

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
January 13th, 2005**

The Lake Linden Village Council met on the above date in the Village Hall at 6:35pm. President Aittama presided. The following Trustees responded to roll call: Hoffman, Fisher, Hamlin, Heide and Frohmader. There is one vacancy on the council.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve the December meeting minutes as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Bills and Financial Statement:

The bills and financials were introduced. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Fisher to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote; Yes; Hamlin, Fisher, Hoffman, Heide, Frohmader and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Correspondence:

A letter was introduced from Torch Lake Township outlining a fee proposal for allowing Bootjack 1st Responder services within the village. Torch Lake Trustee Elsa Mugford presented the plan after which a discussion took place. Trustees concluded that the fee of \$705.00 was not out of line and discussion centered on how the fee would be determined in the future. After an explanation by Elsa Mugford on how the numbers were determined and another brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Hoffman to agree to and pay the \$705.00 charge for 1st Responder services for this year and to have the executive committee meet with representatives from Torch Lake Township to work out future fee structures and agreements. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Hoffman, Frohmader, Fisher, Heide and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

A memo from attorney Fred Johnson was read in which he stated that Lake Superior Land would not return calls to him regarding the land purchase agreement that was still outstanding for parcels purchased to complete work on the storm sewer project. His recommendation was that the transaction be canceled since the work was already done on those parcels. President Aittama stated that the parcels were still needed because of plans to connect two streets there in the near future. It was then determined to have Mr. Johnson follow through with the agreement with Lake Superior Land.

A letter from Waste Management was read requesting bid specs and documents necessary for them to bid on garbage collection services for the Village. It was agreed that although the council was not actively seeking a replacement of its current system, a bid by Waste Management would be helpful in determining billing and rate increase options in the next few months. The clerk was directed to prepare and present paperwork necessary to Waste Management.

An ad solicitation from Lake Superior Magazine was presented. Clerk Poirier explained that the village had advertised in the magazine for the last two years and this year's cost was \$220.00, which included a color photograph in the ad. A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin to purchase the ad for \$220.00. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Hamlin, Heide, Hoffman, Frohmader and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

A letter was read by Clerk Poirier from MERS explaining that a new health care plan was being made available to its member municipalities. Clerk Poirier said he would get the details and have them available for the executive committee as soon as possible.

A resolution was introduced from the Michigan Municipal League to recognize his years of service as the Executive Director of the League. A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hoffman to approve the resolution and return it to the League. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier stated that notification of MiDNR recreation grant application deadline had been received. After a brief discussion it was determined that the buildings and parks committee meet to start outlining a new five-year recreation plan for future applications and park improvements.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

Trustee Hamlin stated that a budget update was included in the packet and that the finance committee would meet with the Clerk to come up with an amended budget and to develop a new budget for the 2005-06 fiscal year for the February meeting.

Domestic Water:

No report.

Buildings & Parks:

Trustee Fisher reported that the grant application materials for the building were submitted to the Americana foundation. It was in the amount of \$44,000 and included work to be done on the exterior of the village hall.

He also included in the packet a memorandum that he had sent to potential investors and to the Houghton County Board regarding the numbers in the financial feasibility study done by PricewaterhouseCoopers. He stated that he was still pursuing funding for the course and that he would continue to do so.

Sanitation:

Trustee Hamlin said the committee met with the clerk to discuss proposed increases to dumpster fees and to change the billing of the annual fee to be done

in conjunction with a municipal utility billing on the water bills. After a brief discussion President Aittama suggested waiting until it was determined if the garbage collection would continue to be done by the village and what the other options were in cooperation with the townships. A discussion ensued regarding the timing of the decision and it was eventually determined that the sanitation committee would meet and speak to the townships to determine all available options for the February meeting. Changes to the sanitation ordinance were put on hold until this new determination was made.

Also out of this discussion came a referral to the executive committee to look into replacing fee amounts within the ordinances of the village with a reference to the council setting the rates. This in an effort to defer the prohibitive costs of ordinance amendments with every fee change made.

Equipment:

A snowblower attachment had been purchased for parts from the Village of South Range for \$2550.00.

Streets:

Trustee Heide introduced a request from MDOT for a resolution to do the billing for new traffic signals on the school crossing signs. As with the flasher at the corner of M-26 and 10th Street, UPPCo would bill the village for energy used during each month by the new flashers and then the village would be reimbursed for those costs in the MDOT monthly report. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Heide to approve this arrangement for billing the new flashers. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Trustee Heide also presented a copy of the narrative for the Streetscape project grant application to the Community Development Block Grant Program. He stated that Pat Coleman had been in contact with him during the application process and that the Street committee would be meeting with Mr. Coleman and representatives from Upper Peninsula Power Co. to discuss the pole replacement project as part of the overall plan.

Executive:

Trustee Fisher informed the council that there were several interested applicants for the vacant council seat. The committee had reviewed the letters and Trustee Fisher said that he had spoken to some of the applicants on the phone. While he said that they all seemed to be good people and capable of doing a good job, it was the committees recommendation that Jim Frenaway be appointed to the position. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Fisher to appoint James Frenaway to the vacant council seat. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

President Aittama pointed out that he and the executive committee would look into some of the problems with the DDA board. Lagging attendance was an issue of concern and over the next month it would be addressed and a solution found.

Clerk Poirier said he had just received a draft of the Franchise agreement with Charter Communications from Fred Johnson and would get copies to the executive committee for review and recommendation at the February meeting.

Public Safety:

Trustee Hoffman introduced the police report. A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve the police report as read. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Downtown Development Authority:

Steve Pummill, the acting chair of the DDA, was in attendance and agreed to continue as acting chair for the immediate future until a replacement could be found. President Aittama thanked him for continuing on until this could be accomplished.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

President Aittama stated that an increase in the sewage bill would be coming in the near future and that residents would be notified as required.

Houghton County Historical Museum:

No report.

Torch Lake Area Fire Protection Authority:

No report.

Late Agenda Items:

None.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

Trustee Hoffman supported by Trustee Hamlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

James M. Aittama, Village President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk