

**Lake Linden Village Council  
Regular Meeting  
December 14th, 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, Hamlin, Frohmader, and Frendewey.

Trustee Hamlin had been sworn in by Clerk Poirier prior to the meeting. President Aittama thanked former Trustee Pummill for his service to the Village on behalf of the Council and also welcomed Trustee Hamlin back after a short hiatus to the Council as well.

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

**Public Comments:**

There were no comments from the public.

**Bills and Financial Statement:**

The bills and financials were introduced. Clerk Poirier explained a format change in the presentation of the bills because of the changes being implemented in the Quickbooks accounting program. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote; Yes; Fisher, Hamlin, Frohmader, Frendewey and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

**Correspondence:**

Clerk Poirier said that he had prepared a review of Health insurance rates to compare the MERS proposal to the current Blue Cross premiums. However, after reviewing the health questionnaires it was determined by MERS that they would not be compatible with current rates. It was decided that the pursuit of alternatives for health care would continue because costs were continuing to spiral.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from WUUPDR regarding updating the county's emergency resource manual and requested a list of resources available from the Village in such an event. Clerk Poirier said he would talk with Jude and supply the list to the county.

A list of current committee assignments was distributed and trustees were asked to see if there were any committees they were interested in. President Aittama said he would review the requests after the first of the year.

## **Committee Reports:**

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

Trustee Fisher went over the elements of a memo he had sent to the trustees concerning the budget issues. He began with the DDA TIF issue. The Village had not yet paid its TIF contribution to the DDA for the last three years and needed to catch up on those payments. The total amounted to close to \$40,000. He said he had been working with Steve Pummill, the DDA chairman, about a repayment plan. The plan was to repay the delinquent amount over a five to six year period while the budget recovered from its current situation. He said the DDA had agreed to pay the entire Streetscape Project bond amount so the Village would, in effect, not be paying extra monies toward this delinquency.

Next was the strategy for increasing millage rates over the next few months. He said a 2 mil increase had previously been discussed and he thought that that was the proper strategy. President Aittama stated that he did not agree with that idea and thought that proposing a targeted millage election for law enforcement or fire protection should be done first. That would leave open the possibility of seeking a further millage increase afterwards should there be a need to further increase it past the statutory 12.5 maximum allowable under the Village Law Act. After a brief discussion it was decided that the Executive Committee and the President would meet to determine a suitable course to present back to the Council at a subsequent meeting.

Trustee Fisher also explained that the details of a line of credit at Range Bank had been worked out. There would be a \$75,000 maximum fixed at 5.6% tax exempt. A \$250 fee plus loan expenses would be needed at the outset. Also, certain conditions were attached to the agreement. To address those conditions the following resolution was made by Trustee Friendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin:

### **Resolution**

**Whereas**, the Lake Linden Village Council does desire to open a line of credit at Range Bank in the amount of \$75,000, and

**Whereas**, the terms of that agreement include a 5.6% tax exempt rate for 12 months, a \$250 fee plus loan expenses, an annual auditors report, the collateral of the full faith and credit of the Village of Lake Linden, and the commitment to move general operating accounts to Range Bank, and

**Whereas**, the Village Council hereby authorizes that President Aittama, President Pro-tem Fisher, Clerk Poirier and Treasurer Stevens are signors, and that at least one of the authorizing signatures is a member of the Village Council,

**Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the Council does accept the aforementioned terms and approve entering into this agreement as of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006, pending the completion of the application process.

Ayes: Friendewey, Hamlin, Fisher, Frohmader and Aittama.

Nays: None

Absent: Hoffman, Heide.

Motion was carried.

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

No report.

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

Trustee Fisher informed the Council that the marina operating permit had still not been approved and the requirement now by the DEQ was to install a pump-out station. He said that costs and options for this newest requirement would be discussed in the near future with the committee.

Trustee Friendwey said that the ice rink situation had not yet been decided. He said that Schoolcraft Township and the Lions Club had committed \$500 toward expenses for opening the rink. The Lake Linden DDA also said they would commit money towards the rink as well. Trustee Friendwey said he would meet to determine the costs and the feasibility of the rink very soon.

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

Clerk Poirier said that there may be a need for purchasing dumpsters in the spring as two now being used by the new Portage Clinic were taken from the park and there would be only one for rentals in the spring.

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

No report.

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

President Aittama explained that the Village Task Force 13A had met. He said that the repaving project scheduled for Ninth Street from M-26 to Gregory Street was scheduled for 2008 but he had applied to the County Road Association of Michigan for funds under the Jobs Today program to do the project in 2007 with no costs of the \$60,000 being paid by the Village. He did say that Jude Kalcich needed to look at drainage structures along the route to prepare for any work that needed to be done there. He said he would inform the Council as soon as he received further word on the application.

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

Trustee Fisher explained that the collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME was almost complete. Only a few minor changes were needed and it would be ready for signing.

Trustee Fisher said the draft of the at-will employment agreement was in the packet. Chief Chandonais, Clerk Poirier and Treasurer Stevens had been presented a copy of the agreement and there only needed to be some minor changes to the specific terms of the hospitalization and PTO specifics. Those agreements would soon be finalized and presented to the Council by the January meeting.

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

Clerk Poirier read the October police report. A motion was made by Trustee Friendwey and supported by Trustee Fisher to approve the report as read. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier read the November police report. A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Frohmader to approve the report as read. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Downtown Development Authority:**

Trustee Pummill said that the issue on the agenda had been previously discussed. He also said that the December meeting of the DDA had been cancelled and the regular January meeting would be held as scheduled.

**Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority**

President Aittama said the only new information was that the term for funding the needed improvements was now moved to 40 years instead of 30 years as previously discussed.

**Lake Linden Housing Commission**

No report.

**Houghton County Historical Museum:**

No report.

**Torch Lake Area Fire Protection Authority:**

No report.

**Late Agenda Items:**

Trustee Fisher said that he had recently become aware of a number of properties in and around the Village, owned by the Village, that had some market value. He said the Executive committee would be looking into the possibility of preparing those for sale and presenting the idea to the council at future meetings.

He said that the French-Canadien Christmas celebration went off reasonably well. He also said that volunteers to run the event in subsequent years would need to be found.

**New Business:**

None.

**Old Business:**

None.

**Announcements:**

The Village Christmas Social for employees and Council members would be at 1:00 pm Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at the meeting room.

The Lions Club announced that Santa would be appearing at Louie's Super Foods on Saturday.

**Adjournment:**

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

There were 13 members of the public in attendance.

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James M. Aittama, President

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk