

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

September 14, 2022

1. 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. Zoom option also available for the public.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Delaney, Gary Dewey, Linda Howell, Jim Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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 Aug. 10, 2022, meeting. **A motion was made by Dewey, 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 August. **A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Dewey, to approve the August bills as submitted. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE**

4. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- a. County Commissioner Kapenga: Updated the board on Allegan County issues.
- b. Planning Commission: Johnson updated the board from the September meeting.
- c. Zoning Board of Appeals: Delaney reported there was no meeting in August.
- d. Parks Commission: No report.
- e. Graafschap Fire Department: Chief Doug Den Bleyker: August fire/rescue calls -- 78 total, Fillmore – 1 fire call, 8 medical/rescue calls; Laketown – 11 fire calls, 52 medical/rescue calls; Assists – 2 fire calls (2 to Saugatuck), 4 medical/rescue calls (1 to Holland, 1 to Saugatuck, 1 to Holland Township, 1 to Allegan County Sheriff's Department).

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON OLD AND NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS -- None

6. OLD BUSINESS -- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Township Clerk Vacancy Interviews

Meshkin introduced two candidates for the clerk position – Amber Davis and Charles Martin “Marty” Hysen. Meshkin picked a number, wrote it on a slip of paper, then asked the candidates to choose a number. Closest interviewed first. Davis chose No. 4; Hysen chose No. 8. Meshkin chose No. 1. Meshkin then asked Hysen to leave the building while Davis was interviewed. He did. In turn, Davis left when Hysen was interviewed.

The board interviewed Davis. Each member asked questions.

The board interviewed Hysen. Each member asked questions.

After the interviews, both candidates returned to the meeting room. Howell explained the clerk duties. The board wanted more time to think over their choice.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Dewey, to table the decision until a special meeting. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION APPROVED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE. YES – Dewey, Howell and Johnson. NO – Delaney.

The board set a special meeting for 5:00 p.m. Thursday, September 22.

b. Township Board Regular Meeting Time Change

Meshkin explained the board has met at 7 p.m. since he has been with the township. The Parks and Recreation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meet at 6 p.m. and the time works well. The board discussed moving the regular meeting time to 6 p.m.

A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Delaney, to begin regular township board of trustees meetings at 6:00 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month beginning with the October meeting. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE

8. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Susan Finney, 3710 Shorewood Dunes: Asked about assistance from the township to get broadband service to her street. Six homes on the road do not have internet access through Comcast. Howell referred her to Allegan County Commissioners Dean Kapenga and Jim Storey regarding American Rescue Plan Act money. Howell asked Meshkin to include Finney’s request with other ARPA requests for consideration. Meshkin noted his goal is to get 100 percent of homes in Laketown Township connected to broadband.

10. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Dewey, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Howell called for a vote on the motion. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.