

**MINUTES  
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING  
September 17, 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. Seven visitors were present in the audience.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

August 20, 2007

Clerk Payne indicated that Lou Barinka was in to see her and asked to add and attach his comments to the minutes of August 20, 2007. After discussion, it was moved by Geukes seconded by Korcek to approve the Meeting Minutes of the August 20, 2007, with attachment. All ayes, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

After a few explanations, it was moved by Korcek seconded by Stine to approve the August 2007 Lake Charter Township bills in the amount of \$586,683.27. 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 Township Fire and Rescue minutes; Medic 1 meeting minutes; Lake Charter Township Water Filtration Plant report.

Copy of a check from the State of Michigan for \$34,293.00 for revenue sharing. Copy of a letter from Alexander Chemical Corporation citing price increases to sodium hypochlorite. Notice of review of apportionments for Dohrer - Home Crest Drain #288; Letter from Bridgman City intending to update their General Development Plan

**REPORTS**

**A. Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor Gast reported as follows:

- a. Attended Galien River Sanitary District Association meeting;
- b. Attended Medic One meeting;
- c. Attended micro-filtration Pre-construction meeting;
- d. Attended groundbreaking at the Water Plant for the micro-filtration project;
- e. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- f. Attended Special Meeting of the Galien River Sanitary District Association;
- g. Attended Economic Growth Alliance meeting;
- h. Attended Drain Commissioner Board of Determination;
- i. Met with Abonmarche regarding site plan specifications for Public Safety Building;
- j. Attended meeting with the Department of Natural Resources regarding Wilson Lane;
- k. Attended Budget Workshop;
- l. Attended Public Hearing of the Planning Commission regarding Public Safety Building;
- m. Conducted interviews for Water Plant Operator.

**B. Clerk's Report**

Clerk Payne reported as follows:

- a. Attended Public Hearing of the Planning Commission regarding Public Safety Building;
- b. Attended Budget Workshop;

- c. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- d. Attended Chamber of Commerce meeting;
- e. Attended two days of State of Michigan Election training in Lawrence;
- f. Attended employee meeting;
- g. Conducted Interviews for Water Plant Operator;
- h. Attended groundbreaking for micro-filtration project at Water Plant.

C. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Korcek reported as follows:

- a.. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- b. Attended Budget Workshop;
- c. Attended 2 Park Board meetings;
- d. Attended employee meeting;
- e. Attended Growth Alliance meeting;
- f. Attended Chamber of Commerce after hours meeting;
- g. Conducted Interviews for Water Plant Operator.

September 9, 2007 paid out \$424,355.56 in taxes collected during August 15 through August 31, 2007, making a total of taxes collected since July 1, 2007 \$801,276.00. During the two weeks of September we collected \$1,332,108.00 in taxes and \$13,073,000.00 in taxes from D.C. Cook.

D. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Geukes reported the Planning Commission granted two special land use permits, both for permission 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 reservoir has been completed. Started the micro-filtration expansion project. Started excavating on Browntown Road and took care of a main break on Baldwin and Browntown Road.

F. GRSD Sewer Authority Report

Supervisor Gast reported the sewer authority reviewed, installed and tested the entire forced main pipe and entire 24 inch gravity inverted siphon project. The Franklin Street Lift Station project materials are ordered. A special meeting was scheduled to discuss set-back issues.

G. Police Department

Trustee Eichler reported Baroda-Lake Township is policing traffic control at D.C. Cook Plant for the outage that started in September. A complaint from 20 residents regarding a part-time police officer is being investigated and reviewed.

H. Fire Department/Fire Chief

Trustee Eichler turned the floor over to Lake Charter Township Fire Chief Harold Heyn who reported that 45 calls were received in the month of August. Hazmat training with the Berrien County Sheriff's Department and Jaws-of-Life training with firefighters from Lake Township and the City of Bridgman was held. Fire Truck 1127 experienced solenoid and air compressor problems, but these items have been repaired and the truck is back in service.

I. Park Report

Treasurer Korcek reported budget items and future projects were discussed. The new ball field was visited and problems were discussed. We need to kill the grass, level off the playing field so water drains out into the grass area, and remove the rocks.

J. Library Report

In the absence of Lillian Svitil, Carol Siewert reported the roof should be installed by winter. They have several successful adult programs, and new books are always coming in. So visit the library.

K. Cemetery Committee Report

Clerk Payne reported that two burials took place last week, and one transplant and one burial this week. They are busy weed wacking and mowing.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Setting 2007 Tax Rate

Supervisor Gast presented to board members the 2007 Tax Rate Request Report. The proposed increase is .7 mill which pays for the current water plant improvements, i.e., 1.0 million gallon storage tank and the micro-

filtration project. Further for the purpose of satisfying the bond issue for these water plant improvements. An example, based on the new additional millage of .7, the Township will be collecting an additional \$.70 for every \$1,000 in taxable value for each assessable property. Therefore, a property with a taxable value of \$150,000 will pay an additional \$52.50 in property taxes to Lake Charter Township. Supervisor Gast felt that this method was of less impact to the citizens of Lake Charter Township. Trustee Stine indicated that we are providing good things and many amenities for the money Lake Charter Township will realize. It was moved by Gast seconded by Eichler to approve the 3.0 total tax rate for 2007, which is a .7 mill increase which pays for the water plant improvements. Gast aye, Payne aye, Korcek aye, Geukes aye, Eichler aye, Stine aye, Carson nay. Motion carried.

#### Lange Road Culvert Replacement

Supervisor Gast reported the 48" culvert on Lange Road south of Snow Road has failed. It is unknown how long it has been in service. The pipe is of steel construction and the years has rusted and eroded the structure. The Berrien County Road Commission estimated the cost to be \$12,564.00 to Lake Charter Township and \$12,564.00 to the Berrien County Road Commission, for a total project cost of \$25,128.00. This agenda item was tabled until the October 2, 2007 Utility Board meeting to allow Supervisor Gast to check on whether the replacement culvert will be concrete or steel, and further, to see if Lake Charter Township could bid this project out and do it ourselves.

#### Water Plant Operator Employment Position

Supervisor Gast reported, he and Clerk Payne and Treasurer Korcek interviewed four possible candidates for the Water Plant Operator position at Lake Charter Township Water Plant. Two positions are available. Supervisor Gast introduced Jacob Vanderheyden, who currently holds a two-year degree in Water Technology and is able to write his F-4 license in November. He has worked for the last 15 months for Haliburton in Iraq, operating a water filtration plant. After discussion, it was moved by Gast seconded by Payne to award the position to Jacob Vanderheyden for one of the Water Plant Operator positions. All ayes, motion carried. It was decided to continue accepting applications for the second Water Plant Operator position.

#### Lake Front Rescue Marker Project

Supervisor Gast presented a letter from residents of Tower Hill in Chikaming Township who are requesting we join with Chikaming Township in a rescue marker project at the beach. The markers would be placed every 1/10th of a mile along the beaches, with property owners permission, to provide a ready means for emergency services to locate emergency situations occurring on or near the lake. The markers would be installed with GPS coordinates. Clerk Payne asked Chief Heyn was his thoughts were. He indicated that when you are down at the lake you can loose your sense of direction rather quick. This agenda item was tabled to get further research from New Buffalo City who already has this system.

#### Trick or Treat

Supervisor Gast asked board members to set trick or treat hours to coincide with the City of Bridgman which is October 31, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It was moved by Payne seconded by Eichler to set Lake Charter Township trick or treat hours on October 31, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

#### 2008 Budget Workshop

Supervisor Gast asked board members to be available for 2008 Budget workshop on September 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lake Charter Township Water Plant Superintendent Stewart Beach asked what are we doing with the second Water Plant Operator position open at the Water Plant. Supervisor Gast responded that we would continue accepting resumes and take action in October 2007.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for October 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Utility Board meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2007 at 12:00 Noon, Lake Charter Township Conference Room, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals November 8, 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 Stine to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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