

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
June 19th, 2008**

The Lake Linden Village Council met on the above date at the Village Hall at 6:30pm. President Aittama presided. The following Trustees responded to roll call: Fisher, Hoffman, Frohmader, Frendewey, Hamlin, and Schuldt.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve the May 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 Frendewey 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 general fund balances and that they would be discussed under Executive. After a brief discussion a motion was made by trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Frohmader to approve the bills as presented. Poll vote: Yes; Schuldt, Frohmader, Frendewey, Hamlin, Fisher, Hoffman and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Correspondence:

Clerk Poirier read a letter from the Western U.P. health Dept. regarding the Houghton County Boards new non-smoking policy for public buildings. President Aittama announced that the Council had addressed the issue several years ago and that a policy was already in place.

A letter was read from UPPCo explaining that the Village's mercury vapor street lights were being phased out over the next five years. This would be done under UPPCo's ongoing maintenance plan and no action was required by the Council.

Clerk Poirier said there was interest in holding another teen center dance this summer. The Council said that the upstairs could be used for this purpose.

Clerk Poirier said that residents along the north side of Aspen Drive had asked about purchasing the unplatted land owned by the Village to the north. After a brief discussion it was decided that Dick Supina would be questioned about details of the land and possible restrictions for those parcels.

Clerk Poirier introduced a letter sent by Pro-tem Fisher and DDA Chairman Steve Pummill to the owners of the CENEX gas station to urge immediate action on the demolition of the burned out site. No further action was required at this time.

Clerk Poirier said he had received many calls and concerns regarding the Calumet Street construction project and its effect on the 4th of July parade. Trustee Fisher said he supported a plan to reroute the parade to Front Street at 6th Street. The crosswalks, he said, presented a hazard to people marching in the parade.

Several of the other trustees supported the idea of keeping the parade on Calumet Street, citing the difficulty of detouring an entire parade, spectators and parade floats around several corners. After a brief discussion a motion was made by trustee Hoffman and supported by Trustee Friendewey to keep the parade route on Calumet Street as always. Yes: Hoffman, Friendewey, Hamlin, Schuldt and Aittama. No; Fisher and Frohmader. Motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Executive (Chair:Trustee Fisher):

Trustee Fisher informed the Council of current budget numbers in the general fund. He said that policies to cut expenses over the past year and a half had been successful and that the numbers looked very promising. However, he said that the Council had to address several liabilities that were still outstanding. First, he updated them on the status of the Americana grant. He said the low bid for the project was \$68,000 with a \$6,000 costs for the engineers which was a total of \$74,000. The grant from Americana was for \$59,000, the Council had previously obligated \$5,000 of matching funds for the project, which left a shortfall of about \$10,000. He said that after meeting with the contractor and the engineers they were able to cut about \$5,000 in work that the Village crew was capable of doing. So this left a gap of about \$5,000 in funding the project. After a brief discussion it was determined that the Council could not turn down \$59,000 of grant funds for \$5,000 extra cost share, and a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Friendewey to pledge the \$5,000 to cover the expected costs of Phase III of the Village Hall restoration project. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Friendewey, Hoffman, Frohmader, Schuldt, Fisher and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Trustee Fisher then said that the issue of PTO payouts as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement needed to be addressed. He said that Chris Lajimodiere was due about \$10,000 in accrued PTO payouts as of his retirement. He also said that requests had been received from Clerk Poirier and Ron Schmitt for \$3,000 each, which represented about half of the payouts they were due under the terms of the CBA. He said that since the general fund was in much better financial shape that those should be paid out in an effort to "catch up" on the lack of payouts that had allowed the totals to get out of hand to begin with. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Frohmader to pay out half of Chris' totals, \$3,000 to Ron Schmitt and \$3,000 to Clerk Poirier and to revisit the possibility of completing the payouts after a review of finances at the end of the current fiscal year. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Frohmader, Hoffman, Schuldt, Friendewey, Fisher and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

Trustee Fisher then pointed out that the line of credit opened almost two years ago still had \$25,000 owed. He said that the committee's recommendation was to repay half of this balance, \$12,500 as soon as practical. A motion was

then made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin to repay those funds to Range Bank as soon as was possible. Poll vote: Yes; Frendewey, Hamlin, Hoffman, Frohmader, Schuldt, Fisher and Aittama. No; none. Motion was carried.

Utilities/Services (Chair: Trustee Hamlin):

No report.

Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Frendewey):

No report.

Equipment(Chair: Trustee Frohmader):

No report.

Streets(Chair: Schuldt):

Clerk Poirier informed the Council that the paving on Calumet Street was not scheduled to be completed by the 4th of July, as previously discussed under correspondence.

The clerk also said that the finance committee had met and decided that about \$20,000 could be used from the street funds to pave some streets within the Village. It was determined that about 1000 road feet could be paved since the paving machine was in town to do 9th Street in mid-July. The recommendation from Jude were the following:

- 12th Street from Corago St. to Garden Street (240')
- Adelaide Street from Beauchaine to 14th Street (250')
- Pine Street from Osceola St. to the Village boundary (500')
- Parking area in front of Schoolcraft Township office

After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve funds necessary to pave the streets on the recommendation. Poll vote: Yes; Frendewey, Schuldt, Hoffman, Hamlin, Frohmader, Fisher and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

The clerk also explained that the St Joseph church was requesting additional handicap spaces in front of their building. It was agreed to revisit the issue after the paving along Calumet Street had been completed.

Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):

Trustee Hoffman read the police report for April into the record. A motion was made by Trustee Frendewey and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve the report as read. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Fire Chief Ron Parker gave the fire report. The department was at 15 calls for the year. Training sessions were being held on a regular schedule and preparations for the 4th were on schedule. Word on the requested flyover had not been received and it was assumed it was not approved. Fireworks had arrived and all was on schedule for the holiday weekend.

Chief Parker also noted he had spoken with Jude Kalcich about getting a DNR surplus truck for the Village at no cost. The Council agreed that he could begin the application process to bring that about. A motion was made by Trustee

Schuldt and approved by Trustee Hamlin to allow the department to get the process started. All were in favor. Motion was approved.

Zoning Task Force:

Trustee Hamlin said he and Trustee Schuldt had met to confirm a schedule of addressing different ordinances throughout the summer. The goal was to consolidate all amendments done over the past several decades and to form a more understandable format for the ordinance manual.

Downtown Development Authority:

Trustee Fisher said that the DDA had been considering some new grant programs for the district. Also, they were currently one member short on the DDA board and were seeking qualified applicants.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

Trustee Hoffman said the project was under way and would be ongoing throughout the summer months.

Lake Linden Housing Commission

Commission Director Michelle Myers gave a brief update on projects ongoing and on occupancy ratings for the Commission.

Late Agenda Items:

Jude Kalcich asked if Don Haller could be given a few extra days in the summer to keep up with maintenance issues in the park. The Council agreed to do what was necessary to perform the duties.

Trustee Fisher said that the historical designation process was almost complete and that it would come before the Council at its final stage.

Trustee Fisher said he would soon have a draft of the strategic plan for the Council's consideration.

Clerk Poirier said that deadlines for filing for the November elections were in August and he would have available paperwork at the July meeting.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Hoffman and supported by Trustee Schuldt. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:23. There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

James M. Aittama, President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk