

**MINUTES
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
October 15, 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. A moment of silence was observed for Kathleen Nitz, a former Planning Commission board member who passed away. 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; William "Bill" Geukes; James Stine, Jr., Trustee and Tom Carson, Trustee. Trustee Terry Eichler, was absent. Seven visitors were present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Korcek seconded by Geukes to add four items to the agenda. Six ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 17, 2007

After one clarification, it was moved by Stine seconded by Korcek to approve the Meeting Minutes of the September 17, 2007. Six ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

After a few explanations, it was moved by Geukes seconded by Stine to approve the September 2007 Lake Charter Township bills in the amount of \$259,676.81. Six 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; Lake Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals meeting minutes; Lake Township Park Committee meeting minutes; Baroda-Lake Township Police Board meeting minutes; Bridgman Public Library meeting minutes; Lake Township Fire and Rescue minutes; Medic 1 meeting minutes; Lake Charter Township Water Filtration Plant report; Lake Township Fund Balances for August and September 2007.

Copy of a check from the State of Michigan for \$39,334.20 for reimbursement of Michigan State Police maintenance improvements for year 2004, 2005 and 2006. Notice of Hearing for Indiana Michigan Power Company to consider charges in excess of six months associated with a power purchase agreement with Fowler Ridge Wind Farm LLC. Par Plan Newsletter.

REPORTS

A. Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Gast reported as follows:

- a. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- b. Attended two 2008 Budget Workshop meetings;
- c. Met with CSI net;
- d. Attended Medic One meeting;
- e. Attended Galien River Sanitary District Association meeting;
- f. Attended Budget Workshop Meeting of the Galien River Sanitary District Association;
- g. Attended bid opening for Public Safety Building ground preparation;
- h. Attended Economic Growth Alliance meeting;
- i. Attended Chamber of Commerce meeting.

B. Clerk's Report

Clerk Payne reported as follows:

- a. Attended two 2008 Budget Workshop meetings;
- b. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- c. Conducted interview of Water Plant Operator;
- d. Prepared for November 6, 2007, Lake Michigan College election.

C. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Korcek reported as follows:

- a.. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- b. Attended two 2008 Budget Workshop meetings;
- c. Attended Park Committee meeting;
- d. Conducted interview of Water Plant Operator;
- e. Attended Growth Alliance meeting;
- f. Attended Berrien County Treasurer Association meeting.

Collected \$15,226,301.89 in summer taxes. Berrien County \$3,545,115.00; LMC \$1,328,690.00; State Education \$4,442,318.00; Lakeshore \$29,798.00; Bridgman \$5,518,726.00; Bridgman Recreational millage \$361,653.00.

D. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Geukes reported the Planning Commission tabled Kenneth Kline's request for a special land use permit, due to issues regarding notice. Also, approved a resolution for the Master Plan.

E. Water Superintendent's Report

Water Plant Superintendent Stewart Beach reported the connection to Flynn Road is progressing, a 30-day delay for the valve at Hildebrandt Road is being looked into. #3 pond has been cleaned and #2 pond is drying out. The addition to the water plant for the micro-filtration project has encountered a soil problem. Clay will have to be removed and sand brought in. The borings have been made and the air test for the new piping has been performed.

F. GRSD Sewer Authority Report

Supervisor Gast reported the sewer authority is finalizing the 2008 budget. Meter reading is being assessed so that December bills can be generated for make-up dues. Lake Township was only over 500,000 gallons per day for two months. We will be charged one and a half times the rate for the overage. The BP gas station was found to have grease plugging up the pumps, and a bill will have to be made out to them. The progress on the casino issue of tap fees versus connection fees is being resolved, possibly by next month.

G. Police Department

In the absence of Trustee Eichler, Supervisor Gast asked board members to look at the Baroda-Lake Township meeting minutes for information.

H. Fire Department/Fire Chief

In the absence of Trustee Eichler, Fire Chief Harold Heyn reported 32 calls were dispatched, of which 29 were medical, 2 house fires and one false alarm. Firefighters will be having a joint training with the City of Bridgman firefighters on the jaws-of-life. The jet skis were returned and Chief Heyn would like a direct call from Stewart Beach when Hildebrandt Road will be opened, since currently there is no access, should a fire erupt.

I. Park Report

Treasurer Korcek reported a vacancy exists on the Park Committee. Park Plan needs to be updated. Discussed sprinkling system on soccer field. Worked on the budget and plans for next year. Two more dug-outs are planned and then we will maintain what we have. Prisoners have been painting the fence, cleaning out wooded area, cleaning brush and limbs. Plans are in the works to kill the grass in the out field of the new ballfield, level off and re-seed in the spring.

J. Library Report

Lillian Svitil reported the roof has been postponed until Spring. A special meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

K. Cemetery Committee Report

Clerk Payne reported that one burial took place since our last board meeting and two are scheduled this week.

AGENDA ITEMS

Final Payment to Miller Davis

Supervisor Gast presented to board members final pay application #6 in the amount of \$101,748.00 from Miller Davis for the one million-gallon storage tank. Electronic copies of the as-builts have been obtained and the warranty is good until July 2008. The total project costs had one change order in the amount of \$11,195, for a total project cost of \$1,677,195.00. Trustee Stine commended everyone on the good job they did. Clerk Payne asked if any more engineering bills associated with the tank would be forthcoming. John Wilemin responded

there were not. It was moved by Gast seconded by Korcek to approve payment of final pay application #6 in the amount of \$101,748.00 for Miller Davis for the one million-gallon storage tank. Six ayes, motion carried.

Water Plant Operator Position

Supervisor Gast presented to the board the resume of Water Plant Operator candidate Jon Holobaugh. Mr. Holobaugh was interviewed by Supervisor Gast, Treasurer Korcek and Clerk Payne. He currently has an F-2 license and is currently employed as a water plant operator. Our policies do not address where to place an experienced, licensed prospective employee on our existing salary schedule. After a lengthy discussion, it was moved by Stine seconded by Payne to offer Jon Holobaugh employment with Lake Charter Township at pay Grade 7, Year 2. Six ayes, motion carried.

Comcast Build Out

Supervisor Gast presented to board members a letter from Lori Masapollo of Comcast. She proposed three areas of build-out. Jericho Road from Linco to Lemon Creek at \$14,804.65; Browntown Road/Gast Road east of California Road at \$14,980.28 and Gast Road South of Snow Road at \$25,739.76. Clerk Payne asked which of these has the most concentration of houses, which is Gast Road South of Snow Road, however, that is the most expensive build-out. Comments from the board included "why should we pay them to upgrade their equipment." "We have CSI as another option for hi-speed internet access for our residents." After discussion, it was moved by Geukes seconded by Carson to forego expanding Comcast's services in the township at our expense. Six ayes, motion carried.

Liability Insurance Carrier

Supervisor Gast introduced Dave Koop of Koop & Burr. Mr. Koop presented to board members a total premium liability policy in the amount of \$32,343.00 for liability insurance. The change will be effective November 1, 2007 from the PAR plan to EMC. The accident fund policy will be changed in June 2008 and the liability will be billed from November 1, 2007 to February 2008. This represents a cost savings of approximately \$31,657.00. It was moved by Stine seconded by Payne to employ Dave Koop of Koop & Burr to write for Lake Charter Township their liability insurance policy at a cost of \$32,343.00. Six ayes, motion carried.

Berrien County Road Commission Annual Meeting

Supervisor Gast informed board members the date for the Berrien County Road Commission annual meeting is set for October 30, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at the Napier office. Any board members wishing to attend should let him know.

Benches for Three Dug-outs

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Betty Korcek who informed board members that three 24' bench systems for the new dug-outs are needed at a cost of \$885.00. After discussion, it was decided to check on aluminum benches instead.

Agenda Items for Joint City/Township Meeting

Supervisor Gast asked board members to let him know if they had any items for the joint City/Township meeting scheduled for October 29, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting to be held at the Township Hall. Superintendent of Bridgman Public Schools, Kevin Ivers will give the Bridgman Public Schools annual report. Stewart Beach requested that the looping of water mains from California Road to the high school be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Water Plant Training

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Stewart Beach, Lake Charter Township Water Plant Superintendent who presented to board members a Water Certification Review Course on October 24, 2007 and October 25, 2007 in Grand Rapids. Our new hire Jacob Vanderheyden will be able to obtain his F4 license. The cost is \$215.00 and he would drive the township vehicle. It was moved by Payne seconded by Geukes to approve \$215.00 for Jacob Vanderheyden to attend the Water Certification Review Course on October 24, 2007 and October 25, 2007 in Grand Rapids, which will allow him to obtain his F4 license. Six ayes, motion carried.

Set 2008 Budget Public Hearing

Supervisor Gast asked board members if Thursday, November 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. would be a good date to set the 2008 Budget Public Hearing. It was moved by Gast seconded by Payne to set the 2008 Budget Public Hearing for Thursday, November 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Six ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for November 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Utility Board meeting is scheduled for November 6, 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.

Lake Charter Township Hall Offices closed November 22, 2007 and November 23, 2007 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further objection and no further business it was moved by Payne seconded by Korcek to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Dated: _____

Gloria A. Payne, Clerk

Dated: _____

John Gast, Supervisor