

**Lake Linden Village Council  
Regular Meeting  
October 11th, 2007**

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

A brief discussion of the agenda resulted in two additions and a motion from Trustee Friendewey and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the agenda. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Public Comments:**

Don Hannula, a village resident, addressed the Council regarding the increasing frequency of vandalism in town and upon his house. He said he will be looking for the kids responsible for harassing he and his wife and that he had spoken to Chief Peters regarding the situation. The Council said that attention would be paid to the issue and Chief Peters would be on alert for continuing incidents.

**Bills and Financial Statement:**

The bills and financials were introduced. Clerk Poirier said that the new cover letter would explain non-recurring entries on the bill statement to clarify these expenses. He offered clarification on several entries and a motion was made by Trustee Friendewey and supported by Trustee Fisher to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote: Yes; Friendewey, Fisher, Hoffman and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

**Correspondence:**

Clerk Poirier read a letter from Nora Britz resigning from the Housing Commission Board. A motion was made by trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hoffman to accept the resignation. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier then offered an application for the Board from a new Village resident. Trustee Friendewey said that the Commission would be having a forum with tenants and Commission members to review potential applicants in the near future and would be back with recommendations to the Council for appointments. Action on the matter was tabled until the November meeting.

Clerk Poirier introduced an updated estimate on progress with the ADA Compliance issues in the Village Hall. He said work was continuing on the items to be addressed and that when the purchase items were to be added specific costs would be brought before the Council for approval.

## **Committee Reports:**

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

Clerk Poirier explained a spreadsheet that summarized premium costs for the current Blue Cross/Blue Shield rates and the proposed Health Savings plan costs available through BC/BS. He pointed out that the plan change would save the Village \$5,700 over the course of one year. The plan would require the Village to fund a health savings account of \$2,500 for each employee and would require a little increased administration but seemed like a win-win situation for the Village and for employees, who would benefit from a zero out-of-pocket plan. In addition, the reimbursement of prescription co-pays represented a cost averaging \$1,200 per employee per year for the Village and would result in an even larger savings under the new plan. The plan would be introduced as part of the Union contract negotiations and also scrutinized one more time for peace of mind by the clerk.

Trustee Fisher said that after consulting with the auditor the audit is in its final stages and should be available to the Village next week. Of course, the importance of finding out the final numbers was a major factor in the progress of the fiscal year budget and union contract negotiations, including the possibility of salary increases for employees, which had not happened in two years. Once the audit arrived the executive committee would look it over and have information and recommendations for the Council.

Trustee Fisher said that he had met with the union on Wednesday and discussed in general terms that status of the Village budget, specifically in regard to re-hiring a fourth DPW worker. He explained that although things in the budget looked much better than in the previous year, there was just not a possibility of adding that fourth full-time position back. He said talks would continue as soon as the audit information could be reviewed and he would report to the Council on the progress.

Trustee Fisher also reviewed a cash flow analysis of the fiscal year to date and the projected expenses for the remainder of the year. He said again that the numbers were unexpectedly positive but that a much more certain idea of where the Village was

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 following the principal payment on the water bond there was a balance in the dedicated account for the bond payment of almost \$7,000, an indication that the monies being set aside for the payments seemed to be adequate.

Trustee Frendewey said that the team of students creating the new water billing program would like to run the first redundant cycle on the November 1<sup>st</sup> billing. This would start the testing phase to ensure that the program ran smoothly before switching over.

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

The subject of running the ice rink for 07-08 came up and it was determined that donors and costs would be reviewed for an upcoming meeting.

Clerk Poirier introduced an updated estimate for completion of the ADA building improvements. He said work was continuing and when appropriations were necessary for equipment costs he would again bring them before the Council.

Clerk Poirier said an office air purifier was needed for the upcoming winter. He said he had not yet priced them but that he thought \$250 would be enough. After a brief discussion the Council told the clerk to purchase one that would meet the office needs.

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

Clerk Poirier said he had spoken to Jude and to members of the equipment committee regarding the equipment necessary for plowing the sidewalks. He said that Jude thought the purchase of a small pick-up would help because it could be used year-round as a replacement for the aging water truck as well. Trustee Hoffman said the committee had determined that approximately \$10,000 should be allocated to find a truck that would fit the bill. A motion was then made by Trustee Hoffman and supported by Trustee Fisher to approve up to \$10,000 for a truck to plow sidewalks. Poll vote: Yes; Hoffman, Fisher, Schuldt, Frendewey and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

**Streets(Chair: Schuldt):**

No report.

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

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

Trustee Hoffman asked the Council for an allocation to help Chief Peters through the winter months with a part-time officer. He said that \$1,000 would be enough to help out slightly and offer a bit more coverage. He said police presence is important for residents, as the resident during public comment has explained. After a short discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Hoffman and supported by Trustee Frendewey to add an additional \$1,000 in payroll to add a part-time police officer over the winter months. Poll vote: Yes; Hoffman, Frendewey, Schuldt, Fisher and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

**Zoning Task Force:** No report.

**Downtown Development Authority:**

Chairman Steve Pummill informed the Council that the trail sign was being created and asked the Council for the DPWs assistance to erect the sign. The Council agreed to allow that.

**Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority**

President Aittama said the project being put out for bids may be delayed a few months so that a better loan rate being contemplated by the legislature could take effect.

**Lake Linden Housing Commission**

Trustee Friendewey said there was a candidate that had been chosen and, pending a background check would be named director. He said the Commission would then turn its attention toward filling vacant commission seats and were moving towards a full complement. Trustee Hoffman publicly thanked Trustee Friendewey for taking the reins at the Commission and helping to get things turned around there during a trying couple of months.

**Late Agenda Items:** Trustee Fisher said that he had read the master's thesis of Stephanie Atwood regarding the historic designation of the downtown district. He said it was very interesting and was getting copies done so other Trustees could read it. He said if ever the designation were to be pursued it would be a great source of information.

**New Business:**

None.

**Old Business:**

None.

**Announcements:****Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Friendewey and supported by Trustee Hoffman. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:17. There were 8 members of the public in attendance.

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James M. Aittama, President

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk