

Lake Linden Village Council
Budget Hearing
February 21st, 2008

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

President Aittama introduced the various fund budgets to the public present. He said that the trustees had received copies earlier and had had a chance to look them over. He then opened the floor to comments from the Council.

Trustee Fisher stated that the executive committee and the clerk had discussed the proposed budgets. He also said that, specifically in the general fund, things looked very much better than last year and certainly seemed to be ahead of what was expected at the end of 2006 when the budget crisis came to a head. He said that there were sufficient funds to allow current staffing to continue and also some monies available to pursue some other projects and address some issues that seemed to be foremost in resident's minds in the recent community surveys.

Clerk Poirier gave the Council a brief rundown on some of the budget line items. He addressed the creation of the municipal streets fund specifically. He said it had been practice to put the tax levy for streets directly into the local street fund, but that the new auditor said a separate street fund could be created to allow for more flexibility in getting that money into either street fund depending on need. He also pointed out several entries in the general fund department budget and said a more detailed budget from the fire department was forthcoming.

President Aittama stated that the Council may need to plan for an eventual expense of the Sewage Authority's loss from the former treasurer's case as part of the coming year's budget. There was disagreement from several trustees regarding how that should be accomplished and it was determined that if something were to result from that decision the budget would have to be amended to accommodate for that expense. A motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Schuldt to close the public hearing. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
February 21st, 2008**

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Frohmader to approve the January regular meeting minutes as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Public Comments:

None.

Bills and Financial Statement:

The bills and financials were introduced. Clerk Poirier pointed out that the street lighting bill was about 20% higher than a year ago. He also said that the payment of all fringes and equipment rentals in the major street fund was being suspended as state monies for the fund were being withheld pending the finalization of the streetscape payments. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Fisher to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Fisher, Schuldt, Frohmader and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Correspondence:

Trustee Fisher informed the Council that the surveys were still coming in but that the response was over 50%. He said never did they expect to receive that many. He said that there were also 42 youth surveys completed by students aged 12-17. He said it was a lot of information to compile and organize and that this was currently being done.

Clerk Poirier said it seemed as though some residents were not aware of certain services that were not supplied by the Village and there were some misconceptions in the survey results that could be included in the upcoming March newsletter regarding these issues.

Clerk Poirier introduces a list of rates and fees charged by the Village for various services and goods. He said that he had recently found out that amending ordinances to include a phrase like "rates to be determined by the Village Council" were easier than previously thought because the entire ordinance did not have to be published. Trustee Hamlin said that this would greatly speed up the process of making the changes and codifying the ordinance book because the prohibitive cost of publication is what had been holding up the proposed changes.

Clerk Poirier informed the Council that he had been trying to circumvent the process of going directly to cell phone companies in trying to improve service

within the Village. He said he had been in contact with a tower company and was in the process of getting information on how to get a tower built so the cell companies would come to the Village. The company, Skyway Towers, was conducting a study with the information given them by the clerk and would hopefully be ready by the march regular meeting.

Clerk Poirier introduced a resolution providing for the pre-payment of regular monthly bills by the Council.

RESOLUTION FOR PREPAID BILLS

WHEREAS, on a monthly basis, the Lake Linden Village Council approves bills to be paid at its regular meeting, and

WHEREAS, some bills must be paid before or after the regular monthly meeting and do not have the approval of the Lake Linden Village Council at the time of payment, and

WHEREAS, each month at the regular council meeting, a summary of all Prepaid Bills is distributed to the Lake Linden Village Council for approval and proper documentation is provided for all of these prepaid bills and is available to any councilperson upon their request, and

WHEREAS, this authorization is necessary for the Lake Linden Village Clerk and Lake Linden Village Treasurer to pay all of these recurring bills on a monthly basis,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lake Linden Village Council authorizes the Lake Linden Village Clerk and the Lake Linden Village Treasurer to pay all recurring monthly bills on a timely basis.

A motion was made to adopt the resolution by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Fisher.

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 2

Motion was carried. Resolution was adopted.

Committee Reports:

Executive (Chair:Trustee Fisher):

President Aitama re-introduced the budgets discussed in the hearing. After once more asking for comments regarding them, a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Fisher to approve the budgets for the general fund, sanitation fund, major street fund, local street fund, water fund, municipal street fund and the departmental budgets in the general fund. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Fisher, Frohmader, Shuldt and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier informed the Council that, as per the directive of the Council at the preceding meeting, the actuary study requested by Chris Lajimodiere with the matching amount granted by the union, Michigan Council #25 local (\$250) had been submitted. MERS stated that the time frame was 21 business days which meant near the end of March. At that time the Council would have to make a determination on allowing the window for retirement.

Utilities/Services (Chair: Trustee Hamlin):

Trustee Hamlin said the committee would be meeting shortly to discuss possible fee or bag increases to balance the sanitation fund.

Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Frendewey):

Clerk Poirier introduced the draft of a letter to Davey Poisson. He hoped that Mr. Poisson would be the campground host for 2008. The letter gave a March 15th deadline for a decision from Mr. Poisson, after which the Council would advertise the position if he said no. The clerk said the letter offered \$1.00 per night per camper as compensation for the host. This represented 5% of campers fees, or about \$500-600 for the summer. The Council agreed to the terms of the letter and approved sending it to Mr. Poisson.

Equipment(Chair: Trustee Frohmader):

No report.

Streets(Chair: Schuldt):

Clerk Poirier presented a rough map given to him by Randall Roberts, superintendent of the Lake Linden schools. He said that part of a capital improvement project being considered by the school board called for a bus lane to be created from the bus garage on 4th Street to the south side of the elementary school via an alley owned by the Village. He said the school was asking the Council to consider abandoning the alley so that it could be paved. After a brief discussion it was determined that Dick Supina, the Village engineer, provide a more detailed and accurate map of the alley along with his recommendations on options. Trustee Hamlin said it was his impression that the Council would look favorably on this request assuming the details could be worked out. Trustee Fisher said the residents on the east side of Front Street should also be considered as the alley ran directly behind the properties on that side of the street. The information from the engineer would be reviewed at the next meeting.

President Aittama said the 9th Street project balance as required by the Village should be paid by the Jobs Today Program and would result in the Village's contribution being only hundreds of dollars.

Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):

Clerk Poirier read the police report for January. A motion was made by Trustee Frohmader and supported by Trustee Schuldt to accept the report. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier said he had been working with the fire department's treasurer on a comprehensive budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year. He said the department was making a good effort at formulating a detailed budget and that he would have the details worked out for the March meeting.

Zoning Task Force: Trustee Hamlin said the news regarding publication of ordinance amendment was welcomed and that he and the clerk would be developing language for introducing the phrase "as determined by Council resolution" or like wording into ordinances where specific rates were currently written. He hoped to have some of them to present to the Council in march.

Downtown Development Authority:

Chairman Steve Pummill informed the Council that the DDAs 2008-09 budget would be presented at the march meeting as well.

He said that after some discussions he was pleased to introduce Ernie Kuusisto, owner of the Harris Building, as the new perspective member of the DDA. President Aittama formally recommended this appointment to the Council and a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Fisher to approve Mr. Kuusisto for appointment to the Lake Linden Downtown Development Authority. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

President Aittama said that following the hearing on February 26th regarding the restitution by former treasurer Cheryl Stevens, the Sewage Authority would likely state their intention for repayment to the Council.

He also said that the contract for the upcoming sewage system repairs was awarded in the amount of \$2.8 million with work scheduled to begin this coming summer.

Lake Linden Housing Commission

Michelle Myers, director of LLV Housing said that Howard Trevarrow was the newest Board Commissioner and that he could begin immediately after being sworn in by the Village Clerk.

Late Agenda Items:

Trustee Hamlin said the MTU Baja was a great success. The event by the MTU team drew good crowds and though the weather started cold a great time was had by all.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

None.

Announcements:

Trustee Frohmader announced that on April 18th and 19th at the Legion Post 90 hall, the Calumet Players would be reenacting a USO show.

DDA Chair Steve Pummill said that attendance at the ice rink had been good and more volunteers were always welcome.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Frohmader. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:19. There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

James M. Aittama, President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk