

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
March 17th, 2005**

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, Frohmader and Frendewey.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve the February regular meeting minutes and the February 24th special meeting as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Fisher. 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, Frohmader, Frendewey and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Correspondence:

A letter was read from the MEDC regarding the Block grant application for the streetscape project that said no funding would be available this year for the project. However, after reading the letter Clerk Poirier said that more recently he has heard that MDOT did fund their portion of the project, which was the basis for denial of the block grant portion. He stated that UPEA will now be going back to the MEDC with the fact that MDOT did fund the project and Rick Wuori from UPEA still was very optimistic about receiving both grants to complete the funding package.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from the Americana Foundation congratulating the village on receiving the grant and moving forward on the renovation of the exterior of the village hall. He informed the council of an upcoming meeting with Hitch Engineering, the KNHP, Denise Korman and Ed Fisher to discuss the bid process for the project.

A letter was read from the MTU Baja students thanking the village for use of the facilities. Trustee Frohmader said he was disappointed in the advertising and promotion of the event, even though that was stressed at the outset.

A notice for the release of public funds from WUPPDR was read and the council encouraged residents to apply for the program. President Aittama directed the Clerk to include the notice in the quarterly newsletter due out at the end of the month.

A letter was read from the Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce announcing the ad rates for the new area street map. After a brief discussion a motion was

made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Frendewey to place an ad in the map at a cost of \$278.10. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Frendewey, Frohmader, Hoffman, Hamlin and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

A letter was read from the Copper Country Homecoming committee announcing the event being held on July 28-30. Further information would be coming and no action was necessary.

Clerk Poirier stated that a Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association training seminar was being held in Marquette and Treasurer Stevens requested she be able to attend. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Fisher to allocate the money required to attend the conference. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Fisher, Hoffman, Frohmader, Frendewey and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

An announcement was made regarding the Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District tree sale. After a discussion of planting them on the Rice Lake property a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Frendewey to spend \$1,000 on trees for planting there. All were in favor. Motion was carried. Trustee Frendewey volunteered to coordinate the planting of the trees with volunteers.

An ad solicitation was introduced for the Daily Mining Gazette Visitors Guide. A half-page ad by the village was included in the 2004 Guide and a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve renewal of the ad at a cost of \$475. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Hamlin, Hoffman, Frendewey, Frohmader and Aittama. No; none. Motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance(Chair:Trustee Hamlin):

Trustee Hamlin stated that a discussion about reducing the equipment rates charged by the equipment fund to the general fund as a remedy for a large general fund imbalance had been undertaken by the committee. New rates were introduced but the council directed the committee to consider the rates further and no action was taken.

Domestic Water(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

Trustee Fisher introduced a spread sheet that outlined a rate increase proposal for review. Trustee Fisher outlined the proposed increase and offered an explanation of the need to those in attendance. After a few questions were answered, a motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve the amount of the increase and to submit it to Fred Johnson for a draft of the final language for the next meeting. Poll vote: Yes; Frendewey, Hamlin, Fisher, Frohmader, Hoffman and Aittama. No; none. Motion was carried.

Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

Trustee Fisher introduced a prospectus for private investment on the Linden Dunes project to the council for their review. He offered a brief explanation and said this represented another phase in the search for funding for the project. No further action was necessary at this time.

He also stated that the parks committee would be looking into recommending a rate increase for the campground for the coming summer but was not ready to make a recommendation at this meeting.

Sanitation (Chair: Trustee Hamlin):

President Aittama stated that he believed Schoolcraft and Torch Lake Township were nearing an impasse in their sanitation relationship and would be approaching Trustee Hamlin's Sanitation committee for meetings on an agreement for garbage service. He cautioned Trustee Hamlin to be very hesitant and careful in the negotiations and to keep him and the council closely informed when they took place.

Equipment (Chair: Trustee Frohmader):

Trustee Frohmader said the next issue for equipment was new pick-up trucks, but that was still not being actively pursued.

Streets (Chair: Trustee Heide):

In the absence of Trustee Heide, Clerk Poirier introduced the annual Act 51 street map for approval. He pointed out that the Hecla Street extension was not shown on the state map and would have to be added.

He also said he had spoken to Jude Kalcich regarding work this summer on Traprock street. Jude had said he would like to do some work on the through-street to make it more acceptable as a local street. The council gave him permission to come up with a plan for improvements and go ahead with the work on that street. No further action was required.

Executive (Chair: Trustee Fisher):

Clerk Poirier introduced a sample ordinance for making the clerk and treasurer positions appointed rather than elected. After a brief discussion and general support offered for the idea it was referred to the committee for decisions regarding terms and procedures for appointment and action at the April meeting.

Trustee Fisher introduced a cost schedule for the proposed property swap with Post 90. He said the numbers had been tentatively agreed to by the Legion and it only remained for the language to be re-drafted to reflect the updated and additional numbers. Trustee Hamlin asked about the progress on changing the appearance of the building to reflect a more historic look. Trustee Fisher explained that the Legion had so far been receptive to input. Trustee Hamlin said he believed that topic should be more closely addressed before approval of the agreement.

After a few more questions, a motion was made by Trustee Hoffman and supported by Trustee Friendewey to approve the terms of the agreement and to submit it with the added numbers to the Legion for their approval. Poll vote: Yes: Friendewey, Hoffman, Frohmader, Fisher and Aittama. No; Hamlin. Motion was carried.

The committee was directed to look into ordinance changing relating to rates and fees within the ordinance manual.

Trustee Hamlin stated that the committee had brought up the idea of having trustees attend regular meetings of the surrounding municipalities to keep

abreast of what was happening around the village. After a brief discussion it was decided to table a decision for further thought and review.

Trustee Hamlin then offered an agreement from the Torch Lake Township Board regarding the Bootjack 1st Responders. It stated a fee of \$750 per year for three years. Trustee Hamlin said that a meeting between Torch Lake Trustee Elsa Mugford and the executive committee resulted in this draft of the document but the committee was still undecided on a final recommendation. After a brief discussion it was determined to defer action until the executive committee could make a final recommendation to the council.

Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):

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

Clerk Poirier informed the council that former police chief Dave Outinen requested he be allowed to ride along for one day with the Village Police to satisfy requirements to keep his Michigan certification. Trustee Hoffman indicated he thought the decision should be Chief Chandonais' to make and the council agreed to let her decide.

Downtown Development Authority:

Streetscape updates were previously covered under correspondence. President Aittama said there was one other member on the board with a 40% attendance rate and he would decide if replacement would be necessary in the near future.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

President Aittama stated that the Sewage Authority was going through its audit and would soon be going through the Houghton County DPW Board for it's rate increase later this year.

Houghton County Historical Museum:

No report.

Torch Lake Area Fire Protection Authority:

President Aittama stated that a meeting of the Authority was to take place next week to determine 2005 assessments.

Late Agenda Items:

None.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

Trustee Hamlin supported by Trustee Friendewey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

James M. Aittama, Village President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk