

**Lake Linden Village Council  
Regular Meeting  
July 13th, 2006**

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: Fisher, Hoffman, Frohmader, and Frendewey. Absences were granted to Trustees Pummill and Heide.

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Public Comments:**

Mary Sager, a resident of the Maple Lane Apartments, addressed the council about pruning trees and shrubs in the park. She said she was approached by Jude Kalcich and told that it was the wrong time of the year to prune the trees. She said she had been volunteering in the park for about three years and did not want compensation. But if the Village was going to give her a hard time about her work there she would no longer do it. The Council assured her that this was not the case and that they would speak to the crew to let them know that her working in the park was okay.

Charles Slater addressed the Council regarding the rates in the Village campground. He said that he would pay \$300 for camping for the rest of the season and suggested that the Village adopt a seasonal rate for next year. He also wanted to be placed on a list for a seasonal boat slip for 2007. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve this one-time offer of a half-season rate for \$300 and to review and discuss the possibility of a seasonal rate in the future. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Frendewey, Frohmader, Hoffman and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

**Bills and Financial Statement:**

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

**Correspondence:**

Clerk Poirier read a letter from the Diabetes Support group thanking the Village for the use of the park pavilion for their annual picnic. It included information about the group and contact information as well.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from MERS acknowledging receipt of the request for an actuary study to determine if a change would be made in the retirement plan. This study had been agreed to in the union negotiations currently under way. No other action was necessary.

Clerk Poirier read a summary of a seminar he attended on the topics of land-use planning and zoning issues. He read the brief summary and after a short discussion it was determined that the Council would look over the materials and address it in an upcoming meeting in more detail.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Finance(Chair:Trustee Friendewey):**

Trustee Friendewey said that the audit was not yet completed and that as soon as it was the finance committee would look at it in more detail and have some recommendations for the Council.

#### **Domestic Water(Chair: Trustee Fisher):**

Clerk Poirier said, in speaking with Jude Kalcich, it came to their attention that the rates for new hookups on the Village water system were sorely out-of-date. He said Jude told him the rates were very old and they represented a big loss in revenue when hooked up. This all came to light because the Portage Clinic was being built on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and required connection to the Village water system. No action was taken and it was referred to the water committee for review.

#### **Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Fisher):**

Clerk Poirier said that a request had come from the Houghton County Historical Society to place a sign along the highway for the Heritage Center on N Avenue alongside 1<sup>st</sup> Street. He said they were looking into the permitting process required by MDOT but that the actual sign location would be on Village land within the Village park. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the sign placement would not be a problem.

Trustee Fisher gave an update on the work being done to the south face of the Village Hall by Stouffer under the Americana grant. He said work was progressing well and would be done in just a couple of weeks.

Trustee Fisher also presented the council with the idea of adding two more seasonal slips at the village marina. The rate structure and fees already established for the other rental slips would apply and the charges would only be enforced upon the approval of the marina operating permit currently under review by the DEQ. The council agreed to add the rental slips with the provisions explained to them.

#### **Sanitation(Chair: Trustee Pummill):**

No report.

#### **Equipment(Chair: Trustee Frohmader):**

No report.

**Streets(Chair: Trustee Heide):**

Two areas with parking issues were addressed by the Council. The first was along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Front and Calumet. There had been a complaint about too many vehicles from Raildreams employees parking on this block and using up the available parking. After a brief discussion and input from Police Chief Chandonais it was determined that as a public street with parallel parking available there was no action necessary at this time.

The second issue dealt with the no-parking area alongside the American Legion building on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The fire department needed a longer area so they could back the fire truck into the garage. After a brief clarification it was decided to paint and mark an extended area there to allow for easier access.

A complaint from a village resident had pointed out that a home on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Gregory Streets had put up a fence that was so clearly on the Village right-of-way for 12<sup>th</sup> Street that the stop sign there was well inside the fenced in yard. After a brief discussion it was determined that the Village President would send a letter to the resident to ask if they would move the fence back to the lot line.

**Executive(Chair: Trustee Fisher):**

Trustee Fisher gave an update on the streetscape project. He presented two letters he had written. The first was to Bruce Kadzban of the Michigan DOT, the contact for the funding of the project. Fisher stated that the original amount of the MDOT grant had been for 200,000 but based on cost estimates turned in by UP Engineers the amount had been reduced by almost \$60,000 which left no money for 5<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> Streets. He said he hoped to get MDOT to be a bit more flexible in the scope of the project area.

The second letter was to Tom Meinz, a Vice President at Wisconsin Electric, regarding the options for additional finances for the streetscape lighting between 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Trustee Fisher informed the council of a meeting he had with Dick Supina regarding the approval of the Sibilsky II plat. He said approval was getting closer but that the council needed to pass a resolution to satisfy the requirement for utilities available on the lots in the plat. After a brief explanation the following resolution was offered for discussion:

**Resolution:** The Village Council hereby supports the formal approval of the plat area known as Sibilsky II for purposes of residential development within the Village. The Village Council resolves that no lots within Sibilsky II will be sold and no occupancy permits shall be issued until such time as both public sewer and water services are available to the lots proposed to be sold.

After a final discussion a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Frohmader to approve the resolution as presented in the discussion. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):**

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

Fire Chief Ron Parker was present to update the council on fire calls by the LLVFD. He also reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities went very well. The Council and people present commented that the fireworks display was one of the best they had seen and congratulated the department on putting on a successful celebration.

He also informed the council that the department was looking at getting a surplus 4 x 4 truck for fighting brush fires. He said the regular trucks were not equipped to handle off-road situations and said he would come before the council again to approve any expenditures regarding his search.

**Downtown Development Authority:**

No report.

**Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority**

No report.

**Lake Linden Housing Commission**

Trustee Friendewey explained that there were still some issues regarding conflict of interest questions with the last appointee and that there was still one vacancy left on the commission. President Aittama urged council members to seek good candidates to fill the vacancy by the next meeting.

**Houghton County Historical Museum:**

Clerk Poirier said that the HCHS biggest event of the year, Railroad Days, was scheduled for the first weekend of August.

**Torch Lake Area Fire Protection Authority:**

No report.

**Late Agenda Items:**

None

**New Business:**

None.

**Old Business:**

None.

**Announcements:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Trustee Hoffman supported by Trustee Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

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James M. Aittama, President

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk