

**Lake Linden Village Council  
Truth-in-Taxation Hearing  
June 21st, 2007**

The Lake Linden Village Council met on the above date in the Village Hall at 6:30pm to discuss Village tax rates for 2007.

Pro-tem Fisher gave a brief review of recent Village financial issues of the past year. He explained that the general fund deficit had been addressed and things were beginning to move in the right direction. The next step in that process was to address the continually declining millage rate.

He presented a graph to the Council that showed the decline in the millage rate because of the Headlee rollbacks applied each year. He said that these declines would continue and that in the near future would probably have to be addressed in the form of a millage increase election. But for now the Council would accept the rate provided under the Headlee Amendment and probably seek to levy the maximum allowable under those restrictions.

He also pointed out that, because of a correction previously applied to the Village tax rates in 2006, 2007s operating and street rates would actually increase .13 mils and .06 mils respectively.

Moving on, he explained that the sanitation fund was not meeting expenses and had not for a few years. The fund could not pay fringe benefit rates to the general fund as required which indirectly resulted in a drain on the general fund. To address this shortfall, Pro-tem Fisher explained that the executive committee's recommendation was to re-implement a garbage millage, previously instituted by the Council in 1988 and not levied since 1999. He said that in applying this millage to the Headlee rollback fractions, a rate of 2.2 mils was allowable under the Village Charter Act. However, only 1 mil would be necessary to correct the shortfall in the sanitation fund for this year and that was the committees recommendation.

Council discussion centered on the fact that the re-instituting of the garbage millage was necessary and that pursuing the maximum allowable rate for 2007 was the only responsible course of action.

Pro-tem Fisher then solicited public comment from those in attendance. A brief comment said that obviously the Village has been working to get out of a difficult financial situation and residents should expect to be asked for their support.

Hearing no further comment, Pro-tem Fisher adjourned the public hearing at 6:40pm. Six members of the public were in attendance.

**Lake Linden Village Council  
Regular Meeting  
June 21st, 2007**

President Pro-tem Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. The following Trustees responded to roll call: Frohmader, Frendewey, Hamlin, Schuldt and Fisher. President Aittama and Trustee Hoffman were granted absences.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the May regular meeting minutes as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Frendewey. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Public Comments:**

There were no comments from the public present.

**Bills and Financial Statement:**

The bills and financials were introduced. Clerk Poirier explained entries outlining cash balances in the general fund and said that current expenses would most likely be covered by incoming revenue in June, allowing the Village to pay back a large portion of the \$50,000 line of credit very soon after tax revenue starts coming in mid or late July. Trustee Hamlin asked about a co-pay payment for President Aittama for \$88.36. Clerk Poirier said it was done following current repayment procedures. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote: Yes; Frendewey, Schuldt, Frohmader, Hamlin, Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

**Correspondence:**

Clerk Poirier introduced a letter from the Sewage Authority that informed the Village that the Sewage Authority had set the amount of money due them at \$39,108.41. No further action was required.

A letter was introduced from the Sewage Authority outlining a change in the allocation of their water billing. The surcharge would be rolled into the base charge since the debt retirement on the lagoon system was now complete. There was no rate change, only the re-allocation. No further action was required.

Clerk Poirier introduced an agreement from Sayen Business for annual copier maintenance. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve the cost of \$204 for the agreement. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Frendewey, Frohmader, Schuldt and Fisher. No: None. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier read a notice from the County treasurer for BS & A treasurer software training. The clerk indicated that he and Ed Fisher were going to the class as a crash course in accepting 2007 tax payments. He said any trustee were more than welcome to attend with them. No one else offered.

Clerk Poirier presented an invoice from CPA Jackie Aalto for services performed to determine losses from the recent office issues. The invoice amount was \$4,850.00. The bill was not presented for payment at this time.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from LLHHS superintendent Randy Roberts which explained the school boards plan to chain off the sidewalks under the school walkway. He said cars, ATVs and other vehicles were traveling under the walkway sometimes at high rates of speed making it unsafe for students and faculty. He said there may be a clause in the agreement made with the Village to vacate the right-of-way that precluded them from doing this. But the clerk pointed out the only item in the agreement was perpetual rights for utility easements for the Village. The Council's only concern was that the chain be well marked and signed to prevent a vehicle or rider from going through the chain and getting hurt or killed.

The clerk presented the committee list for final review and approval. After two chairmanship changes a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the committees as amended. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier requested that the Council permit him to close the office one day per week to allow for the completion of paperwork. He said there was simply not enough time to do everything and wanted the uninterrupted day to get things accomplished. After a brief discussion it was determined that for the near future the office would be closed to the public on Wednesdays.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Pro-tem Fisher said the first order of business was to approve the millage rates as discussed in the public hearing. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Frendewey to levy the following rates for 2007:

|                |   |               |
|----------------|---|---------------|
| Operating      | - | 10.3784       |
| Streets        | - | 4.1531        |
| <u>Garbage</u> | - | <u>1.0000</u> |
| TOTAL RATE:    |   | 15.5315       |

Poll vote: Yes: Hamlin, Frendewey, Frohmader, Schuldt and Fisher. No: None. Motion was carried.

Pro-tem Fisher gave a brief update on the audit in progress. He said that new auditor Scott Kenney was very thorough and very sharp. He said many new ideas and procedures would certainly be implemented based on Mr. Kenney's recommendations. Other members of the executive committee who met with Mr. Kenney expressed the same observations and said that changes were obviously much needed.

Pro-tem Fisher said UPPCO had sent contracts for the installation of an additional line to power the festoon outlets along the west side of the street. He was still reviewing it and would be bringing it up at the DDA meeting immediately following the Council meeting. No action was required at this time.

#### **Utilities/Services (Chair: Trustee Hamlin):**

Trustee Friendewey said the committee was currently working with an enterprise group from MTU to update and modernize office operations and specifically the utility billing system.

Clerk Poirier said the 2007 water quality report would be contained in the newsletter coming out at the end of next week.

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

Trustee Fisher said that the committee had met and would be working on signs for the marina area very shortly.

Clerk Poirier said he had been visited by a spokesperson from the DEQ. This person informed him that on-site testing had revealed high mercury and arsenic levels in the sand uncovered by the receding water at the swimming beach. He said further samples were taken back to Lansing for testing and similar results could result in the swimming beach being closed. He said as soon as he heard anything else he would let everyone know.

**Sanitation(Chair: Trustee Hamlin):**

Trustee Hamlin brought up the possibility of reinstating a sanitation millage that had previously been implemented about ten years ago. He said that although salaries and equipment were being paid by the fund for work done in the fund, it was not able to keep up with the benefits charged by the general fund. He said that more discussion would take place in conjunction with the Truth in taxation Hearing and by the committee in the interim.

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

No report.

**Streets(Chair: Vacant):**

Clerk Poirier explained the paving project on the Bootjack Road between Calumet Street and Gregory Street. He said it was a County project but since that portion of road was a Village street there would be a cost-sharing involved for the paving. The total was \$60,000, \$12,000 of that would be the Village's responsibility. But through a grant obtained in the Jobs Today program, the Village would only be responsible for the interest on \$12,000, or only a few hundred. He said this was all approved at a previous Council meeting and only required some paperwork to be completed.

Trustee Schuldt said that the street signs along the new streetscape portion of Calumet Street were still the old ones, and although they were currently being repaired by the DPW, he said perhaps the DDA would consider looking at replacing them with new, larger ones in keeping with the streetscape renovation. DDA chairman Steve Pummill said the DDA was "certainly open to a sales pitch" but could not promise positive results.

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

Clerk Poirier, reporting for Trustee Hoffman, said Chief Peters had submitted a worksheet outlining the costs for retaining part-time police officers for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday festivities and for the remainder of the summer. The Council readily agreed that extra help was required for the holiday, but debated

the coverage level needed for the rest of the summer. After a lengthy debate a motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve retaining three part-time officers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July and for one part-time officer to be added for the rest of the summer at an average of 1.5 shifts per week, a total of \$1,800 plus a reasonable amount for uniforms for said officers. Poll vote: Yes: Frendewey, Schuldt, Frohmader, Hamlin and Fisher. No: None. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier also had a quote for a new radio to replace one that had been lost during the past winter in an arrest. He said he would work with Chief Peters on an insurance claim for the lost radio.

**Zoning Task Force:** Trustee Hamlin explained that he would get with members of the DDA to help form the committee to take on this task. The new committee would be chaired by Trustee Hamlin and begin its charge to tackle the issue of zoning in the Village.

**Downtown Development Authority:**

Chairman Steve Pummill gave a brief report on some items the DDA was working on and discussed briefly the adding of a new member. He said the formal recommendation would probably be brought before the Council at the next meeting. Work was being done on the new trail sign and response was , for the most part, favorable from the local businesses. He said the DDA meeting would be immediately following the Council meeting.

**Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority**

No report.

**Lake Linden Housing Commission**

No report.

**Torch Lake Area Fire Protection Authority:**

Pro-tem Fisher informed the Council that the Village was no longer a part of the LOST system. He said preliminary plans were being discussed to possibly expand the Village system to serve areas of Torch Lake Township but that such plans were long-range and certainly in the earliest phase.

**Late Agenda Items:**

Clerk Poirier asked that, in conjunction with the automation of the functions of the office, the Council thought it was wise to update it's Quickbooks version. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the purchase of two licensed copies of Quickbooks 2007 Pro. Poll vote: Yes: Hamlin, Schuldt, Frendewey, Frohmader and Fisher. No: none. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier also stated that the flag brackets currently used to put the American flags on the light poles did not fit the new poles. He said the quote for new brackets from the Quality Hardware was about \$410. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve the order and purchase of the brackets as needed. Poll vote: Yes: Schuldt, Frendewey, Frohmader, Hamlin and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

**New Business:**

None.

**Old Business:**

None.

**Announcements:**

Clerk Poirier stated that the village website had been updated, and that 4<sup>th</sup> of July brochures were available in the clerks office and other local businesses.

**Adjournment:**

Trustee Frendewey supported by Trustee Frohmader made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned. There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

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Edward R. Fisher, President Pro-tem

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk