

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

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
June 10, 2020

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 some participants using the Zoom application and read the following:

Pursuant to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-48 the Laketown Township Board of Trustees in order to protect the public health will conduct its meeting via electronic communications. Any member of the public wishing to listen to the proceedings or provide public comment may do so by using the chat feature on zoom to raise their hand and wait to be recognized by the Supervisor or Manager who will be monitoring the chat feature. Per the Township's normal protocols, each person making public comment is asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Howell, Gary Dewey,
Michelle Sall, Jim Johnson
MEMBERS ABSENT: Ed Stielstra
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township manager
Jim Hayden – Public information officer
Doug Den Bleyker – Graafschap Fire Chief

ARTICLE II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board members reviewed the minutes of the April 29, 2020 meeting. **A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes as submitted. Supervisor Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

ARTICLE III. FINANCIAL REPORT / REVIEW & APPROVE THE BILLS

Howell reviewed the bills for the months of April and May 2020. Dewey reported the fund balance is in good shape though sales tax revenue will be down and he is unsure of the impact; construction moving normally. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to approve and pay the bills as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

ARTICLE IV. CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS - None

ARTICLE V. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – DEAN KAPENGA.

Allegan County doing tick drags and mosquito trapping; planning November millage vote; ask governor for declaration of emergency for Lakeshore Drive; groundwater study underway; senior

services distributing food supplies as needed. Dewey asked about Plainwell Paper cleanup, Kapenga said it would be 20-plus years before EPA reaches western end of county; Supervisor Howell asked Kapenga to help arrange having a representative from senior services come to township board meeting to explain services.

B. PLANNING COMMISSION – JOHNSON

Planning commission met June 3:

- Asked township attorney draft a resolution of approval that includes language from the drain commission and planning commission for drainage and city water service at Baumann Building PUD Request, 6331 146th Ave.;
- Discussed and had a public hearing regarding Randy Crum’s proposed boat repair business at 6295 144th Ave. Issue tabled for 60 days for additional background.
- Discussed and had a public hearing regarding the Karsten PUD proposed two land divisions at 6000 block of 142nd Ave., allowing for construction of two single family homes and accessory structures in agriculture zoning with a PUD. Application declined due to the precedent it could set for the township and not utilize a PUD in Agriculture zone with reasons cited by attorney.

C. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Zoning board of appeals did not meet.

D. PARKS COMMISSION

No report. Board noted tree had fallen on stairs at Sanctuary Woods, causing damage. Contractor working to remove tree.

E. GRAAFSCHAP FIRE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF DOUG DEN BLEYKER

Response calls for May: 55 calls total; Fillmore – 4 fire calls, 15 medical/rescue calls; Laketown – 15 fire calls, 18 medical/rescue calls. Assists – 3 fire assists to Saugatuck, 1 fire assist to Holland; 1 medical/rescue assist to Hamilton. Reported 12 calls in 2 ½ hours on June 10 due to storms. Noted rental inspections are underway and they have been helpful and will save lives; found areas without smoke detectors and too many people in bedrooms. Improvements continue at station. Noted there is no July 4 pancake breakfast.

ARTICLE VI. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS - None

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A: FIRE DEPARTMENT MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION

Board discussed renewal that resets fire millage to 1 mill on Nov. 3 ballot. Millage is for 5 years and has been in existence since 2015.

RESOLUTION 2020-07

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan, has determined to submit to the electors of the Township at the November 3, 2020 election a request for a Fire Department Millage Proposition;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Pursuant to the Michigan Election Law, the Township Board of the Township of Laketown determines to submit to the qualified electors of the Township the following proposal:

FIRE DEPARTMENT MILLAGE PROPOSITION

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against property in Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan, as provided in the Michigan Constitution of 1963, be increased by 1.0 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value) for five years, 2020 through 2024, inclusive, to provide operating funds, equipment, and apparatus for the Fire Department; and shall the Township be authorized to levy this tax?

(ESTIMATE OF REVENUE INCREASE: If approved by the voters, the Township estimates that it will receive \$449,927 of additional revenues from this millage in 2020).

_____ YES
_____ NO

2. The foregoing ballot question shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Laketown Township at the November 3, 2020 election.

3. The Township Clerk shall cause notice of registration for the election referenced above to be published as required by law.

4. The Township Clerk shall cause notice of election for the election to be published as required by law.

5. The Township Clerk shall timely submit this ballot question to the Allegan County Clerk by August 11, 2020.

6. All resolutions in conflict with this resolution are revoked to the extent of such conflict.

A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Sall to put the 1 mill renewal of the fire department millage on the Nov. 3 ballot. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

B. BOARD OF REVIEW LETTER APPEALS RESOLUTION

The board discussed allowing Board of Review appeals by letter. The board has always allowed this but needs a formal resolution to allow property owners to appeal in writing.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-08

A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW LETTER APPEALS TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW

WHEREAS, the Board of Review is authorized to hear various appeals pursuant to the General Property Tax Act; and

WHEREAS, According to MCL 211.30 (7), the governing body of the township or city may authorize, by adoption or resolution, a resident or nonresident taxpayer to file his or her protest before the board of review by letter without a personal appearance by the taxpayer or his or her agent;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in order to ease the burden on taxpayers, and to ensure that all taxpayers have an equal opportunity to be heard by the Board of Review we believe each taxpayer, resident or nonresident, should also have the right to appeal by letter rather than in person;

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Sall to allow letter appeals to the Board of Review. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

C. REVISIED FEE SCHEDULES

The board discussed raising plumbing, electrical and mechanical permits from \$60 to \$65 per inspection.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Sall to raise plumbing, electrical and mechanical permits to \$65. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

The board discussed raising residential sewer charges for the Holland service area trunkage fee from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to raise residential sewer charges for the Holland service area trunkage fee to \$2,500. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

ARTICLE IX. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

No comments.

ARTICLE X. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Dewey and seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE