

**Lake Linden Village Council
Regular Meeting
April 9th, 2009**

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, Schuldt, Frohmader, and Hamlin. Absence was granted to Trustee Hoffman and Trustee Aittama.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Trustee Friendewey and supported by Trustee Schuldt to approve the March 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 Hamlin and supported by Trustee Frohmader to approve the agenda. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Public Comments:

The public works crew was thanked for their diligent work in getting the streets cleaned up and swept this early in the spring.

Bills and Financial Statement:

The bills and financials were introduced. Clerk Poirier pointed out the interest payment in the water bond account. President Fisher explained the new format for the monthly cash flow spread sheet. He said it would allow trustees to keep better track of running expenses throughout the fiscal year. A motion was then made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Frohmader to approve the bills as presented. Poll Vote: Yes: Schuldt, Frohmader, Friendewey, Hamlin, and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Correspondence:

Clerk Poirier introduced a letter from Charter outlining the progress of their pending Chapter 11 bankruptcy. He said he had tried to contact the regional Charter rep to find out about the franchise fee contract but was certain that that was not being changed.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from the DEQ regarding the adoption of a Wellhead Protection Plan and the availability of matching grants from the DEQ. The Village had started the basic planning for the wellhead protection when the new water system was installed but had not done much in that regard since.

Clerk Poirier introduced a letter to Michigan Works requesting two summer youth workers for this coming year.

Clerk Poirier read a letter from the Citizen's Committee for Michigan State parks that requested the Council support the new proposal being introduced that would make the park fee an optional \$10 charge on a license plate renewal. After a brief discussion the Council declined to express support and requested more information for a succeeding meeting.

Clerk Poirier introduced a solicitation for membership renewal from the Michigan Municipal League. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Frendewey to approve the \$1,095 for the 2009-10 renewal. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Frendewey, Frohmader, Schuldt and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Executive (Chair: Trustee Fisher):

President Fisher updated the Council on the status of the proposed annexation of the Meneguzzo property to the south of the village. He said after some discussions with the parties involved it looked as though the County was going to take the lead in the Brownsfield funding for the property. He said initial opposition from Torch Lake Township indicated that the annexation probably would not be approved anyway and any benefit gained by the Village from the annexation wouldn't be realized for a decade or more. He said the important thing was that the property get cleaned up and become an asset to the area. The Council readily agreed with the assessment and said they would keep an eye on how the development there was progressing.

President Fisher informed the Council that the proposal submitted by the Village to provide water for the Torch Lake/Osceola Twp. Water project was one of three being considered. He said it would certainly provide a financial benefit but a decision by the two townships was not imminent and the debate would take some time. There was no further action required until that decision had been made.

President Fisher said he had just received some updated numbers from Dick Supina regarding costs for installing required utilities in Sibilsky Acres II. He said that installing these utilities would open up lots in the division that could be sold to pay for the initial cost involved in new services. He hoped to finally get an estimate for electrical service from UPPCo so that the final numbers could be determined and a plan could be further developed.

A phase V application for grant funds from the Americana Foundation was in the packet for review. Fisher said that it included new windows for the second floor of the Village Hall and a cost-share from the Village, which would supply the labor to put the windows in place. The total funds being requested was \$30,150.

Fisher mentioned the development of two different plans for gas stations in the Village area. The first was a new pay-at-the-pump station at Louie's Super Foods. He said the paperwork was completed and the station would be in within several weeks. The second was the Cenex station site in the middle of town. There were new signs showing the proposed building and word had been received that a building permit application had been submitted to the County Building Dept. for the structure. He said hopefully this would be a huge benefit to the local businesses that would keep customers in town for their business.

Utilities/Services (Chair: Trustee Hamlin):

No report.

Buildings & Parks(Chair: Trustee Frendewey):

Clerk Poirier said that installation of the new furnace was in progress and that next week the changeover would be made.

President Fisher introduced a memo discussing the proposed teen center concept to the Council. He gave a few details of the project status so far and requested all trustees read and offer ideas for the concept. He would then put things together and continue the process by meeting with students and other groups to formulate a final plan for submission to foundations and other sources for funding.

President Fisher then introduced a draft of the 5-year recreation plan to the Council. He went through a few points in the plan and answered a few questions. He also solicited comments from trustees and said items within the plan could be discussed and further reviewed. No action was required until review was complete.

The final draft of the proposed park ordinance was submitted for approval. Trustees had reviewed the document for two months and were comfortable with it as presented with amendments. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Schuldt to adopt the new ordinance to rescind and replace past ordinances and for the new ordinance to take effect as soon as possible following publication. Poll vote: Yes; Hamlin, Schuldt, Frohmader, Frendewey and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Equipment(Chair: Trustee Frohmader):

No report.

Streets(Chair: Schuldt):

Clerk Poirier said that St. Joseph Church had requested additional handicap parking spaces last fall and since the time for repainting the spaces was drawing near it would probably become an issue again. He said MDOT told him they had no requirement or guidelines for the number of spaces along Calumet Street. There was no action taken but the Council expressed hesitance for adding spaces there and mentioned that perhaps mobile signs for mass times could be utilized by the church.

Public Safety(Chair: Trustee Hoffman):

Clerk Poirier introduced a police report for March. A motion was made by trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Schuldt to accept the police report as read. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Clerk Poirier said he had spoken to Chief Peters and committee chair Hoffman about applying for a full-time police officer under the COPS Hiring Recovery Program. He said it furnished 100% of funding for the position for three years. The only obligation was that the position must be funded by the municipality for the fourth year. After a brief discussion the consensus was that getting a full-time officer at four years for the price of one was too good not to accept. A motion was made by Trustee Schuldt and supported by Trustee Hamlin to approve application through the program for one additional full-time police officer understanding the fiscal and personnel commitments required under the program. Poll vote: Yes; Schuldt, Hamlin, Frohmader, Frendewey, and Fisher. No; None. Motion was carried.

Fire Chief Parker gave the fire report. There were nine calls since January 1st. He asked again about lane closure for painting over the graffiti on the trestle. Work had begun on 4th of July preparations and the brush truck had been returned to service for the spring/summer season. The Council asked a couple of questions about the fire prevention program after Chief Parker explained the process.

Clerk Poirier said there was no further word on the Rural Development vehicle grant but he still had hopes of getting funded before the end of April.

Zoning Task Force:

Clerk Poirier said that with spring around the corner he had some recommendations for ordinance reviews from the committee. He said the two most common complaints/concerns from residents were burning within the Village limits and people who did not pick up after their dogs. Trustee Schuldt explained that the committee would convene to discuss these issues in the near future.

Downtown Development Authority:

Chairman Steve Pummill informed the Council that the Loading Zone applied to the DDA under the façade grant/loan program. The planters were discussed at the last meeting as well. Trail sign updates were being looked at.

Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority

No report.

Lake Linden Housing Commission

Director of the Housing Commission Michelle Myers was on hand and said the Commission was to receive monies from the federal stimulus totaling \$103,855. She said they expected to spend the monies on energy efficiency-related projects like new toilets, furnace, insulation, etc. She also invited members of the Council and Village staff to a Capital Fund Meeting at the Loading Zone on April 24th to discuss upcoming Housing projects.

Late Agenda Items:

Clerk Poirier said that web updates included a page for the Knights of Columbus fishing derby in the park, contacting businesses and taking photos of businesses for updating the directory, and a revamping of the home page, which was to go live online within the week. Upcoming issues being addressed were new pages for the DDA, Marina and Police Dept. and expanding the electronic version of the ordinance manual.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Hamlin and supported by Trustee Friendewey . All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm. There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

Edward R Fisher, President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk