

**Lake Linden Village Council
Public Hearing
February 8th, 2007**

President Aittama opened the public hearing at 6:30. The following trustees were in attendance: Fisher, Hamlin, Hoffman, Frohmader, Friendewey and Aittama.

Trustee Fisher began by explaining the process whereby the Executive committee reviewed, amended and dissected the general fund budget. He said that after several discussions the final version before the Council at this hearing was the most accurate and detailed possible. He also stated that a review of the millage rates was the next item that needed to be addressed as it was the only area in which revenue could be substantially increased.

He briefly explained a few of the numbers and invited board comment. Trustee Friendewey stated that after lengthy review expenses could not be cut in any more significant way than they have been. All trustees agreed that one of the largest expenses, health care coverage, still needed to be looked at in the near future.

Trustee Hamlin concluded by saying that this was the most comprehensive budgeting process that has taken place in many years.

President Aittama then invited comment from the public in attendance. Hearing none he adjourned the hearing and went into the regular meeting.

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
February 8th, 2007**

The Lake Linden Village Council met on the above date in the Village Hall at 6:35pm. President Aittama presided. The following Trustees responded to roll call: Fisher, Hamlin, Frohmader, Hoffman and Friendewey.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made to approve the agenda after one addition by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin. 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 few entries on the report. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Frohmader to approve the bills as presented.

Poll vote; Yes; Fisher, Frohmader, Hamlin, Friendewey and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Correspondence:

Clerk Poirier read a letter of resignation from Trustee Bill Heide. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin to accept, with regret, the resignation of Trustee Heide. It was supported by Trustee Friendewey. All were in favor. Motion was carried. Clerk Poirier was instructed to place an ad in the *Daily Mining Gazette* for a new candidate.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from LLV Housing Board President Mary Sager. The letter addressed issues that had been raised at the previous council meeting relating to hiring and voting practices at the Housing Commission. After a brief discussion Trustee Hamlin and Trustee Friendewey said that more investigation was needed into the structure of the Housing Commission and the reporting process to the Village Council. No further action was taken.

Clerk Poirier read a membership solicitation from the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance. After a brief discussion it was determined not to join at this time.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from Houghton County Controller Eric Forsberg regarding the County Brownsfield plan. It said that in order for this plan to take effect in the Village a resolution had to be passed to that effect. After a brief discussion a draft resolution was presented to the Council. A motion was made by Trustee Friendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve the resolution as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried. The resolution is available and on file at the clerk's office.

Clerk Poirier presented a copy of an Outdoor Furnace Ordinance from the City of Hancock. After a brief description it was tabled until trustees had a chance to review the document.

Trustee Hamlin addressed the track issue with regard to the MTU Mini Baja team. He said that a lot of snow was not required and that a plowed track iced down with the help of the LL Fire Department would solve those issues. No further action was taken.

President Aittama explained the issue with the DNR regarding the trail easement, which extended from the second track to the first track. The DNR did not have legal easement and the Village wanted to transfer ownership of the trestle and tunnel to the DNR to alleviate liability issues along the trail. He said the details would hopefully be ironed out by the March meeting.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from the Lake Linden High School regarding a fund-raising effort on behalf of the school forest building project. Monetary donations were sought to support the project. Although the Village could not contribute a letter of support would be written for the project.

Clerk Poirier updated the Council on the CDBG audit of the streetscape project. He said everything went well and also explained that the MEDC did not seem to have an issue with extending the project out to 10th Street assuming that the project could be completed by June 30th, 2007.

Clerk Poirier explained that an estimate for updating the handicapped-accessibility of the hall would be done and presented to the council at the next meeting.

Clerk Poirier said he had been contacted by UPPCo and told that they had been charging us the wrong rate for thirteen months. This would result in a \$5,000 credit over the next few months.

He also informed the council he would be meeting with a health care coverage provider next week. Trustee Hamlin stressed the need to explore all options including high deductibles and other options. Clerk Poirier said that he would report back to the council with all information.

The issue of restructuring committees was tabled until a new Trustee could be found.

Committee Reports:

Finance(Chair:Trustee Friendewey):

No report.

Domestic Water(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

Clerk Poirier said Jude informed him that a new chlorinator pump was needed for the wellhouse and the cost was \$675. After a brief discussion, in which it was determined that the old pump would be looked at to see if repairs were practical, a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Fisher to allocate \$675 for a new one if the old one could not be repaired. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Fisher, Frohmader, Friendewey, Hoffman and Aittama. No: None. Motion was carried.

Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

No report.

Sanitation(Chair: Trustee Hamlin):

No report.

Equipment(Chair: Trustee Frohmader):

No report.

Streets(Chair: Trustee Heide):

No report.

Executive(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

The proposed budgets debated in the public hearing were once again discussed. After a short time a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Fisher to approve the budgets as previously discussed in the public hearing. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Fisher, Hoffman, Frohmader, Friendewey and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Trustee Fisher said that a Truth in Taxation Hearing should be scheduled some time in the near future to discuss the millage rate. He stressed that it was very important to take care of this in a timely fashion. After a brief discussion it was determined that a date would be set some time during March.

Trustee Fisher presented a final draft version of the At-will employee agreements for the Clerk/Manager and the Treasurer. He asked the trustees to look it over and offer input so that they could be finalized by the next meeting.

Clerk Poirier explained that the next phase of the Americana Foundation grants was scheduled to be prepared for April. The 2006 grant had been finalized and the 2007 application was in the process of being developed with the help of Hitch, Inc.

Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):

No report.

Downtown Development Authority:

Steve Pummill said that he had been present during the CDBG audit for the streetscape project. He said that the DDA was in sound financial condition and that their discussions would be focused on which new projects would be supported for the coming year.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

No report.

Lake Linden Housing Commission

This information was covered under correspondence.

Torch Lake Area Fire Protection Authority:

Clerk Poirier said that Bill Heide had contacted him to say that they were looking at some maintenance issues coming up in the next year and also sought estimates for cleaning out the incline dam. Clerk Poirier also said that there was some questions regarding the Village's participation with and membership in the Authority which could only be cleared up by speaking with Fred Johnson, the Village attorney.

Late Agenda Items:

None

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

None.

Announcements:

Trustee Fisher said there was a presentation on the Lake Linden Downtown Historic District on March 22nd at the Lake Linden Hubbell High School.

Trustee Frohmader announced that a Muscular Dystrophy fundraiser was scheduled for the Legion Hall. He also said that the MTU Mini Baja banquet would be held there.

Adjournment:

Trustee Hoffman supported by Trustee Frohmader made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned. There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

James M. Aittama, President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk