

**Lake Linden Village Council  
Regular Meeting  
September 20th, 2007**

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

A motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve the August 30<sup>th</sup> special meeting minutes as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Approval of Agenda:**

A brief discussion of the agenda resulted in a motion from Trustee Friendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin to move into executive session to discuss a legal matter and to do it at the end of the meeting to avoid having to usher guests out and bring them back in afterward. All were in favor. Motion was carried. After one more addition to the agenda, a motion was made to approve the agenda by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Hoffman. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Public Comments:**

A resident addressed the Council regarding cell phone service, or the lack thereof, in the Village. He said that perhaps direct contact with the provider could result in action that would improve service throughout the Village. The Council indicated that this would be done.

**Bills and Financial Statement:**

The bills and financials were introduced. Clerk Poirier explained that the bill for the annual insurance premium would be discussed and approved later in the meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Friendewey and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote: Yes; Friendewey, Schuldt, Frohmader, Hoffman and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

**Correspondence:**

Clerk Poirier read a letter from the Save Quincy Smelter organization regarding a fund-raising dinner.

Clerk Poirier said that a review of health coverage options would resume. It had been put on hold because the office fell behind and began concentrating on day-to-day operations rather than this sort of project.

Clerk Poirier introduced a summary sheet for the annual package insurance premium from the Hannula Agency. He said after a meeting with Don Hannula the changes recommended were to increase deductible levels on the

covered equipment and liability insurances. He said it would save \$1,900 over one year and even during a record claim year the Village would save money. There was a brief discussion regarding increasing the surety bonds on the office personnel from \$25,000 to \$50,000 but it was determined that since more internal checks and balances has been placed on office operations it was felt unnecessary to increase the coverage. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve paying the annual premium of \$23,686 for the package insurance policy. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Frendewey, Schuldt, Hoffman and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier introduced a request from the Western U. P. Planning & Development region for a letter of support to save their technical support funding that was being threatened by the state. The letter described that the funds were used for local projects through the CDBG program and included technical support for the Village's streetscape project. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve sending the letters of support. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier introduced a resolution from the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce to support keeping the railroad trail corridors throughout the Keweenaw. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve the resolution. All were in favor. Motion was carried.  
**(Resolution #100-0907)**

Clerk Poirier indicated he had not yet heard back from attorney Mechlin regarding the DNR trail easement issue and it would have to be taken up at the next meeting.

Clerk Poirier introduced a notice from the Mi State Housing Development Authority regarding grants for downtown building facades. No further action was required.

## **Committee Reports:**

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

Trustee Fisher said the former treasurer's court appearance resulted in a plea of "no contest". She was currently housed in the county jail until her sentencing on the charges on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Fisher said that after consulting with the auditor regarding the multiple checking accounts for the various funds it was determined to combine these funds into one operating account thereby simplifying the process of deposits at the bank. He said this step was preferred by the auditor and that steps would be undertaken to do this in the near future.

Trustee Fisher said he met with a representative of the EPA regarding the recent clean-up in the park and that information had been passed on to the Village during every step of the process.

He also said that all bills had been finally paid for the StreetScape project and was hopeful that after everything was reconciled there would possibly be a small reimbursement of monies back to the DDA.

Trustee Fisher also informed the Council that negotiations would soon begin in earnest with the employees on a new collective bargaining agreement. The old one expired in June but because of the personnel situation there had not been enough time to pursue these negotiations until now.

**Utilities/Services (Chair: Trustee Frendewey):**

Clerk Poirier informed the Council that the annual principal payment on the General Obligation water bond was due in the amount of \$43,187.50 and that there were sufficient funds within the water fund to make the payment.

Clerk Poirier also said that the cost of the recent purchase of garbage bags from Calco Chemicals reflected a cost increase of 7% for yellow bags and 9% for blue bags. He said it was too early to tell what kind of effect that the sanitation millage would have on the fund but that budgets would probably change for the next year.

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

Trustee Hoffman expressed concern that camping at the campground had been given for free during the week that the beach and lake was closed to swimming. Trustee Fisher explained that since campers did not have access to the beach and lake area it was felt that the overnight camping fee should be waived for that period. He also said he should have consulted the executive committee in making that decision.

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

A brief discussion took place about plowing for the sidewalks this coming winter. Clerk Poirier said he knew that Jude Kalcich had been reviewing options and looking for equipment for that purpose but that he would have something more specific for the October meeting.

**Streets(Chair: Schuldt):**

Clerk Poirier presented information on the 9<sup>th</sup> Street paving project, including contracts from MDOT for permitting work on Village Streets, and from the Jobs Today program outlining costs for the project and the Village's share. The bottom line cost for repaving 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Calumet Street to Gregory Street was \$100. Clerk Poirier said he had discussed the contracts with engineer Dick Supina who informed him that they were largely boilerplate contracts to permit work on the Village street. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Schuldt to authorize the President Pro-tem and the Village Clerk to sign the contracts with MDOT for permission to work on the Village street and to initiate the Jobs today funding for the project preparation to continue. Poll vote: Yes; Frendewey, Schuldt, Hoffman, Hamlin and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

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

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

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

**Zoning Task Force:** Trustee Hamlin said the task force had met to go over information gathered by the DDA. Initial thoughts were that the first step would be

to come up with a general community development plan upon which to form a basis for the eventual zoning plan. Areas would have to be identified and categorized and even though the committee briefly discussed those areas, the entire process was in its infancy. Much needed to be done and it was now, at least, underway.

**Downtown Development Authority:**

Chairman Steve Pummill informed the Council that the trail sign design was determined and businesses would be contacted to advertise. He said the flower pots were great this year but needed to be drained for next year. He had also met with the EPA and said perhaps a public forum for informational purposes could be held in the near future. He also said the creation of the zoning task force held exciting promise and said DDA members were also enthusiastic about the process.

Trustee Fisher also said that he was working on the final number for the 2007 TIF payment to the DDA and that there was some discrepancy in parcels included in that number with the comparable number in the Tax program. He said the payment, which would be around \$19,000, would be made to the DDA next week, following clarification of the discrepancy.

**Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority**

No report.

**Lake Linden Housing Commission**

Trustee Frendewey said there were two openings on the commission and that the Council members should put out feelers to people they think would be good candidates for the commission. He also said that in the next week or so interviews would be held for the vacant director position and perhaps at the next meeting a candidate would be presented for approval.

**Late Agenda Items:**

**New Business:**

None.

**Old Business:**

None.

**Announcements:**

**Adjournment to Executive session:**

Trustee Frendewey supported by Trustee Hoffman made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 7:25 pm. All were in favor.

Pro-tem Fisher adjourned the executive session and resumed the regular meeting at 7:38.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:39. 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