

**Lake Linden Village Council  
Regular Meeting  
January 10, 2008**

President Aittama called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. As the first order of business, in the absence of the Clerk, a Recording Secretary must be appointed for the meeting. On a motion by Schuldt, seconded by Friendewey, Fisher was appointed as Recording Secretary.

The following Trustees responded to roll call: Schuldt, Hamlin, Friendewey, Frohmader, Hoffman, Fisher, and Aittama.

On a motion by Hamlin, seconded by Schuldt, the December Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

On a motion by Friendewey, seconded by Schuldt, the Agenda was unanimously approved as written.

There was no Public Comments.

The bills and finances were introduced and briefly discussed. A question by Aittama was posed on receiving the \$25,000 bond payment for the former Treasurer. The answer is "yes". On a motion by Fisher, seconded by Friendewey, the bills and finances were unanimously approved by voice vote.

There was only one item of Correspondence, a solicitation to have the Village place an ad in the Lake Superior Magazine. Discussion pointed out that the Village has usually placed an ad in this Magazine, and that the visibility is good. On a motion by Schuldt, seconded by Hoffman, it was approved to positively respond to the solicitation. The vote for approval was all "ayes", with one "nay", Friendewey.

Committee reports:

Executive-Fisher: Fisher reported on several issues that require Council input and/or a vote of action. The first issue addressed development of a Strategic Plan for the Village. In 1992, with the help of a consultant, a strong Strategic Plan was developed. Although the details of the Plan are out-of-date, the process followed and the Plan structure appear very good. It is proposed to model the process now after the report done in 1992. The first step in developing the Plan was a Village-wide Survey of residences. The responses will help shape the form and priority of the new Plan. To help in the preparation of the Survey and the final report, Fisher asked to hire Stef Atwood to help write the necessary documents. Fisher asked for \$500 to be matched by \$500 from the DDA. On a motion by Hamlin, seconded by Friendewey, unanimous support was given to hire Atwood and to proceed with developing the Strategic Plan.

The second issue was informational and regards skipping a formal Audit for fiscal 2009, and having a "compilation" instead. This is permitted by the State, and has been

recommended by our new Auditor, Jackie Aalto. On a motion by Hamlin, seconded by Schuldt, it was unanimously approved to have a “compilation” performed at the end of fiscal 2009.

The third issue concerned approval to proceed with an Actuarial study to open a window to retire employees that qualify. Discussion focused on whether employees are serious about this as the Council has already acted on this before without employee participation. After additional discussion, on a motion by Friendewey, seconded by Schuldt, it was unanimously approved to proceed with the Actuarial study, subject to the following conditions; the study would be 50% funded by the Union, and 50% funded by Chris Lajimodiere. If Lajimodiere accepts the Actuarial results and takes retirement, the Village will reimburse him for his part of the cost for the Actuarial.

The fourth issue concerns the line of credit taken with Range Bank in February 2007. This \$50,000 line of credit strengthened the General Fund of the Village during weak periods in 2007, while the Village built up its financial capacity. So far in 2007, \$25,000 of that line of credit has been repaid. Although the Village budget looks strong, the Executive Committee believes that continuing the line of credit into fiscal 2008 at the level of \$25,000 is a good idea. On a motion by Friendewey, seconded by Frohmader, it was unanimously approved by voice vote to continue the line of credit at the \$25,000 level.

Jackie Aalto has recommended the establishment of a “Municipal Street Fund” into which tax monies and street revenues can be placed prior to final deposit into either Major Street Funds or Local Street Funds. The Municipal Street Fund would provide additional flexibility in handling and aligning village street monies. On a motion by Fisher, seconded by Friendewey, the establishment of a new Municipal Street Fund was unanimously approved. The Fund is effective as of today, January 10, 2008.

Utilities/Services-Hamlin: There has been a rate increase for municipal garbage at the Houghton County transfer station. The Village rates are being investigated for a possible rate increase as a result.

Buildings & Parks-Friendewey: The ice rink is ready to be opened with supervisory personnel identified. The optimum hours to be open need to be established. The committee also needs to think about DNR and DEQ grant applications which the Village generally receives in February, with deadlines in April and May. These grants generally require matching funds.

Equipment-Frohmader: No report.

Streets-Schuldt: Complaints have been noted concerning the condition of the Christmas/holiday ornaments on the light poles. Perhaps the DDA can work with the Village to develop a plan for replacement. This will be brought to the attention of the DDA board at their next meeting.

Public Safety-Hoffman: The Police report was read covering the calendar year 2007. 5393 miles were covered at about 10 miles/gal. 90 warnings issued, 48 tickets,

and 281 complaint checked. On a motion by Frohmader, seconded by Frendewey, the report was accepted. A “mutual aid” agreement with Bootjack Fire Dept was signed continuing a strong working relationship between departments. Expense reports for calendar years 2006 and 2007 were distributed. 2007 shows expenditure of general funds of -\$12,050.87. These expenditures are in three primary areas; stipends for personnel, utilities for the FireHall, and debt service on the new fire truck. No revenues are noted. Hoffman indicated that a repair of an air pack was needed for the department. On a motion by Hamlin, seconded by Schuldt, a roll call vote was unanimous in support. Also the Fire Dept would like to apply through a THEMA grant to purchase a new air pack, or to pursue other opportunities for funding. On a motion by Hamlin, seconded by Schuldt, approval was given to proceed.

Zoning Task Force-Schuldt: A meeting has been held at which Village Ordinances were distributed. DDA and Village representatives were present.

Downtown Development Authority-Fisher/Pummill: The new trail sign is in place thanks to the Village crew. Still waiting for final conclusions in the funding for the StreetScape project completed in summer 2007. A discussion was held on the DDA TIF financing Ordinance adopted in 1989 when the DDA was established. That Ordinance clearly states that both “real and Personal property taxes” shall be collected in calculating the DDA funding. To date, only “real” property is included in the calculation of TIF. Rather than change the way we are calculating the TIF, Fisher made a proposal to modify the Ordinance to only include “real” property. Fisher was asked to check into the costs to modify the Ordinance, and to discuss the change with the DDA.

TL Sewage Authority-Hoffman: All is proceeding toward a signing of the bonding papers on January 18, 2008. The bond will cover the costs of the system upgrade to reduce surface inflows and maximize sewer water treatment using existing reservoirs.

Lake Linden Housing Commission-Reese: Reese (Housing Commission President) discussed the status of the Commission. There is one vacancy which Aittama proposed be filled by Howard Trevaro. This recommendation was made into a motion by Frendewey, seconded by Schuldt. All were in favor of the motion. Lastly it was proposed to send a resolution of thanks to Mary Sager for her work on the Commission. On a motion by Frendewey, seconded by Hoffman, the Council unanimously supported sending a resolution.

New Business: Brian Foreman, representing Renaissance Fair Medieval Group send a letter of thanks to the Council for their use of the Village park during 2007. In addition, he requested use of the Village park again on August 23, 2008 to hold the second annual Medieval Fair in Lake Linden. On a motion by Fisher, seconded by Hamlin, unanimous support was expressed for approving the use of the park during 2008.

Adjournment: There being no further business, on a motion by Frendewey, seconded by Schuldt, the meeting was adjourned.