

**Lake Linden Village Council  
Regular Meeting  
November 8th, 2007**

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

A brief discussion of the agenda resulted in one addition and a motion from Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve the agenda. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Public Comments:**

Three representatives from the Michigan Tech Mini Baja event presented a proposal to the Council for the 2008 event to be held on February 16<sup>th</sup>. After a brief presentation President Aittama said that the Council was fully supportive of the event and a motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin to offer the services of the public works crew as in the past for track construction. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Bills and Financial Statement:**

The bills and financials were introduced. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote: Yes; Schuldt, Frendewey, Fisher, Hoffman, Hamlin and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

**Correspondence:**

Clerk Poirier introduced the paperwork regarding the snowmobile trail issue. He said that the quit claim deed had come from the attorney and that things were in order for the Council to review and approve, as discussed at prior meetings.

He explained for those in attendance that the easement was for a portion of the trail that went from the "second track" to the "first track", a part of the trail that had never been formalized via sale or easement but had become the right-of-way as a matter of convenience for users of the trail.

After a brief summary and discussion of the process for finalizing the paperwork, a motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve the transfer of ownership of the two structures known as the "trestle" and the "trolley tunnel" and as described in the quit claim deed to the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources and to authorize the Village President and Clerk to sign and notarize the quit claim deed and to sign the land transaction agreement approving the easement and formalizing the portion of the trail as

described in the agreement. Poll vote: Yes; Schuldt, Frendewey, Fisher, Hoffman and Aittama No; Hamlin. Motion was carried.

Trustee Frendewey introduced the new Housing Director Michelle Myers to the Council she had been previously approved by the Council. The Council welcomed her and offered their support throughout the learning process in her new position.

Trustee Fisher presented to the Council a membership dues request for the Village to join the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance. He said that he had been staying in contact with the group and they offered a very useful service for the Village. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin to join the KEDA for the annual membership fee of \$180.00. Poll vote: Yes; Frendewey, Hamlin, Schuldt, Hoffman, Fisher and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Trustee Fisher introduced the final draft of the audit report to the Council. He said that there were a number of recommendations made by the auditor that would have to be addressed. He said the changes were not unexpected considering the events that had taken place in the last several months. He said that the executive committee would be meeting to discuss options for addressing these items and that the Council members would have an opportunity for input as this process continued.

Trustee Fisher also explained the review of the hospitalization policy had been completed. He said that the proposed new policy, which included a higher deductible plan and the implementation of health savings accounts would save the Village approximately \$11,000 in 2008 premiums and the employees would have no out-of-pocket expenses with no prescription co-pays. President Aittama pointed out that the employees had not yet approved the plan change and Trustee Fisher said it was one facet of the union contract negotiations that would be presented to the workers.

With regard to the union negotiations, Trustee Fisher pointed out that he had had discussions with the employees and had initial talks about the hospitalization and about wage increases. He said these items would be discussed and brought before the Council as talks continued.

Clerk Poirier introduced the cash flow projection chart that included October's expenses. He said that in the future the chart would be a regular part of the monthly bills presented to the Council.

Trustee Fisher brought up the issue of reinstating the Council stipends. He said after some deliberation he thought it was time to take this step. They had been suspended via motion for one year following the budget deliberations from October of 2006. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by President Aittama to reinstate the stipends subject to limitations imposed by the ordinance. Five members in favor. Trustee Frendewey opposed.

Trustee Fisher explained to the Council that the Americana Foundation, who had awarded a grant for the past three years to the Village for repairs and renovations to the outside of the Village hall, had agreed to combine the 2007

grant amount of \$35,000 with an application for January of 2008 to combine costs of those two phases of the project. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Friendewey to proceed with the 2008 grant application to the Americana Foundation. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier informed the Council that invoicing would be done from Quickbooks from now on. He said until now the manual invoices were still used. He also said that although the Council had approved purchasing copies of Quickbooks 2007 he had waited because the 2008 version was coming out. He said that upgrade would take place shortly.

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

Clerk Poirier informed the Council that the last order of large blue garbage bags came in rolls of 10 bags rather than the typical 5 bags per roll. The price would obviously have to reflect the new roll size.

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

Trustee Friendewey said that as winter approached, the ice rink operation would be reviewed and the entities that had offered financial support last year would be approached for their continued support this year.

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

Clerk Poirier said that Jude was still looking for a truck to plow the sidewalks. President Aittama said that Jude had fabricated a backhoe attachment to plow behind the new light poles where it was too narrow for the truck to go.

**Streets(Chair: Schuldt):**

Trustee Hamlin said a resident approached him regarding curb on Schoolcraft Street. President Aittama said that the 9<sup>th</sup> Street paving project was still on course and work was scheduled to begin in August of 2008.

Clerk Poirier said that the MDOT re-surfacing project was still scheduled for the summer of 2008.

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

Trustee Hoffman read the police report for October. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Schuldt to accept the report. All were in favor. Motion was carried. A request for printed forms attached to the police report was directed to be paid through the police budget.

There was no fire report.

**Zoning Task Force:** Trustee Hamlin said that he was in the process of putting the ordinances into electronic format. He said it was important to re-codify the ordinance manual prior to beginning the process of amending and adding ordinances for zoning issues.

**Downtown Development Authority:**

Chairman Steve Pummill informed the Council that the trail sign was on site and would be updated with this year's sponsor businesses shortly. He also said the final walk-through of the streetscape project was completed.

### **Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority**

President Aittama said the project being put out for bids was delayed a few months so that a better loan rate expected in the new budget could be utilized.

### **Lake Linden Housing Commission**

Trustee Frendewey said that in addition to the new director two new applicants for the vacant Board positions had been reviewed. He presented applications to the President for approval. President Aittama then officially recommended Jason Reese and Emily Bourdeau to fill the vacancies. A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the President's recommendations. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Late Agenda Items:** Clerk Poirier said that the revenue sharing amounts received from the state were to remain flat for fiscal 07-08, which was as good as could be expected.

President Aittama informed the Council that an actuarial study might be necessary as an option in union negotiations when discussing the retirement benefits and possible early-out options. After a brief summary a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hamlin to allow the executive committee to pursue a cost-share with the union for an actuarial study and if so determined to order said study for the purpose of gathering information on early retirement windows. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Hamlin, Schuldt, Hoffman, Frendewey and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

### **New Business:**

None.

### **Old Business:**

None.

### **Announcements:**

### **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 7:18. There were 9 members of the public in attendance.

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James M. Aittama, President

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk