

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
September 4th, 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, Schuldt, and Hoffman.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Hoffman to approve the August 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 Fisher and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the agenda. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Public Comments:

One comment from Steve Pummill was moved to a discussion under Correspondence.

Bills and Financial Statement:

The bills and financials were introduced. Clerk Poirier pointed out that the short time between monthly meetings meant for a limited report. He said that there would be just enough money for the water bond payment but that a rate increase needed to be sought.

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

Correspondence:

Clerk Poirier introduced a letter from the DNR regarding applications for DNR Trust Fund grants. It scheduled 'listening sessions for municipalities interested in applying for these grants and the closest one was in Marquette. The Council decided to send the clerk and one trustee to the session to gather information.

The clerk then read a letter from the CDBG Michigan Strategic Fund outlining the process for finalizing the CDBG grant for the streetscape project. He said that process would be completed very shortly.

Clerk Poirier introduced the quote from the Hannula Agency regarding the annual package insurance premium. He said by keeping the same coverage as the preceding year the annual premium would go down by \$115 to \$23,571.00. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Fisher and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the quote and retain the Hannula Agency as the insurance provider for the upcoming year. Poll vote: Yes; Fisher, Schuldt, Hoffman and Aittama. No; None. Motion was carried.

An easement draft was provided to the Council by UPEA engineer Jim Koskiniemi which would grant Semco Gas Company an easement to run a gas

line from the corner of 8th and Front Street through an existing utility easement east toward the lake. He said it was for putting in a gas-powered generator as part of the Torch Lake Sewage Authority project. The original draft had been reviewed by Village engineer Dick Supina, who had suggested some wording changes which had now been added. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hoffman and supported by Trustee Fisher to approve the easement request and authorize the Village President to sign the document as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier informed the Council he had received a phone call today from a design firm that told him plans were in the design phase for the reconstruction of the gas station. Trustee Fisher explained this was both distressing, since he had been under the impression things were a bit further along than that, and positive, since things appeared now to be moving forward. He said he hoped that the current state of the site would be addressed soon and was planning to send an email to the owners regarding that situation as soon as possible.

Steve Pummill was on hand to present a petition from Aspen Drive residents requesting that the Council consider selling Village land north of the lots on the north side of Aspen Drive to the residents of that street. President Aittama stated that restrictions as far as building on those parcels would have to be included in the sale. It was determined to have engineer Dick Supina get the boundaries for such properties prepared and to post the lots for sale.

Committee Reports:

Executive (Chair: Trustee Fisher):

Trustee Fisher gave the Council an update on the Americana grant progress. He said that work had now begun and that the entire project was to be completed in a few weeks. There were still discussions taking place to address other problems being uncovered during the other work. Roofing issues may have to be addressed depending on their severity. He would keep the Council informed of changes in the plans for the project.

Clerk Poirier introduced a 6-month budget review for each of the funds. He said that although the Village was further along than he expected after the budget issues of the preceding year, the finances still needed to be watched very closely. He said the changes in revenues for the sanitation fund had put the fund on solid financial footing for this year. The street funds both seemed sufficiently funded and with funds from the tax levy being diverted into the Municipal Street fund there was enough on hand for immediate expenses.

The water fund was the most in need of being addressed. The clerk explained he thought a rate increase was certainly needed. The Council discussed a cost-of-living increase each year. Clerk Poirier said that was okay for the future but that a more drastic increase would be needed for this year. He said the Utilities committee would be meeting within the next week to discuss possible scenarios for increasing revenue.

Utilities/Services (Chair: Trustee Hamlin):

Water rate increases were discussed under the budget review above.

Trustee Fisher informed the Council that he had had a meeting with a Vice president of IBM in conjunction with the IT Oxygen Group at MTU. He said that IBM was interested in a pilot program wherein advanced methods of meter reading, new meter technology and other possible advancements would require a pilot municipality and the prospect of having lake Linden be a part of a program such as this was very positive.

Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Frendewey):

The clerk said he had received calls about more interest in holding events in the Village Park. He said it was encouraging and that it would be great to have even more events there each year.

Equipment(Chair: Trustee Frohmader):

The clerk stated that \$10,000 approved last winter to purchase a new pick-up still had not been spent but that Jude K. was looking for a suitable vehicle more urgently as winter was fast approaching.

Streets(Chair: Schuldt):

Clerk Poirier said that the St. Joseph Church had requested another handicap parking spot in front of their building. None of the Trustees showed much enthusiasm for the request. Clerk Poirier said that a better solution might be signs that could be used just for Sundays. The Council told him to contact the Church to discuss options to that effect.

Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):

Trustee Hoffman read the August police report into the record. A motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Fisher to accept the report as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

There was no fire report.

Zoning Task Force:

Trustee Schuldt said that no real progress had been made but that the committee would again begin meeting shortly.

Downtown Development Authority:

Chairman Pummill informed the Council that a Market Analysis for Lindell's that had been commissioned by the DDA had been completed. Trustee Fisher said he had information that a perspective buyer may be interested in Lindell's and it looked promising at this point. In either case it was agreed that the report was money well spent.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

President Aittama said the project was continuing and Jim Koskiniemi, on hand for the easement issue, said the project was on schedule and only the issue of the sewer liner on 9th Street appeared to be holding up progress a little.

Lake Linden Housing Commission

No report.

Late Agenda Items:

None.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

None.

Announcements:

None.

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 7:16pm. There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

James M. Aittama, President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk