

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
December 11th, 2008**

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Trustee Friendewey and supported by Trustee Aittama to approve the November regular meeting minutes as presented. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Public Comments:

President Fisher took a moment to thank Jim Aittama for his eight years of service as Village President, mentioned his more than 25 years on the Council, and said he looked forward to working with Jim as a knowledgeable and integral member of the Council moving forward.

Bills and Financial Statement:

The bills and financials were introduced. Clerk Poirier pointed out that the November bills did not yet reflect the upcoming cost share for the Americana project and the final payout, if approved, for Chris Lajimodiere. He said cash flow looked good through the end of the fiscal year and that work on the new budget would begin in earnest in the next few weeks.

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

Correspondence:

Clerk Poirier read a letter from Lake Linden High School superintendent Randy Roberts asking for, as part of the school's capital renovation project, the Council's approval to make the block of 6th Street between Front Street and Calumet Street one way towards Calumet. The letter explained the plan for traffic management around the school and that the 6th Street designation was essential to the plan. After a brief discussion it was decided to send letters to the residents of the blocks affected to ask for comments and response. Over the next few weeks it was agreed that trustees would find out more about the project to offer an informed opinion in January.

Clerk Poirier read a letter informing the Council that the AFSCME Union representative was changing and giving updated contact information.

Clerk Poirier read an anonymous letter from a “resident” detailing a couple of areas in the Village in need of attention because of their unsightliness. It also commented in support of the editorial in the *Gazette* regarding the gas station.

President Fisher read an email he had received from the person at the State Historic Preservation Office in charge of advancing the Village’s application for a National Historic designation for the downtown area. He said a presentation could be made before the Review Board on January 16th provided proper notification to the residents of the Village could be completed. The options included a display ad in the gazette or a combination of public posting and newsletter notification, but that only the Gazette ad formula was currently accepted. President Fisher said he would be speaking to the representative, Bob Christenson, about the possibility of going the second, less expensive, option. But in case this was not allowed he said a motion to approve at least \$377 (the cost of a Gazette display ad) from the Council should be made. A motion was then made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve an amount not to exceed \$400 to place the necessary ads to facilitate the presentation of the Village application to the SHiPPO Board. Poll vote: Yes; Schuldt, Frendewey, Aittama, Hamlin, Hoffman and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Executive (Chair:Trustee Fisher):

President Fisher informed the Council that the issue of the final payout to Chris Lajimodiere was discussed by the Executive committee. He said the amount was not at issue but the timing of the payment needed to be clarified. He said he had spoken to Chris regarding the payment and was told “the sooner the better”. The amount was for \$3,191.96. After a brief discussion which confirmed that it was the proper time to complete the payout and that sufficient funds were available for the expense, a motion was made by Trustee Aittama and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve paying the final amount to Chris Lajimodiere in the amount of \$3,191.96. Poll vote: Yes; Aittama, Schuldt, Hamlin, Hoffman, Frendewey, and Fisher. No; none. Motion was carried.

President Fisher told the Council that the final payment on the 2008 phase of the Americana Hall project was imminent. Following a meeting with the President of the Historical Society the total remaining balance of \$39,340.24 would be remitted, \$13,000 of which was the approved final amount of the Village’s portion.

President Fisher said that, as per discussion of the Council at the last meeting, a determination was made to offer Don Haller a \$1.00 per hour raise now and revisit the issue upon the union contract expiration in June. A motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve the plan. Poll vote: Schuldt, Hamlin, Aittama, Hoffman, Frendewey and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

President Fisher said that he was not, at this point, prepared to make recommendations on the choice of a Pro-tem for the Council. He said that this and also committee appointments would be addressed in the coming weeks.

Utilities/Services (Chair: Trustee Hamlin):

No report.

Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Friendewey):

Trustee Friendewey said that the Ice rink volunteer list and schedule would be looked at and that he and Steve Pummill, who had run the volunteers staff last year would be getting that together.

Trustee Friendewey said that a construction management enterprise team had been contacted about coming up with ideas for a teen center/community center project. President Fisher said he had met with the team a couple of times and that the resource of students with a new and unique perspective was a valuable asset. The discussions were in their very early stages and he would keep the Council informed.

Equipment(Chair: Trustee Frohmader):

Clerk Poirier said that the tractor approved for purchase at the last Council meeting was due very shortly and that the financing would include a payment of \$14,000 up front and financing the remaining \$14,000 through the Village line of credit. He also said the water truck purchased last month was in service upon a touch-up paint job.

Streets(Chair: Schuldt):

Clerk Poirier introduced a copy of the Annual permit with MDOT for the trunkline. He said it was a boilerplate document and required by MDOT and recommended the Council approve the President sign the document. A motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Hamlin to authorize the President to sign the agreement. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Trustee Schuldt asked about the progress of speed limit signs and the clerk said he would again contact MDOT regarding the issue.

Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):

Trustee Hoffman read the October and November police reports into the record. A motion was made by Trustee Aittama and supported by Trustee Hamlin to accept the reports as read. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier said he had recently received an updated revenue/expense report from the fire department and would be looking it over in more detail in the next few days. He also had three more bills from the department which would require an amending motion to the budget and approval to pay the bills. A motion was then made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Hoffman to amend the budget for the fire department by \$325.25. Poll vote: Yes; Schuldt, Hoffman, Aittama, Hamlin, Friendewey and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried. A motion was then made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Hoffman to approve the payment of three bills in the amount of \$325,25 for fire department supplies. Poll vote: Yes; Schuldt, Hoffman, Aittama, Hamlin, Friendewey and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Zoning Task Force:

Trustee Hamlin introduced a draft copy of a re-vamped version of the parks ordinance. He explained the process for the re-draft and outlined a couple

of points in the document. After a brief Q & A President Fisher commended the committee on its work and said Trustees should review the draft and comment for a final approval at the next meeting.

Downtown Development Authority:

Chairman Pummill told the Council that DDA meeting dates were being changed to the first Thursday of each month starting in February, as the first Thursday in January was New Year's Day.

He also said that Lindell's was up and running and they were on a restricted schedule that would be expanding in the near future.

He informed the Council that the DDA Board approved \$5,000 toward the cost-share of the 2008 phase of the Americana project.

He said that the DDA budget would be worked out by February and would be presented for approval to the Council.

Finally, he said the DDA was looking at continuing the streetscape work through the rest of the Village and that it would be a focus of the Board moving into the new year.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

Trustee Aittama reported that the project was almost complete and that the costs would be about \$150,000 under budget.

Lake Linden Housing Commission

No report.

Late Agenda Items:

None.

New Business:

The Council decided that Wednesday from 2pm to 5pm would be a social for all employees. Details would be worked out by the office staff.

Old Business:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Aittama and supported by Trustee Hoffman. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm. There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

Edward R Fisher, President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk