

**MINUTES  
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING  
March 20, 2006  
7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to Order by Supervisor John Gast at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Clerk Payne called the roll. Board members present were John Gast, Supervisor; Gloria Payne, Clerk; Betty Korcek, Treasurer; Terry Eichler, Trustee; William "Bill" Geukes and Trustee Tom Carson. Twelve visitors were present in the audience.

A moment of silence was held, due to the death of Trustee, Fritz Wolf. Trustee Wolf was a member of the Planning Commission for seventeen years, a board member for 10 years and served on the Park Committee. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. May he rest in peace.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA & AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

It was moved by Carson seconded by Eichler to allow Larry Merritt of Merritt Engineering to add reporting on the Sanitary Collection Study, and add one addition to the agenda that was tabled from last month's meeting regarding Mole Control. Six ayes, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Korcek seconded by Geukes to approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2006 Board meeting. Six ayes, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Supervisor Gast introduced William Blossom of Harbor Country Wireless who is offering broadband internet access. They use microwave technology which requires a tall tower, such as our water tower for broadcasting. Then they install a radio/modem at the customers' location, which provides a broadband connection at \$39.95 per month beginning April 1, 2006.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

It was moved by Eichler seconded by Carson to approve the February 2006 bills totaling \$202,190.32. Six ayes, motion carried. Trustee Carson asked that the record reflect that he was not aware of the \$3,599.20 snow blower purchase.

**COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE PACKET**

The following information was included in board members packets: Special Meeting Notice for March 27, 2006; MTA Faxes; Lake Township Water Filtration Plant monthly report; Medic I Agenda and meeting minutes; Lake Charter Township Planning Commission meeting minutes; Lake Charter Township Board/Planning Commission joint meeting minutes; Galien River Sanitary Sewer Authority Agenda and meeting minutes; Zoning Board of Appeals meeting minutes; Baroda Township bills; Bridgman Public Library meeting minutes and Plante Moran Bridgman Public Library Financial Report; Park Committee meeting minutes; 911 Advisory Committee meeting minutes; Bridgman Area Chamber of Commerce meeting minutes; City of Bridgman/Lake Charter Township Growth Alliance meeting minutes.

Press Release regarding Repeal of Single Business Tax/Create Jobs; Copies of DeFrancesco Dienes January/February invoices; Letter from Berrien County Planning Commission regarding compliance with Lake Charter Township's Master Plan on two zoning requests; Letter from Berrien County Road Commission regarding Congestion Mitigation Air Quality projects; Letter from the State of Michigan canceling application to transfer ownership of a dance entertainment permit at 8981 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman, Michigan, and a copy of State of Michigan Check No. 228642494 for State Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$35,317.00.

## **REPORTS**

### **B. Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor Gast reported as follows:

- a. Attended Joint Board/Planning Commission Master Plan organizational meeting;
- b. Attended 911 Advisory Committee Meeting;
- c. Attended Galien River Sanitary District Authority meeting;
- d. Attended Bridgman Elementary Appreciation Breakfast;
- e. Attended AEP meeting with Township Assessor;
- f. Attended meeting with Reliable regarding Disposal Contract;
- g. Attended the Chikaming Utility meeting;
- d. Attended Warren Dunes Roadway right-of-way walk and discussion on bridge removal;
- e. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- f. Attended groundbreaking for Pike Funeral Home;
- g. Attended Economic Development Committee meeting;
- h. Attended Merritt Engineering meeting on pipe study and sewer collection system study;
- i. Attended Township Board Special Meeting on the Water Rate Study;
- j. Met with Duane Janka of Edward Jones regarding pension plan;
- k. Attended SWIPPI Storm Water Phase II seminar;
- l. Judged the Chili cook-off at the Bridgman Legion Post 331 - a township resident was the winner;
- m. Attended Board of Review.

### **B. Clerk's Report**

Clerk Payne reported as follows:

- a. Attended Joint Board/Planning Commission Master Plan organizational meeting;
- b. Attended Bridgman Elementary Appreciation Breakfast;
- c. Attended Utility Board Meeting;
- d. Attended Growth Alliance Meeting.
- e. Attended Bridgman Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting;
- f. Attended a Qualified Voter Training session at Coloma Township;
- g. Attended Special Board Meeting on the Water Rate Study;
- h. Met with Duane Janka of Edward Jones regarding pension plan;
- i. Attended groundbreaking for Pike Funeral Home.

### **C. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Korcek reported as follows:

- a. Attended Growth Alliance meeting;
- c. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- d. Attended Joint Board/Planning Commission Master Plan organizational meeting;
- e. Met with Duane Janka of Edward Jones regarding pension plan;
- f. Attended Berrien County Treasurer's Association meeting;

### **D. Planning Commission Report**

Nothing reported under this agenda item.

### **E. Water Superintendent's Report**

Water Superintendent Beach reported they are ahead of the maintenance schedule, waiting for parts. Pumpage at the water plant is up 20%.

### **F. GRSD Sewer Authority Report**

Supervisor Gast reported the construction is 98% finished. The contractor has removed his trailers from the site and landscaping to be started in the Spring. Payment #23 in the amount of \$61,283.08 has been issued. Weekly inspections, general maintenance of lift stations 35, 33, 42 and 43.

### **G. Police Department**

Trustee Eichler reported no meeting was held this month.

H. Fire Department/Fire Chief

Trustee Eichler reported Chief Heyn issued the new identification tags. On the agenda tonight we have to approve whether to send two, possibly three fire fighters to Fire Brigade Hands on training. D.C. Cook to pay for lodging and transportation. The transmission in the Jeep needs approximately \$2,500.00 worth of repairs. Chief Heyn reported nine calls were dispatched, of which six were medic and three fire related.

VIII. Park Report

Nothing reported under this agenda item.

J. Library Report

Lillian Svitil reported no one came to assess the roof, due to the snow. The bylaws are being reviewed since they have not been updated since 1995.

K. Cemetery Committee Report

Clerk Payne reported that three burials were conducted in the month of February 2006. Brush is being burned at the backside of Graceland Cemetery.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Test Results of Pipe Analysis

Supervisor Gast introduced Larry Merritt of Merritt Engineering who submitted a copy of an engineering report completed by Climax Research Services(CRS) regarding the analysis of the pipe failure that is occurring in Lake Charter Township. He is happy to report that they found the metal in these ductile iron pipe samples was of good quality. The dielectric coating appears to be an asphalt-based coating. CRS found that the coating contained some discontinuities, leaving the pipe exposed; the cause of the discontinuities could not be determined. No unique contaminants in the soil were found in the corrosion layer on the pipe that could explain the localized corrosion of the pipe sample. The corrosion of the pipe is most likely due to a compromise of the dielectric coating, followed by galvanic corrosion. Galvanic corrosion may have occurred due to failure of the cathodic protection system.

His recommendation is to wrap and poly wrap all types of pipe and consider the soil when replacing existing infrastructures. Not all soil in Lake Township is corrosive, however, it would not be cost effective to replace pipe by the type of soil in Lake Township, rather replace pipe where main breaks are occurring.

A copy of the analysis is attached to these minutes.

Sanitary Collection Study

Supervisor Gast introduced Larry Merritt of Merritt Engineering who submitted a copy of the Sanitary Collection Study report for future planning purposes. The study contained a projected customer growth based on average growth and aggressive growth.

A copy of this study is attached to these minutes.

Large Trash Spring Pick-Up

Supervisor Gast reported that the large trash pick-up is scheduled for April 22, 2006. In the new contract being discussed, both Spring and Fall large trash pickups are planned, as well as the voucher system. No tire pick-up is scheduled for this year. However, an appliance pick-up for 2007 is being considered.

It was moved by Carson seconded by Geukes to approve scheduling of large spring trash pick-up for April 22, 2006. Six ayes, motion carried.

Rezoning Request of George Salerno

Supervisor Gast presented to board members a letter from George Salerno requesting withdrawal of two zoning requests. It was moved by Carson seconded by Korcek to approve the withdrawal of zoning request on parcel number 11-11-0136-0028-3-08. Six ayes, motion carried. It was moved by Carson seconded by Geukes to approve the withdrawal of zoning request on parcel number 11-11-0135-0023-07-1. Six ayes, motion carried.

Approval of Dugout Design

Supervisor Gast presented to board members a proposal from Kaser-Spraker Construction, Inc., to design and build two (2) concrete and masonry dugouts with storage unit attached for a total of \$42,760.00. After discussion it was discussed that we could have Brian Thomas, Park Superintendent construct one dugout based on the submitted design for \$8,000.00 which was the insurance settlement for the damage that occurred to the existing dugouts.

It was moved by Geukes seconded by Eichler to approve the design as submitted and authorize Brian Thomas, Park Superintendent to construction one dugout not to exceed \$8,000.00. Six ayes, motion carried.

#### 2005 RTV Utility Vehicle

Supervisor Gast brought to board members a quote from H.F.S. Tractor Sales and Service for a new 2005 RTV 900 Kubota utility vehicle with hydraulic dump bed, four wheel drive for \$10,225.00, which would eventually replace the small John Deere tractor. Trustee Carson indicated that we have the Kubota tractor with the bucket that would handle hauling items around the park. This agenda item died for lack of a motion and support.

#### Fire Brigade Hands-On Training

Supervisor Gast directed board members' attention to the 2006 Fire Brigade Hands-on Training. Chief Heyn indicated that two, possibly three fire fighters are interested in attending this seminar. The three-day training is held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. One session is scheduled for May and the other in June. D.C. Cook will pay for the transportation and lodging. The training consists of confined space rescue exercises, rope rescue, flash over simulator training and airport training. It was moved by Korcek seconded by Carson to approve involvement of fire fighter personnel in the training program. Six ayes, motion carried.

#### Critical Bridge Resolution

Supervisor Gast presented to board members' a letter from the Berrien County Road Commission regarding 2006 Critical Bridge Application for Federal and State Bridge Funds, requiring Lake Charter Township to adopt a Resolution supporting the Road Commission application for bridge funds. Supervisor Gast asked board members if they wanted him to read the resolution, board members felt it unnecessary. It was moved by Eichler seconded by Carson to approve the Resolution Supporting Berrien County Road Commission Application for State and Federal Critical Bridge funds. Six ayes, motion carried.

#### Mole Control Proposal

Supervisor Gast asked that this agenda item be brought back to the table. It was moved by Carson seconded by Eichler to approve this agenda be brought back to the table for action. Six ayes, motion carried. Supervisor Gast reported the only bid received is from Arrow Pest Control out of South Bend, Indiana for a three-step process for mole control. First, mark all mole runs, second, check mole runs and bait them, third, check all baited mole runs re-bait and pull all flags. There is a six-month warranty if called during the period there is a service charge of \$100.00. The total cost is \$1,150.00. Supervisor Gast reported that this cost could be shared one-third with the soccer and softball teams. Trapping is the only way to get control of moles. Trustee Eichler indicated that if this works, we might consider Arrow's services at the cemeteries.

It was moved by Eichler seconded by Korcek to approve the mole control proposal from Arrow Pest Control for \$1,150.00. Six ayes, motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ken Baker complained regarding the garbage being strewn along Jericho Road and Hinchman Road from the back of Reliable Garbage trucks. Secondly, he asked for dye to be poured in the ditch to see if the extra run off water is coming from Jericho Road

Mabel Ott asked whether there is police protection throughout the night. She complained that three flags have been stolen from her house at 9088 Gast Road. Secondly, when is the hazardous waste collection being held.

Supervisor Gast indicated he would check on the trash, the dye and indicated the schedule for the hazardous waste collection is on the counter.

Trustee Eichler indicated he would check with Chief Gary Ruhl regarding the patrolling during throughout the night.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for April 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Utility Board is scheduled for April 2, 2006 at 12:00 Noon, Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Master Plan Update Organizational Meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan

Board of Review Organizational Meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further objection and no further business it was moved by Carson seconded by Korcek to adjourn the meeting. Six ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria A. Payne, Clerk

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Gast, Supervisor