

**Lake Linden Village Council  
Regular Meeting  
October 11th, 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, Pummill, Heide, Hoffman, Frohmader, and Frendewey.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve the September regular meeting minutes and the minutes from the October 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Heide and supported by Trustee Fisher. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Public Comments:**

Mary Sager addressed the Council to say that a campground host was badly needed to check in campers throughout the summer. It was agreed that having a host for next year would be a good idea.

Drew Faulkner of the MTU Mini-Baha team gave a short presentation on their annual event held at the village park in February. The event had been growing in the past few years and this year was expected to be even larger. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Pummill and supported by Trustee Frendewey to support the event in any way possible short of donations but including track preparation. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Bills and Financial Statement:**

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

**Correspondence:**

Clerk Poirier read a letter from Joe and Tammy Pini regarding the issue of additional consideration for their financial hardship related to the settling of their lot dispute. Trustee Fisher and Trustee Pummill expressed similar sentiment in that more than enough had been done by the Village to alleviate problems in this situation and further consideration should not be given. After a brief discussion it was determined that no further compensation or consideration be granted.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from Brooke Wilder-Corrigan thanking the Village for allowing her to sell firewood in the campground. She explained that the money was going towards tuition for her studying abroad and she was hoping to sell the firewood again next year.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from Kathleen Hoganson that commended the Village public works crew on great service and a job well done, explaining that they often went out of their way to assist residents with various tasks.

Clerk Poirier introduced an announcement for a municipal budget training seminar in Marquette for October 27<sup>th</sup>. The cost was \$60. A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve sending Clerk Poirier to attend the seminar. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Frendewey, Hoffman, Pummill, Frohmader, Heide and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier informed the council that a request had been made for a streetlight at the top of 4<sup>th</sup> Street. After a brief discussion it was referred to the street committee for future recommendation.

Clerk Poirier introduced the premium for the annual package insurance for \$25,723. He said there were no other companies that would submit competing bids. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Pummill to approve paying the insurance premium. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Pummill, Heide, Hoffman, Frohmader, Frendewey and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

The DNR Trail easement issue was again raised. This issue had been ongoing for some time and dealt with the transition area between the old trail and the new trail to the trestle over M-26. It was the only portion of the trail not settled and the Keweenaw ATV club was intent on getting the situation rectified so they could qualify for a \$50,000 grant. After a brief discussion President Aittama said he would meet with Village Engineer Dick Supina and get the issue settled as quickly as possible.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Clerk Poirier introduced a year-to-date revenue and expense report for the general fund, stating that it was somewhat misleading in that the tax revenue had just been received and no other large sources of revenue would be available for the rest of the fiscal year.

Trustee Fisher explained that the Range Bank proposal and possible line of credit would be discussed by the committee and brought before the Council in the near future.

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

No report.

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

The status of the ice rink was discussed at length. It was estimated that the cost for heating the pavilion during the winter, flooding and plowing the rink was about \$3,000 per year. The discussion initially centered on whether or not to open the rink at all. The argument made was that it was too costly a venture. Opposition argument focused on the long tradition of having the rink regardless of the cost involved. The discussion carried on for several minutes. It was finally determined to table action until the next meeting and to determine in the meantime what costs were involved, the possibility of getting volunteers to do the work on the rink and even getting donations to run the rink.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

Clerk Poirier introduced a worksheet with the costs for plowing parking lots from the previous year. He said that the Village lost approximately \$1,800 in plowing the lots and said a rate increase of .10 per square foot would allow the Village to break even. Jude Kalcich stated he thought the Village should not plow lots owned by private businesses. Trustee Fisher said the Village had a responsibility in the downtown to offer these services for business owners. After a few minutes of discussion a motion was made by Trustee Pummill to discontinue those services, but he rescinded the motion to allow further discussion.

After more discussion a motion was made by Trustee Pummill to discontinue the services but to let the businesses know and to see if they could find alternatives for plowing. This motion was also rescinded when a decision on whether or not an option should be given to the businesses could not be reached.

Finally, after some further discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Pummill and supported by Trustee Heide to discontinue the service of plowing the parking lots for downtown businesses. 6 votes in favor. Trustee Fisher dissented. Motion was carried.

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

Trustee Fisher gave a brief update on the streetscape progress.

Trustee Fisher informed the council that discussions with Moyle were still ongoing regarding Sibilsky II plat sale. He said he had some guesses on numbers for the sale of the lots but the discussions were still preliminary and he would be back to the Council with more information for a more informed decision in the near future.

He also said that he and the clerk had been in touch with the Michigan Municipal League and had come up with a draft of a letter and spreadsheet to submit to the state for a deficit elimination plan. He thought that keeping it simple was the best way to address the matter and that the letter would be submitted as soon as possible.

He brought up the issue of a millage election and several options were discussed for presenting the proposal to the voters. After a discussion Trustee Fisher said he would gather the necessary information and present it for action at the November meeting.

Clerk Poirier said the compliance for handicap-accessibility for the village hall needed to be done by November. He would meet with Jude to determine the most cost-effective way to accomplish the necessary changes.

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

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

**Downtown Development Authority:**

No report.

**Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority**

Trustee Pummil asked President Aittama about the surcharge on the sewer bill for the debt retirement on the lagoons. He said that the retirement was done in early 2007 but that the \$10.00 fee would likely be rolled into the billing and not eliminated from the bills.

**Lake Linden Housing Commission**

No report.

**Houghton County Historical Museum:**

Clerk Poirier said that the Halloween Ghost train would be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Houghton County Museum.

**Torch Lake Area Fire Protection Authority:**

No report.

**Late Agenda Items:**

Clerk Poirier said that he had received phone calls from the mother of a boy who had been ticketed by the Sheriff Dept. riding his 4-wheeler into town from the trail for gas. She wanted to get a letter from the council stating that there was an “unwritten” policy of letting ORVs into the village on village streets. After a short discussion it was determined that a letter would not be written in deference to the Sheriff departments enforcement of the ORV law.

**New Business:**

**Old Business:**

None.

**Announcements:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Trustee Frenndwey supported by Trustee Frohmader made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

There were 9 members of the public in attendance.

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James M. Aittama, President

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk