

**Lake Linden Village Council  
Regular Meeting  
February 10th, 2005**

Just before the meeting was called to order Trustee Frendewey was sworn in by Clerk Poirier.

The Lake Linden Village Council met on the above date in the Village Hall at 6:30pm. President Aittama presided. The following Trustees responded to roll call: Hoffman, Fisher, Hamlin, Heide, Frohmader and Frendewey.

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made to approve the agenda with the addition of a fiore report by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Hoffman. All were in favor. Motion was carried

**Public Comments:**

Representatives from American Legion Post 90 were on hand for a presentation to the council on their proposed new building. Plans and renderings were displayed and after a review of them stated that they wanted to deal with the village in acquiring the lot on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Front Sts. Discussion ensued regarding options for that and the council agreed that this was in the best interest of everyone and that it was a great idea and a benefit for the community. To that end, the matter was referred to the Executive committee to come up with a recommendation for working out an arrangement to sell/transfer/trade the lot to the Legion.

**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 Hoffman to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote; Yes; Hamlin, Hoffman, Fisher, Heide, Frohmader, Frendewey and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

**Correspondence:**

Dick Taylor addressed the council regarding his pending purchase of Lindell's Chocolate Shoppe and the transfer of the Class C liquor license to him from the current owner. He went through a list of proposed changes in the business and the council was impressed with his plan and very supportive. After a brief discussion the following resolution was offered by Trustee Hoffman and supported by Trustee Hamlin:

**Resolution**

That the request from Voyageur Enterprises, Inc. to transfer ownership of 2004 Class C licensed business, located at 300 Calumet Street, Lake Linden, MI

49945 Houghton County, from Frances Grunow; and request a new dance-entertainment permit be recommended for approval and issuance by the State of Michigan Dept. of Labor & Economic Growth, Liquor Control Commission.

Yeas: Seven(7) Nays: none(0) Resolution carried unanimously.

A letter was introduced from Torch Lake Township Trustee Elsa Mugford regarding the Bootjack First Responders. The letter stated that responder services would in fact be billed retroactively back to January, 2004 at the agreed-upon amount of \$705.00. This was contrary to previous information given by Trustee Mugford at the January meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the nature of the origin of this problem and that the initial services were offered for free. Trustee Mugford stated that the original agreement was not authorized by Torch Lake Township and this 705 fee was reached after determining what costs were for the year. After a brief discussion it was determined to refer the matter to the Executive Committee for a recommendation.

A letter was read from the Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority explaining that they were seeking a rate increase from the Houghton County Board of Public Works. The increase would be \$12.92 on the base rate and the per thousand rate would increase from \$3.00 to \$5.48. President Aittama, who is also the T.L.A.S.A. Chairman, assured the council that users would receive a letter explaining the increase. Trustee Fisher reiterated for the record that it was NOT a Village water increase.

The issue of a foreclosure on a rehabilitation loan was introduced and discussed. Several items were addressed, most importantly that the title on the land is split and legal issues would perhaps amount to more than the total of the loan. A motion was finally made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Friendewey to write off the balance of the loan, approximately \$2,200, rather than pursue the issue of foreclosure. Poll vote: Yea; Fisher, Friendewey, Hoffman, Frohmader, Heide, Hamlin and Aittama. Nay; None. Motion was carried.

A letter was read from Traverse Engineering confirming a meeting date and time with members of the DEQ and the Village Water Committee regarding Wellhead Protection. That meeting time was March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00am at the Village Hall. No further action was necessary.

A copy of a draft of the Charter Communications franchise agreement was introduced for review. Clerk Poirier referenced the Article regarding compensation to the village, stating that the new language included the previously agreed-to rate of 3% of the annual gross revenue. The Executive Committee would review it at their upcoming meeting for details.

A letter was read by Clerk Poirier regarding an upcoming rate increase for Charter Communications. No further action was necessary.

Grant application materials were introduced from the DEQ Coastal Management Program. After a brief discussion it was determined to refer the matter to the Buildings & Parks committee for a recommendation.

A letter of support was read by Clerk Poirier from the DEQ for the downtown streetscape project. No further action was required.

A letter and draft document outlining the Houghton County Hazard Mitigation plan was presented to the council./ Clerk Poirier said it would be in the

office for review and comment and that the deadline for submitting those comments to Houghton County was March 5, 2005. No further action was needed.

Clerk Poirier read a letter and notice from WUPPDR regarding a grant application by the City of Houghton for a public library. No further action was necessary.

A letter was read from Thomas and Marian Lennington, the new owners of Dennis Greenhouse, stating their willingness and intention to working with the village on projects that Martin Dennis had started. No further action was necessary.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Finance:**

Trustee Hamlin stated that a budget meeting to finalize amended budget for 2004-05 and the new budget for 1005-06 should be scheduled. That meeting was then scheduled for 6:30pm on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the village hall meeting room.

Also, Clerk Poirier requested that the village agree to retain Mike Jutila as the auditor for 2005, stating that he had been working through the village's changeover to the new accounting system and was comfortable with the new practices. A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve that request. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

#### **Domestic Water:**

No report.

#### **Buildings & Parks:**

A report was presented by Tanya Couvion, a senior at Lake Linden-Hubbell High School, regarding planting linden trees in the village for a senior seminar. Her plans were to plant at least five 6' trees within the village near the school. After a brief discussion and a word of support for the project a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin to purchase 5 linden trees for the project at a total cost of \$150.00 in exchange for input in the location for planting when the time comes. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Hamlin, Hoffman, Frohmader, Frendewey, Heide and Aittama. No: None. Motion was carried.

The DEQ Coastal Management grant application was discussed. Trustee Fisher said the park committee recommendation was to continue improvements under the current Recreation Plan at the marina. He said that future development there was an integral part of the committee's focus for the upcoming recreation plan as well. Public Works Director Jude Kalcich stated that two more dock decks could be done to complete that work at the marina and that the shoreline needed to be addressed in that area. After general agreement by the Trustees it was resolved unanimously to complete the application to address those areas for an amount up to \$25,000 and to submit it by the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**Sanitation:**

Clerk Poirier reported that he had spoken to representatives from Waste Management several times regarding a bid for sanitation services, but they declined to bid on those services at this time.

President Aittama reported that he had met with the supervisors from the surrounding townships about combining sanitation services and that he would continue the dialogue with them in the near future.

**Equipment:**

No report.

**Streets:**

Trustee Heide reported that the committee, the DDA and U.P. Engineers had met with representatives from UPPCo just prior to the village meeting. He said that finally UPPCo was looking into specific matters as far as the pole replacement was going. He also said that there was finally a continuity on people they were dealing with for UPPCo. Which had been a problem. U.P. Engineers had hoped to hear on one of the grant proposals by the end of February.

**Executive:**

Several items were referred to the committee and were scheduled to be addressed at the upcoming meetings after review.

**Public Safety:**

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

Chief Lajimodiere read the fire report into the record. After a brief discussion Chief Lajimodiere said he had some interesting information on starting a first responder unit within the village. After a brief introduction President Aittama suggested giving the details to the Executive committee following the Council meeting to discuss the various ideas. Before the discussion ended President Aittama approved placing an ad in the paper to determine additional members interested in the community.

**Downtown Development Authority:**

The renewal of two seats on the DDA came up for discussion. Trustee Hamlin stated the council's desire to get the DDA interest up and review the appointments to find people with interest in the agenda of the DDA. President Aittama said he had spoken to several interested parties and recommended Leroy Codere and Steve Pummill to fill the two expired terms of Tom Waara and Steve Klobucarich. The council did not act on those recommendations and discussion continued. After further debate, President Aittama rescinded his prior recommendation and submitted Steve Pummill and Chad Johnson for council approval. Trustee Hoffman made a motion, supported by Trustee Hamlin, to approve Mr. Johnson and Mr. Pummill as appointments to the DDA. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority**

President Aittama stated that the Sewage Authority would be sending out a letter to all users of the system explaining the upcoming rate increase.

**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 Hamlin supported by Trustee Frendewey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

There were 19 members of the public in attendance.

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James M. Aittama, Village President

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk