

**MINUTES
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
August 20, 2007
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; James Stine, Jr., Trustee and Tom Carson, Trustee. Thirteen visitors were present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Korcek seconded by Eichler to add one item to the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 16, 2007

It was moved by Geukes seconded by Stine to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2007, with additional comment from Trustee James Stine, Jr., regarding the ambulance issue. All ayes, motion carried.

July 31, 2007

It was moved by Korcek seconded by Geukes, to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes of July 31, 2007. All ayes, motion carried.

August 9, 2007

It was moved by Geukes seconded by Eichler to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of the August 9, 2007. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

After one explanation, it was moved by Stine seconded by Geukes to approve the July 2007 Lake Charter Township bills in the amount of \$372,788.44. All ayes, motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE PACKET

The following information was included in board members packets: MTA Weekly Legislative Report; Lake Charter Township Planning Commission meeting minutes; Galien River Sanitary Sewer Authority Agenda and meeting minutes; Bridgman Public Library meeting minutes; Lake Charter Township Fund Balances for July 2007; Lake Township Fire and Rescue minutes; Lake Township Park Committee meeting minutes; Lake Township Zoning Board of Appeals minutes; Medic 1 meeting minutes; Lake Charter Township Water Filtration Plant report.

Copy of a check from the State of Michigan for \$500.00 for reimbursement of Storm Sewer System fees, determined Lake Township does not owe. Copy of a letter from Comcast for reimbursement of \$1,933.61 worth of franchise fees. Letter from Hills Corners Bible Baptist Church expressing gratitude for the use of the Park; Copy of a letter from Berrien County 4-H regarding their fall fund raiser.

REPORTS

A. Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Gast reported as follows:

- a. Attended Board of Review meeting;
- a. Attended Wine Trail post wine festival meeting;
- c. Met with Dave Koop of Koop & Burr regarding liability insurance quote;
- d. Attended MTA Chapter Picnic at Grand Mere Park;
- e. Attended Galien River Sanitary District Association meeting;
- f. Attended Medic One meeting;
- g. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- h. Attended Special Meeting awarding construction contract for the water plant micro-filtration expansion project;
- i. Attended Special Meeting to sell improvement bonds;
- j. Attended Supervisors Meeting in St. Joseph Township.

B. Clerk's Report

Clerk Payne reported as follows:

- a. Attended Southwestern Michigan Commission meeting;
- b. Attended Berrien County Clerk's Association meeting;
- c. Met with Dave Koop of Koop & Burr regarding liability insurance quote;
- d. Participated in Standard and Poor's Conference call regarding the bond rating;
- e. Attended Special Meeting awarding construction contract for the water plant micro-filtration expansion project;
- f. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- g. Attended Growth Alliance meeting;
- h. Attended Special Meeting to sell improvement bonds;
- i. Coordinated clean-out of vault and transported historical records to the Historical Society.

C. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Korcek reported as follows:

- a. Attended Park Committee meeting;
- b. Attended Growth Alliance meeting;
- c. Attended Special Meeting awarding construction contract for the water plant micro-filtration expansion project;
- d. Attended Special Meeting to sell improvement bonds;
- e. Attended post wine trail meeting;
- f. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- g. Participated in Standard and Poor's Conference call regarding the bond rating.

D. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Geukes reported the Planning Commission granted a special land use to allow them to re-build their home since they are zoned in the industrial district.

E. Water Superintendent's Report

Water Plant Superintendent Stewart Beach reported the water plant pumped 109.8 million gallons of water in July 2007. Divers inspected the water intake and video will be shown at the Utility Board meeting. The groundbreaking ceremony is schedule for August 28, 2007 at 12:00 noon for the micro-filtration water plant expansion project.

F. GRSD Sewer Authority Report

Supervisor Gast reported the sewer authority has approved payment #2 of \$481,000 for Sewer Lift Station #1. Maintenance will be performed on Sewer Lift Stations 41, 44 and 46 in the township. Repairs to Lift Stations 42 and 43 are waiting for additional quotes.

G. Police Department

Trustee Eichler reported no meeting was held.

H. Fire Department/Fire Chief

Trustee Eichler reported he did not attend the Fire meeting and turned the floor over to Chief Harold Heyn. He reported that the fire department discussed safety issues and how to respond to fire calls. In July, the fire department was dispatched to 36 fire calls, of which 28 were medical and a couple of grass fires occurred. 18 pagers have been issued and switched over to the 800 Mhz frequency.

Trustee Geukes commended Chief Heyn for his recent rescue attempt at Weko Beach.

I. Park Report

Treasurer Korcek reported the gazebo has been delivered and is installed. The prisoners have been painting the fence, the three roofs on the dug-outs will be replaced as soon as the weather breaks, the benches will be put up in the near future.

J. Library Report

Lillian Svitil reported the drawings for the roof are being reviewed and the new roof should be installed yet this year. \$51,000 was collected in penal fines. A donation check from A&W was received for \$300.00 for their Cruisin Car Show.

K. Cemetery Committee Report

Clerk Payne reported that one burial and one cremation took place for the month of July. Staff is mowing, mowing, mowing, due to all the rain we have had.

AGENDA ITEMS

Insurance Presentation Koop & Burr

Supervisor Gast presented to board members a quote from Dave Koop of Koop and Burr for the liability insurance for Lake Charter Township. Mr. Koop conducted an “apples-to-apples” comparison of the township’s liability insurance policies. Lake Charter Township paid \$64,425.00 to its current liability insurance carrier and Mr. Koop’s quote is \$32,343.00. The quote is from EMC Insurance Companies. Trustee Eichler was concerned that there were no Michigan companies using EMC. Mr. Koop responded that the township could research the Insurance Bureau in Lansing and call an Indiana company for a reference Trustee Stine was concerned that the price after one year would raise and that this was an introductory price. Mr. Koop responded that the current agent for Lake Township could have switched our liability insurance to Travelers and saved us money. He indicated that he would be an agent that works for Lake Township and not just sit back and take advantage of us or become too relaxed. When he quoted us, he was unaware of what the township was paying for their liability insurance, so the amount of \$64,425.00 that the township currently paid, was an unknown amount to Mr. Koop.

After discussion and a brief presentation by Mr. Koop, the board will research the Insurance Bureau in Lansing, and obtain an Indiana reference and proceed to pursue making a change for its liability insurance coverage.

Master Plan Comments

Supervisor Gast asked board members to communicate to him their concerns and comments regarding the master plan before the September 10, 2007 Planning Commission meeting. The final draft of the document will be submitted to them at that time. Also, he included in board members packets the information showing the Planning Commission approves the Master Plan for Lake Charter Township.

USGS Naming of Lake in Lake Township and Lincoln Township

Supervisor Gast presented to board members a U.S. Board on Geographic Names Proposal Recommendation. There is a proposal to name a lake in Lake Township, Lake Anne. The form indicates that the Township Board either approve the proposed name, reject the proposed name, take action on the proposed name or render a decision without recommendation. After discussion it was moved by Gast seconded by Korcek to render a decision of naming Lake Anne without Lake Charter Townships recommendation. All ayes, motion carried.

2008 Budget Workshop

Supervisor Gast asked board members to be available for 2008 Budget workshops on August 29, 2007 and September 12, 2007.

Wes Kieft Park Rental Request

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Wes Kieft who presented to board members a request for rental of the entire park for youth groups of non-denominational churches in Berrien County to participate in a youth rally. He would pay \$75.00 for all three pavilions. Enlist a clean-up crew, have music, grill hamburgers and fellowship. The time frame would be from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Board members asked that Mr. Keift check into carrying his own liability waiver. Also, the board was concerned that this being a public park there would be no way to keep out John Q. Public who uses the park and doesn't rent any pavilion. One other concern was that would we be setting a precedent for other large groups. The response to this is, "no more than we already have set precedent for the Apple Cider Century." After discussion, it was moved by Stine seconded by Korcek to allow Wes Kieft to rent the park for \$75.00 for all three pavilions for the Berrien County Youth Rally. All ayes, motion carried.

Fire Department Training

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Lake Charter Township Fire Chief Harold Heyn who requested Dan Daniel attend a three-day seminar entitled "Hands-On Vehicle Fire/Arson Investigation" in the amount of \$295.00 on August 27, 28 and 29, 2007. Firefighter Daniel would travel every day and he is requested mileage, but no overnight stay. It was moved by Stine seconded by Korcek to approve \$295.00 for Dan Daniel to attend a three-day seminar entitled "Hands-On Vehicle Fire/Arson Investigation" on August 27, 28 and 29, 2007 with reimbursement of mileage. All ayes, motion carried.

Fire Department New Hire

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Lake Charter Township Fire Chief Harold Heyn who asked for James Adam Orr to be added to the Lake Township Fire Department roster. Mr. Orr is serving with the Coast Guard out of St. Joseph and would be an asset to the Lake Charter Township Fire Department. Let the record reflect that Trustee James Stine, Jr., left the floor board at 8:30 p.m. It was moved by Geukes seconded by Korcek to approve adding James Adam Orr to the Lake Township Fire Department roster. Six ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lillian Svitol asked why members of the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals never attend Township Board meetings. No one could answer the question.

Lou Barinka expressed his concerns regarding zoning in his district.

Bill Blossom of HCI Wireless asked where we are at with hi-speed internet access. Supervisor Gast indicated that he needs to schedule time with Stewart Beach and schedule time to sign the contract.

Trustee Carson asked whether the Lake Charter Township Fire Department holds training for how to properly drive the fire trucks. Lake Charter Township Chief Harold Heyn commented that at the last fire meeting he went over the training basics. Also, last Fall the firefighters participated in a State Certified Driving Course.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for September 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Utility Board meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2007 at 12:00 Noon, Lake Charter Township Conference Room, Bridgman, Michigan.

August 25, 2007 at 9:00 a.m., Public Hearing for the Public Safety Building, Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.
Lake Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals September 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further objection and no further business it was moved by Payne seconded by Korcek to adjourn the meeting. Six ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Dated: _____

Gloria A. Payne, Clerk

Dated: _____

John Gast, Supervisor