

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
July 12th, 2007**

President Aittama called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The following Trustees responded to roll call: Frohmader, Friendewey, Hoffman, Schuldt and Fisher. Trustee Hamlin was granted excused absence.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

Public Comments:

Clerk Poirier said he had received several complaints regarding junk cars within the Village. He said he would contact the County regarding enforcement of their ordinance.

Mary Sager stated that things at the Housing Commission were moving along following the resignation of the Director. She thanked Trustee Friendewey for all his help in working through the transition along with interim Director Joan Marcotte.

Steve Pummill also thanked the Lake Linden Fire Dept. for its work in pulling off another successful 4th of July celebration. The Council concurred and said a letter would be sent thanking and congratulating them for their work.

Bills and Financial Statement:

The bills and financials were introduced. Clerk Poirier explained that the computer systems on the report had been reimbursed through an insurance claim. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Friendewey to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Friendewey, Schuldt, Frohmader, Hoffman and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Correspondence:

Clerk Poirier introduced a letter from Sandra Goodell announcing her resignation as Executive Director of the Lake Linden Housing Authority. A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by trustee Schuldt to accept the resignation. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

A letter was then introduced from attorney John Emerson Berry regarding the resignation. It asked the Council to begin advertising and searching for a replacement for the Housing Director. Trustee Friendewey stated that he was working with Housing Commission President Mary Sager and interim director Joan Marcotte to formulate advertisements and create a description that could be used in the process.

Clerk Poirier introduced the latest draft of a billing agreement between the Village and the Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority. Trustee Fisher pointed out that this agreement was brief but outlined the basic process that had been used in the past. It also included an increase in the per-bill fee charged by the Village to .60. President Aittama pointed out that the agreement was required for the TLASA to proceed with their funding application for an improvement project through USDA-Rural Development. After a few questions a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve the agreement as drafted and reviewed by legal counsel. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Frendewey, Hoffman, Frohmader, Schuldt and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier said that the snowmobile trail easement swap between the Village and the MiDNR had finally been figured out. He said the trestle and trolley tunnel could not be included in the agreement because of a big red tape hurdle but that the Village could simply "gift" them to the state and they would have to accept them. He said a resolution would be forthcoming from Village Counsel Dave Mechlin and the problem would finally be solved.

Clerk Poirier presented the Accident Fund worker's compensation policy for the coming year. He said this was an estimated premium based on an annual payroll audit performed by the clerk in late fall. He said the premium would likely be decreased substantially since the premium was based on four DPW employees and there were currently only three. A motion was made by trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the premium for 2007. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Schuldt, Hoffman, Frohmader, Frendewey and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from MDOT informing local municipalities about work being done on the Portage Lake lift Bridge and notifying local residents about possible delays.

Committee Reports:

Executive (Chair:Trustee Fisher):

Trustee Fisher said the committee had met with auditor Scott Kenney about recommendations he will be presenting in their final form when he has completed the audit. He said there were several points regarding checks and balances that needed to be addressed and was impressed at the steps that had been taken by the Council in dealing with the financial issues of the past year. Mr. Kenney would be presenting his report to the entire Council in the next few weeks.

Clerk Poirier said that the 2007 tax bills had been sent out and payments had begun coming in already.

Clerk Poirier reported that the new computers were installed and running. He also explained that in returning computers to Dell, the Village was left with three extra brand new monitors that he thought should be put out for bids. The Council agreed to offer the monitors for sealed bids to be opened at the August meeting.

Trustee Fisher said that the executive committee was ready to move ahead with the development of a description for the treasurer position. That would be advertised shortly.

Clerk Poirier explained that a resident had requested lots owned by the Village on Pine Street be put up for sale on bids. The Council agreed to have the matter investigated and that a posting be developed for that purpose.

Utilities/Services (Chair: Trustee Frendewey):

Trustee Frendewey said the work was continuing on the billing system and hoped it was ready to go by August at the latest.

Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Hamlin):

No report.

Equipment(Chair: Trustee Frohmader):

Trustee Frohmader read a report from public works supervisor Jude Kalcich regarding some equipment work that needed to be done before next winter. He said the Mack dump needed rear end work, around \$1,262.00. The Case Loader 621 needed work done, around \$1,585.00 and the John Deere loader also needed major repairs. After a brief discussion the Council determined that those costs would be considered maintenance costs and should be completed as soon as practical.

Trustee Frohmader also said Jude was looking at options for sidewalk plowing equipment for the coming winter as well.

Streets(Chair: Schuldt):

President Aittama said that the 9th Street paving project, funded through the 5-Village task Force and the Jobs Today program, would be included with the bidding for the project for a spring, 2008 letting.

Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):

Trustee Hoffman read the police report for June. A motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by trustee Fisher to accept the report. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier said that the new computers have made the old police printer obsolete. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Hoffman to approve getting a basic photo printer for the police office. Poll vote: Yes; Frendewey, Hoffman, Fisher, Frohmader, Schuldt and Aittama. No; None.

Zoning Task Force: No report.

Downtown Development Authority:

Chairman Steve Pummill informed the Council that they had selected a perspective new member to fill the vacant seat on the DDA Board. Her name was Jeanna Schwacha. A motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by trustee Fisher to approve her appointment to the DDA. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

He also said that the trail sign was being finalized for use this winter. The DDA Board agreed to split the cost of the flag brackets with the Village and so would like to be invoiced for half the cost.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

The agreement for billing had been passed earlier in the meeting. Trustee Hoffman also asked that the estimate for the ADA compliance of the Village Hall be sent to Jim Koskiniemi at U. P. Engineers.

Lake Linden Housing Commission

Housing Commission business had been discussed under correspondence earlier in the meeting.

Late Agenda Items:

Trustee Hoffman asked that a letter be drafted to the Fire Dept. congratulating them on a job well done for the 4th of July.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

None.

Announcements:**Adjournment:**

Trustee Hoffman supported by Trustee Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned. There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

James M. Aittama, President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk