

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
April 19th, 2007**

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: Friendewey, Hamlin, Hoffman and Frohmader. Absence was granted to President Aittama. One council seat is vacant.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Friendewey to approve the March 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 Friendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Public Comments:

Mary Sager asked if any progress had been made on the codification of the ordinance manual and the Council said that there had not. She also asked about the sale of the Sibilsky II plat to a developer and Pro-tem Fisher explained that that did not seem feasible at this time.

DDA Chairman Steve Pummill said he recommended that the Village pull out of the Torch Lake Fire Protection Authority and also that in consideration of the Villages budget issues he would be in favor of a millage increase to offset rising expenses.

Boy Scout Troop 202 leader Kim Strieter asked the Council if the troop could hold regular meetings and campfires at the rustic sites in the campground. The Council said that if they were not being used by campers that would be fine.

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 Hamlin and supported by Trustee Friendewey to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote; Yes; Hamlin, Friendewey, Frohmader, Hoffman and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Correspondence:

Pro-tem Fisher started by saying he had been approached via email by Glenn Schuldt about the open council seat. He introduced Mr. Schuldt to the Council and gave a brief summary of his background. He also said that he had briefed Mr. Schuldt on some of the major issues confronting the Council. There was a discussion about some issues currently being addressed. After this brief discussion Pro-tem Fisher recommended that the Council approve the appointment of Mr. Schuldt to the open council seat. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Friendewey to approve the acting

Presidents recommendation and appoint Glenn Schuldt to the Village Council. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier then issued the Oath of Office to Trustee Schuldt and he took a seat at the table for the rest of the meeting.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from Tim Gasperich requesting that Lot 13 in Sibilsky Acres plat be put up for public bids. A discussion ensued regarding lots currently salable with a minimum of cost. There was public comment suggesting that restrictions would prohibit the sale of the lots when the village could use the revenue generated by the sale and tax benefits of new homes there. Trustee Hamlin stated that such restrictions would be general in nature and serve to protect the new neighborhood from unwanted business or building activity and no restriction would limit the size of homes in that area. After a few more comments a motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin to place Lot 13 in Sibilsky Acres I, and Lots 36 and 37 in Sibilsky Acres II up for public sale with an open bidding notice posted in the Gazette for 10 days. The minimum bid for said Lots would be .38 per square foot and the sale would be subject to general restrictions to be determined by the Executive committee and to be agreed upon by perspective bidders prior to any obligation to buy. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from MERS stating that the V-6 vesting option previously approved by the Council had been implemented retroactive to October 1st, 2006 and was now in place.

Clerk Poirier introduced a solicitation of membership for the Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce. After a brief discussion it was determined to pass on membership this year.

Clerk Poirier read an ad solicitation for the Gazette's Visitor Guide publication. It was determined again that an ad would not be placed and addressed again next year.

Clerk Poirier introduced the annual membership notice from the Michigan Municipal League. There was a discussion regarding benefits of League membership. Clerk Poirier said he received valuable information from them on many topics. This was weighed against the cost of membership during trying fiscal times. Finally, a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve joining the League this year for \$1,033. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Frendewey, Schuldt and Fisher. No; Hoffman, Frohmader. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from Brooke Corrigan requesting she be allowed to sell firewood at the Village campground again this year. It was decided that it would be a nice service for the campers there and the request was approved.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from a 12-year old who had vandalized the electrical panel in the campground. As part of his restitution he was required to apologize to the Council.

Clerk Poirier introduced a letter from Western U.P. Michigan Works regarding summer youth employees. After a brief discussion it was decided to request two 16 or 17-yr.old workers for the summer. There is no cost to the Village for these employees.

The discussion of a NMPSA seminar in Marquette was tabled.

Options to the current Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan were received from the Hannula Agency. Five different options were given to be considered but there

had not been enough time to digest all of the information and it was tabled until the May meeting.

Clerk Poirier informed the Council that a franchise agreement proposal had been received by the Village and it had been forwarded to Village attorney Fred Johnson for review and possible action at the May meeting.

Committee Reports:

Finance(Chair:Trustee Frendewey):

The council entertained a discussion about auditor services for the 2006-07 fiscal year. Mike Jutila had been doing the audit for the past several years and it was thought perhaps there was time for a change. Pro tem Fisher said he would recommend that Mr. Jutila conduct the audit because of his familiarity with the system and procedures of the office. Trustee Hoffman stated that he would prefer a change and mentioned Jackie Aalto, who had been conducting the Sewage Authority audit. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to table the issue until the May meeting and in the interim meet with Mike Jutila before making a final determination.

Domestic Water(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

No report. Further discussion would take place under the Fire Protection Authority.

Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

Pro-tem Fisher explained that there was still discussion with an individual who was trying to get a cost for lengthening one of the piers at his expense. No reply had as yet been received.

Discussion took place on the application for the marina operating permit and initially centered on calling the area a "marina" because that would require a pricey addition of a pump-out facility. It was generally decided that the Village could not take that step at the present time. There was a deadline given by the DEQ of May 14th to address some shortcomings in the last application submission. It was decided to reply to those requests by the deadline to keep the dialogue open and to keep options on the table. Pro-tem Fisher said there was still the issue of signage at the docks and that the committee would meet to discuss those.

Sanitation(Chair: Trustee Hamlin):

Clerk Poirier said that DPW foreman Jude Kalcich had recommended the purchase of additional dumpsters since the new Portage Clinic had now been given two. Clerk Poirier said that lids had to be purchased separately and new ones for current dumpsters should also be replaced. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Hoffman to authorize the purchase of three new dumpsters, as many new lids as were needed, and to arrange for the delivery of them as soon as possible. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Hoffman, Frohmader, Frendewey, Schuldt and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Jude had also conducted a garbage bag audit on 4/17 during the collection. Bag use was down and it was pointed out that in the past the sanitation fund was unable to repay the general fund for fringe benefits to the

tune of about \$10,000 per year. So that, in reality, the fund was not paying for itself throughout an entire fiscal year.

The discussion then focused on perhaps adopting a separate sanitation millage. This would net approximately \$9,000 - \$10,000 and help balance the sanitation fund in future years. This, in turn, would help the general fund in that all bills submitted to the sanitation fund would be paid and add about \$10,000 to general fund revenues.

Clerk Poirier also mentioned that the annual sanitation fees had gone out but because of empty residences and residents opting to have their garbage picked up by other services or taking care of it themselves, only 399 of 502 accounts were billed the annual fee.

Equipment(Chair: Trustee Frohmader) :

No report.

Streets(Chair: Vacant):

The issue of street markings around the new bumpouts was briefly discussed.

Executive(Chair: Trustee Fisher):

Clerk Poirier said that the grant application had been submitted to the Americana Foundation for the third phase of the building grant and word was expected during the first week of May regarding the award.

Pro-tem Fisher said that the poles were scheduled to be placed by UPPCo any time and they were trying to coordinate with the contractor to begin this last phase of the construction.

Pro-tem Fisher said that in looking at the office operations it was apparent that significant upgrades needed to be made with respect to the modernization of the systems. He said he and Trustee Friendewey had been looking into an automated point-of-sales system that integrated with the existing Quickbooks accounting program and that he had determined that everything could be updated for about \$1,200.00. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the purchase of such a system for up to \$1,200. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Schuldt, Frohmader, Hoffman, Friendewey and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):

Clerk Poirier said that Chief Peters had requested part-time help from the Council for the upcoming summer. Trustee Hoffman said that he would meet with Josh to determine what would be needed.

Downtown Development Authority:

Pro-tem Fisher announced that the April DDA meeting would be held immediately following the Council meeting.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

Clerk Poirier said that he had developed an estimate for building changes addressing the accessibility issues as presented in the plan proposed by the Superior Alliance for Independent Living. The Sewage Authority required this information for its application for loans on its upcoming project.

Clerk Poirier said he had also received an estimate to change the locks and knobs throughout the building as required in the report and that it was \$1,503.00.

Lake Linden Housing Commission

Clerk Poirier said that he had received an application for the vacant Housing Commission seat and that her residence was in Maple Lane Apartments. The Council determined that it would not accept the application and would look into the current make-up of the Commission and the number of Housing residents currently serving on it. No further action was taken.

Torch Lake Area Fire Protection Authority:

Pro-tem Fisher informed the Council that, as per previous directives from the Council, he had been meeting with the TLFPA and with Fred Johnson regarding the Villages withdrawal from the Authority. To that end Fred had drafted two separate resolutions to deal with the issue for the councils decision.

The first was a resolution officially withdrawing from the Authority. It stipulated that the Village would withdraw from the system by giving the other members a written 60-day notice and for 6 months the Village DPW and its foreman would take the lead role in maintenance on the system and develop an operations manual for the system. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Frenthewey to approve the resolution as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

The second resolution called for the Village DPW in conjunction with the engineer to develop a plan for converting existing hydrants on the LOST system onto the Village water system and also for a dry hydrant to be put in near the marina area of the park to provide easy access to water from the lake for fire protection. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Frenthewey to approve the resolution as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried. Pro-tem Fisher said he would draft the letter to the other municipalities as soon as possible to trigger the 60-day notice.

Late Agenda Items:

None

New Business:

Old Business:

Trustee Frohmader asked about the invoice received from Torch Lake Township for First Responder Services. Clerk Poirier said he would look into it and have further information at the next meeting.

Announcements:

Clerk Poirier stated that the sprin clean-up dates were scheduled for the Mondays of April 23rd, May 7th and May 21st, snowfall permitting.

Adjournment:

Trustee Hamlin supported by Trustee Frohmader made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned. There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

Edward Fisher, President Pro-tem

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk