

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
November 9th, 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, Frohmader, and Frendewey.

Election results from the November 7th general election had not yet been certified so the Council as constituted from the previous term was still conducting business.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Public Comments:

Mary Sager addressed the Council and asked several questions regarding topics raised at previous meetings. There was a short discussion about some of the points before moving on.

Bills and Financial Statement:

The bills and financials were introduced. Clerk Poirier stated that the annual package insurance premium was on the report and also the winter salt stockpile. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Fisher to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote; Yes; Frendewey, Fisher, Frohmader, Pummill and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Correspondence:

Clerk Poirier introduced a copy of the deficit elimination plan that was submitted to the state to address the \$36,000 deficit reported in the 2006 Audit report. He said the state had approved the measures taken by the Council to address the deficit and no further action was necessary.

Clerk Poirier introduced the rate sheet for 2007 Blue Cross/Blue Shield premiums. He said the increase was about 18%, which had been the standard rate increase over the last 5 years.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from the DNR explaining that a basal area study needed to be done by the Village for the land near Rice Lake that was deeded to the village in the 1930s. The area encompasses 160 acres. The Council stated that the study was to facilitate the release of the reverter clause that is on the deed. This clause states that if the land is used for non-forestry purposes it

reverts back to the state. A change to the Municipal Forest Act allows for that clause to be eliminated from the deed. Trustee Fisher and President Aittama reiterated that there was no intention of selling the land where the Sportsmen's Club was situated. Trustee Fisher said a 15 years lease was recently negotiated and there was no intention of voiding that agreement.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from Western U.P. Planning requesting a letter of support to Governor Granholm for a rail trail from Hancock to Lake Linden. After a brief explanation unanimous consent for a letter of support was given.

Clerk Poirier introduced information from American Legal Publishing regarding the codification of Village Ordinances. He said he would pursue costs for the service and report at a subsequent meeting.

Committee Reports:

Finance(Chair:Trustee Frendewey):

Clerk Poirier stated that more work to refine the Quickbooks program was still being done and the budgeting process for the upcoming fiscal year would soon begin in preparation for the February 28th deadline.

Domestic Water(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

No report.

Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

The status of the ice rink was discussed. Trustee Frendewey said he had been talking to several residents about the possibility of continuing the rink this winter. Mick Jarvi was on hand to represent the Lake Linden Lions Club and submitted a letter pledging \$500 towards its operation this winter. Steve Pummill also stated that the Lake Linden Downtown Development Authority was discussing the financial support of opening the rink this winter as well. A group of individuals was formed to discuss the costs, support and possible volunteer base for running the rink through the winter and would report back to the Council at the December meeting.

Sanitation(Chair: Trustee Pummill):

No report.

Equipment(Chair: Trustee Frohmader):

No report.

Streets(Chair: Trustee Heide):

Clerk Poirier said that he had spoken with Jude regarding the seasonal billings for snow hauling this coming winter. As previously determined by the Council hauling would be billed on a per-use basis. Poirier said this would just create more administrative headaches and requested the Council approve going back to the previous seasonal billing method. After a brief discussion it was agreed to return to the seasonal billing method.

Executive(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

Trustee Fisher presented some information on raising the millage rate in the village. He stated that the Municipal League had given us information on the process for raising the operating millage. Since the current operating rate of 10.2438 was well below the maximum of 12.5 operating mills as allowed by Village Charter, it could be raised to the 12.5 limit by a two-thirds resolution of the Village council. He said a Truth in Taxation Hearing needed to be held to lay out how the new millage would be used.

Trustee Fisher said the agreement between the police union and the village regarding the layoff of Josh Peters had been reviewed and signed by all parties.

Trustee Fisher brought up the Americana Grant. He said the second phase had been completed and the third phase, repairing and restoring the tower, needed to be addressed. He said Hitch, Inc. had submitted an estimate for \$1,000 for the preparation of the submission to the Americana for this third stage of the grant. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Friendewey to approve the cost up to \$1,000 for the preparation of a proposal to the Americana Foundation. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Friendewey, Frohmader, Pummill and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Trustee Fisher said that a work agreement had been given to the clerk and treasurer as a first draft in getting an employment contract done. Hopefully the details would be worked out by the December meeting.

Clerk Poirier said he had spoken to Jude about having the engineers hold back money from the contractor on the streetscape project because of damage caused to the underground sprinkler system. It was determined that \$1,500 would be enough to facilitate repair on the system and that the engineer would be contacted regarding those repairs.

Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):

No police report was available and so it was tabled until the next meeting.

Downtown Development Authority:

Trustee Pummill said that the DDA was meeting next week and would undertake a couple of topics raised at this meeting, namely, the continuation of the ice skating rink and the Americana Foundation grant. He also said that the DDA was donating money towards this year's French-Canadian Christmas celebration. He said that Nancy Fisher would no longer head the celebration committee and hoped someone else would step forward to help out for next year.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

President Aittama stated that the televising of the system showed that there were not as many issues as previously thought but the issues discovered were substantial. He also said that the financing of the repairs was being sought through a long-term loan from Rural Development at very low interest. He said to do this the articles of the sewage authority needed to be amended to allow a forty-year term instead of the 30 year limit now in the articles. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Friendewey and supported by Trustee Pummill to increase the statutory limit for borrowing money for the sewage authority from 30 years to 40 years. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Lake Linden Housing Commission

No report.

Houghton County Historical Museum:

No report.

Torch Lake Area Fire Protection Authority:

No report.

Late Agenda Items:

President Aittama said that the Village Task Force resurfacing project for 9th street had been moved back until 2008. This allowed the village match of \$12,000 for the project to be paid by the state which essentially amounted to getting the re-paving done for nothing.

He also said he had been in contact with the DNR regarding the snowmobile trail easement. He hoped to have a resolution by the next meeting and would continue working on it.

Clerk Poirier said that the committees would need to be re-appointed as Brett Hamlin would be sworn in as the new Trustee before the next meeting.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

Trustee Frohmader supported by Trustee Frendewey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

There were 16 members of the public in attendance.

James M. Aittama, President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk