

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

A motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Frohmader to approve the September 7th special 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 Heide and supported by Trustee Frendewey. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Public Comments:**

Pro-tem Fisher asked if there were any comments prior to the discussion regarding the budget issues. He said there would likely be ample time for comments regarding that discussion later in the meeting. No comments were forthcoming.

**Bills and Financial Statement:**

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

**Correspondence:**

Clerk Poirier explained that the package insurance premium packet expected to arrive from Hannula Insurance before the meeting had not yet been received and would have to be tabled until the next meeting.

Clerk Poirier also said that Hannula suggested a written Village policy for liability purposes. It should include a disclaimer for no alcohol on advertising for all events and functions and an insurance waiver for rental of the pavilions. After a brief discussion it was referred to the clerk and to the executive committee to come up with a draft for the next meeting.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from Joe and Tammy Pini thanking the village for working with them to complete the purchase of their property in Sibilsky Acres II. It also requested that the council consider some sort of reimbursement to them for fees incurred by them caused by the delay in plat approval. After some discussion the council concurred that enough consideration had been given in

the form of in-kind services and hook-ups. Trustee Fisher recommended they be contacted regarding this decision.

Clerk Poirier said he had received complaints from three different residents regarding a collapsed mobile home at the top of 12<sup>th</sup> Street. They said it was a hazard for children and something should be done. It was agreed that a letter would be sent, in accordance with the Village ordinance, and that the owner be given a time frame for addressing the problem. The clerk was directed to send that letter.

Clerk Poirier introduced a training seminar in Marquette for Asset Management training. He said it would be extremely beneficial in helping with the proposed changes in billing for Act 51. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Pummill and supported by Trustee Hoffman to allow the clerk to attend the training. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Executive & Finance (discussion was combined for discussing budget issues)**

Pro-tem Fisher began the discussion by thanking the public for coming to be in on the discussion. He then reviewed what had been said at the September 7<sup>th</sup> special meeting. He summarized the current revenue and expense situation in the general fund. He said that the annual revenue was approximately \$280,000 and was largely received from state sources and property taxes. Those sources were relatively static and represented a large percentage of the total revenue. He briefly explained the millage rate history stating that current rates were actually lower now because of Headlee rollbacks than they were 10 years ago. He said that one of the options being reviewed by the executive committee was a millage increase in the coming year.

Fisher then went on to expenses which totaled about \$380,000. He said of those expenses the largest by far were the salary and benefits for employees, which totaled about 90% of revenue in the fund.

Following this review there were several comments from the public present. Many of them centered on whether or not the council had explored any other options as far as raising revenue and cutting expenses. Trustee Friendewey and Trustee Pummill assured them that every possible expense was looked at and where possible cuts would be made.

Several other comments centered on the golf course project and the streetscape project as having cost too much money. Pro-tem Fisher explained that there had been no money spent on the golf course in almost three years and the costs for the streetscape project were largely coming from the DDA.

Pro-tem Fisher then addressed the Council regarding the proposed layoff in the police department. Trustee Hoffman asked if they could name an employee, since they had been strung along already and were waiting for a definitive decision. Pro-tem Fisher explained that because of the union contract language, that decision could only be made after meeting with them to determine first, if a layoff was allowable and second, which employee would have to be laid off. After another brief discussion, a motion was reluctantly made by Trustee Friendewey to lay off one full-time police officer, to be determined at a meeting with union representatives, with the understanding that once that officer was identified, it would come back to the Council for a final approval. Trustee

Pummill supported the motion. Poll vote: Yes: Frendewey, Pummill, Frohmader, Heide and Fisher. No: Hoffman. Motion was carried.

The discussion then turned to other council action necessary for addressing the budget issues. A motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Heide to suspend the stipends for the council members and the President. Poll vote: Yes: Frendewey, Heide, Pummill, Frohmader, Hoffman and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Pro-tem Fisher then informed the Council about the ongoing union negotiations. He said that the committee was looking at approving the change of the retirement plan. The purpose being that it would allow a couple of employees to qualify for retirement should they so choose. It would entail an initial fee for setting up the plan and a 2.75% increase in premiums. After a brief discussion it was decided to approach the employees with that idea to see if it was beneficial for them.

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

No report.

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

No report

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

No report

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

An update on the union negotiations had been given previously.  
No other report was given.

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

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

**Downtown Development Authority:**

Trustee Pummill gave a brief update on planter box liners being purchased by the DDA to extend the life of the planter boxes on Calumet Street.

**Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority**

No report.

**Lake Linden Housing Commission**

No report.

**Houghton County Historical Museum:**

No report

**Torch Lake Area Fire Protection Authority:**

No report.

**Late Agenda Items:**

None

**New Business:**

None.

**Old Business:**

None.

**Announcements:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Trustee Frenthewy supported by Trustee Hoffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

There were 34 members of the public in attendance.

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Edward R. Fisher, President Pro-tem

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk