bill 4321 to provide more funding for road and bridge projects.

b. State Senator – Tonya Schuitmaker

Senator Schuitmaker was represented by Deb Shields who on the senator's initiatives on Resolution 140 to encourage more women to run for public office; Consumer Protection bill HB 5094 to address data breaches and identity theft; legislation to eliminate driver responsibility fees.

c. County Commissioner – Dean Kapenga

Commissioner Dean Kapenga commended Fire Chiefs Den Bleyker and Janik for their work on the radio project for emergency responders. Allegan County now has a state of the art system and best in the state. Kapenga reported that the probation and parole offices have now been relocated from the county building to the jail. Governor Snyder appointed Robert Kingis as Judge and Judge Baker's appointment of Myrean Cook as prosecutor. Sheriff Baker and Undersheriff Larson along with Mary Whiteford have been working in the schools on safety. Work is being done in West Side Park due to the beach erosion to secure handicap accessibility. The empty community mental health building no longer being used in downtown Allegan has been sold. The Committee of the Aging will advocate for the senior millage.

d. Library Representative – Gary Dewey

Gary Dewey reported the Herrick District Library is not the largest in the state but has the third largest circulation. He thanked residents for approving the millage which has allowed for expanded hours. He recognized Diane Kooiker for the good work being done at the library including the new seed library. The next big project will be updating the north branch. A celebration will be held at Kollen Park in June and all are welcome to attend.

e. Pool Authority – Jack Huisingsh

Jack Huisingsh thanked residents for supporting the Aquatic Center which teaches over 5,000 students per year in water safety. The center operates on just under a mil against a \$2.3mil budget. About 50% of its operating funds come from taxes, down from 85% by increasing activities. Taxpayers also support the \$12mil debt for the addition which will be paid off in May 2019 after which a request will be made for a millage to support renovations and a proposed expansion. The MLA swim club is in the top 50 of the nation. The staff is going to than the emergency responders and their families at the end of August with an open house swimming event.

f. Zoning Board of Appeals – David Weishaar

David Weishaar reported one that the Board had four meetings this year and heard seven different variance requests, usually dimensional setbacks.

g. Planning Commission – Bob Slikkers

Slikkers thanked the township board, staff, Meshkin and attorney Ron Bultje for their service. It was a busy year for the Planning Commission reviewing 16 special use requests, 6 site plan reviews, 3 amendments to existing P.U.D.'s, 1 preliminary P.U.D., 2 P.U.D. approvals, rezoning of 3 parcels and contract with Fresh Coast Planning for the Master Plan. The kick-off meeting for the master plan is April 12 and Slikkers invited residents to attend the meeting and all meetings held at the township.

h. Parks Commission – Michelle Sall

Chairperson Michelle Sall reported the following accomplishments of the Parks Commission for 2017/18: floating dock built at Farview Park; shelter built at Shore Acres; sand clearing at the beach stairs and new snow fencing installed; treatment of invasive species at Saugatuck State Dunes Park, Shore Acres and the Felt Mansion through a partnership with ODC; summer youth work project through Holland Youth Connection with work being done in the parks for five weeks; Day of Caring volunteers on September 21 worked at Huyser Farm, Sanctuary Woods and Wolters Woods to trim trails, weed, clear blueberry rows and trail work; partnership with ODC provided 10 activities in various parks; controlled deer hunt at Huyser Farm; Parks Use Reservation with highest use at the

ball diamond; amendment to the pet policy to allow dogs on leashes at all parks except the beach; updated the Non-motorized Path Master Plan; hosted two meet and greets for public input; requested grant application to Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for land acquisition to improve accessibility at the beach; update of the Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan; call for proposals for the care of the Huyser house and property resulting in appointment of Mark and Sheri Rubino to maintain the rural nature providing weekly monitoring and assistance on volunteer days; explored a collaboration with representatives of City of Holland Parks and Recreation Department for input on a proposed Lakeview School Park plan.

i. Felt Mansion Project Manager – Pat Meyer

Pat Meyer reported that it was another successful year for public and private events at the Felt Mansion including a very popular summer concert series; partnership with ODC on Winter Fest which was well attended; obtained a \$5,000 grant from MACC to create a website, brochure and mobile app for all historic sites in Michigan; renovation of the Carriage House second floor to provide dressing rooms for wedding parties; partnership with Graafschap Fire Department for an October Safety Event; the Friends of the Felt Estate Board will work on a 5-year plan. Meyer thanked the staff, FOFE Board members particularly Wendy Van Huis, Ken Freestone, Lucia Rios along with Paul Smith for their continued support.

j. Graafschap Fire Department – Doug Den Bleyker

Chief Den Bleyker reported there were 604 calls for service in 2017, a 30% increase over 2016. There were 431 calls in Laketown; 123 calls in Fillmore and 53 calls where we assisted neighboring departments. There were 69 responses to traffic accidents. Fire losses for 2017 were just over \$270,000. Energy efficient exterior lighting was installed on the fire house; 270 smoke detectors and 25 carbon monoxide detectors were installed in homes; the fire department was awarded \$150,000 in four separate grants one of which will be used to secure rollover vehicles; partnership with two other stations to conduct live fire training. Den Bleyker thanked the residents for their support for the millage. Hofmeyer recognized the good work of the department noting that its ISO rating has now been decreased from 6 to 5 which directly correlates to the cost of homeowners' insurance.

#### 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. Patty Meyer presented this year's award to Glenn Heavener.

#### ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Udelis Kuipers expressed concern regarding two junk yards on 142<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Laura Judge of 6510 Oakwood Lane commented on the need for fiber optics in the township and a restroom at Shore Acres Park.

Mitra Delaney of 6298 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue asked Commissioner Kapenga if there is a way to bring the tax levy down in Allegan County. Kapenga responded that Proposal A caps the General Fund creating stagnation for many years so if housing goes up there is not benefit to the tax revenue for the county. Hofmeyer added that Laketown operates on one half of a mil collected.

Randy Becksvort of 3030 Beeline Road asked Kapenga if there is a shortage of space in the county building, would it have made sense to retain the building that was sold and Kapenga said logistically, it did not make sense to do so.

#### ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**Supervisor Hofmeyer adjourned the meeting at 8:17pm.**

