

**MINUTES  
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING  
February 18, 2008  
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; Trustees William ABill@ Geukes, Terry Eichler, James Stine, Jr. and Tom Carson. Twelve visitors were present in the audience.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Korcek seconded by Geukes to approve the agenda with one deletion. All ayes, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*January 21, 2008 Board Meeting*

It was moved by Geukes seconded by Stine to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2008. All ayes, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

After a few explanations, it was moved by Eichler seconded by Geukes to approve the January 2008 Lake Charter Township bills in the amount of \$619,096.84. 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 of February 11, 2008; Galien River Sanitary Sewer Authority Agenda, budget and meeting minutes; Lake Township Park Committee meeting minutes; Bridgman Public Library meeting minutes; Medic 1 meeting minutes; Lake Charter Township Water Filtration Plant report; Lake Township Fund Balances for January 2008; Lake Township Fire and Rescue meeting minutes.

Indiana Michigan Power News Release; Copy of a letter from Comcast regarding franchise fees; A memorandum from Scott Cunningham setting March Board of Review dates; A letter from Richard Harris regarding the naming of Lake Anne.

Clerk Payne read a letter from the Bridgman Elementary School inviting all board members to a special breakfast to be held March 12, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to attend should let her know to make the reservation.

**REPORTS**

**A. Supervisor=s Report**

Supervisor Gast reported as follows:

- a. Attended the Galien River Sanitary District Authority meeting;
- b. Attended Chamber of Commerce meeting;
- c. Attended Construction meeting;
- d. Attended Economic Growth Alliance meeting;
- e. Attended Abonmarche meeting regarding the Public Safety Building;
- f. Chaired a Drain Board of Determination meeting;
- g. Attended the Library Board meeting;
- h. Met with agent from Western Insurance.

**B. Clerk=s Report**

Clerk Payne reported as follows:

- a. Attended the Southwestern Michigan Commission meeting;
- b. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- c. Prepared packets for candidates running for Bridgman School Board;
- d. Met with agent from Western Insurance.

C. Treasurer=s Report

Treasurer Korcek reported as follows:

- a.. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- b. Attended Berrien County Treasurers Association meeting;
- c. Attended Park Committee meeting.

American Electric Power made their tax payment and approximately \$3,000,000.00 has been invested in a Certificate of Deposit at Edgewater Bank receiving a 5.12% interest rate.

D. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Geukes reported the Planning Commission had no business on their agenda, however, they reviewed ordinances.

E. Water Superintendent=s Report

Water Plant Superintendent Stewart Beach reported they are progressing on the micro-filtration construction project. They are dealing with frozen and leaking meters.

F. GRSD Sewer Authority Report

Supervisor Gast reported payment #4 for the Franklin Lift Station is 97% complete and now at road level. Purchase of a rodder tool was approved to clean mains and manholes. Lift Station #1 had some maintenance work completed. Lift Station #35 at Gast and Snow Road had electronic problems replaced.

G. Police Department

Trustee Eichler reported no meeting was held in February.

H. Fire Department/Fire Chief

Trustee Eichler turned the floor over to Fire Chief Harold Heyn, he reported 25 calls were handled in the month of January. 20 medical and 5 fire. On February 27, 2008, a Storm Spotter Class will be held.

I. Park Report

Treasurer Korcek reported the Park Committee meeting discussed running an advertisement for two part-time people from April through October. Looked at options for weed spraying. Discussed constructing the dug-outs after baseball season in July. Need to purchase benches and bleachers. Reviewed a quote for the Pony field outfield fence. The Park Committee recommended that the rental fees for the park be increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00 for residents and \$75.00 for non-residents.

J. Library Report

Carol Siewert reported the Toth Street building hole is not yet filled. Roofing materials should be delivered by April 1, 2008. The library is holding a blood drive on March 5, 2008.

K. Cemetery Committee Report

Clerk Payne reported that three burials took place since our last board meeting.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Resolution for John=s Drain

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Roger Zilke, Berrien County Drain Commissioner who presented to board members a Resolution to request to authorize work on the John=s Drain. Mr. Zilke reported that the drain is on the border with Baroda Township and the drain runs from Russell Road to Snow Road. The length of the drain is less than four miles. Four property owners have requested work to be done on the drain. The amount allowed to spend on the drain is \$10,000.00 per year for maintenance of the drain. Since this is such a large drain that amount will not cover what needs to be done.

There are two avenues available to have work done on the drains. By petition and by resolution. Petitions drive the costs up 50%, due to having to bond, hire engineers and contractors. Resolutions assess everyone. There are 84 Baroda Township property owners and 44 Lake Township property owners. A day of review will be scheduled this Summer 2008. The assessment will be placed on the tax bills in December 2008 for payment in 2009. The split is Baroda Township 10% with 925 acres and Lake Township 15% with 654 acres. This discrepancy will be looked into at the time of review.

After a few questions and discussion, it was moved by Geukes seconded by Korcek to direct Supervisor Gast and Clerk Payne to sign the Resolution for maintenance to be performed on the Johns Drain #263. All ayes, motion carried.

#### Review of proposed 2008-2009 Police Budget

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Baroda-Lake Township Chief of Police Gary Ruhl. He directed board members= attention to the 2007-2008 budget which was \$348,276.26. The proposed 2008-2009 budget is \$355,917.00 representing a 2.14% increase. These figures include a 3% pay raise, and increase in insurance and fuel and oil. Another factor in raising the budget, was the 15% increase in complaints. Supervisor Gast indicated that \$185,000.00 was budgeted for Police Protection Expense in the 2008 Lake Charter Township Budget. After discussion, it was moved by Payne seconded by Geukes to approve the 2008-2009 Baroda-Lake Township Police budget for \$355,917.00 representing a 2.14% increase. All ayes, motion carried.

Baroda-Lake Township Chief of Police, Gary Ruhl informed board members that he wishes to add a full-time police officer in October 2008. John Hopkins is retiring from the Berrien County Sheriff=s Department and has expressed an interest in working for Baroda-Lake Township Police Department. The increase from each municipality would be \$11,195.88 for Lake Charter Township; \$9,294.69 for Baroda Township and \$633.74 from Baroda Village. This formula is comprised of the amount of complaints each municipality incurs. Chief Ruhl asked that board members ratify the budget for \$11,191.89 the cost to hire the additional full-time officer. John Hopkins will carry his health insurance from the County, so the cost of health insurance will be marginally less. Chief Ruhl pointed out that any drug forfeiture funds could be used to pay for all or part of the monies needed to fund the position. It was moved by Gast seconded by Eichler to approve the proposed budget amendment of \$11,191.89, Lake Charter Townships= share, upon notification of budget amendment, to hire Deputy John Hopkins to the Baroda-Lake Township Police Department. All ayes, motion carried.

#### 2008-2009 Medic One Budget Approval

Supervisor Gast directed board members= attention to the 2008-2009 Medic One Budget. Income is estimated at \$5,054,556.00. No change or increase for Lake Charter Townships portion of \$70,705.00 is proposed. After discussion, it was moved by Payne seconded by Geukes to approve the 2008-2009 Medic One Budget of which \$70,705.00 is Lake Charter Townships portion. All ayes, motion carried.

#### Automated External Defibrillators (AED=s) Purchase Up-Grade

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Lake Charter Township Fire Chief, Harold Heyn. Two quotes were presented, one from Code Red, Inc., for \$2,677.80 each and the other quote from Physio Control, for \$2,170.00. These AED=s deliver the charge in a successive manner and are fitted for adults and children. They are the upgrade that is required. Trustee Stine indicated that he further researched the product and is in agreement with the purchase of the upgraded units. It was moved by Stine seconded by Korcek to approve the purchase of three (3) Automated External Defibrillators for \$2,170.00 each, for a total cost of \$6,510.00. All ayes, motion carried.

#### 2007 Uncollectable Water/Sewer Accounts

Supervisor Gast presented to board members \$71.90 that represents 2007 uncollectable water/sewer accounts. Sandra Denman, Lake Charter Township Water Billing Clerk reported two individuals, Steve Towns \$18.00 and Rose Dover \$53.90 were deemed uncollectable. Supervisor Gast continued to applaud Ms. Denman for her tenacity in pursuing delinquent accounts. It was moved by Payne seconded by Geukes to approve \$71.90 as uncollectable for the 2007 water/sewer accounts. All ayes, motion carried.

Supervisor Gast also presented to board members the 2007 Water/Sewer Report on usage and charges. Lake Charter Township Water Plant Superintendent Stewart Beach, reported that 100 million gallons of water could not be accounted for. He is currently calibrating meters and will try and meter the Park and Cemetery=s usage. Also, the Cook Plant meter will be looked at. After discussion, it was moved by Geukes seconded by Stine to approve the report and place it on file. All ayes, motion carried.

Lighting Proposal Upgrade for Township Hall Offices

Supervisor Gast presented to board members six quotes from local vendors for the upgrade of the Lake Charter Township Hall offices retrofitting T-12 fixtures to T-8 electronic ballasts. He asked that board members review the materials and bring them to the Utility Board meeting on March 4, 2008 for action.

Compensation for Fire Department Representative

Supervisor Gast reminded board members of the conversation that took place at the Utility Board meeting regarding the request of Trustee Eichler to be compensated for attendance at the Fire Department meetings. Three options were proposed. Discontinue the position, since Lake Charter Township Fire Chief Harold Heyn is in frequent contact with Supervisor Gast. Rotate the position among all the elected officials, or continue the position paying a per diem of \$50.00 per meeting. Discussion ensued that there has always been a board member who attended the Fire Department meetings, to which both Chief Heyn and Firefighter Norm Zelmer indicated that there was a board representative, however, the representative did not attend the meetings, nor did they receive compensation to do so. It was moved by Gast seconded by Payne to elect to discontinue the position, since Lake Charter Township Fire Chief Harold Heyn comes to the board meetings and is in frequent contact with Supervisor Gast. Five ayes, (Gast, Payne, Korcek, Stine and Geukes) two nays (Carson and Eichler).

Scott 60 Minute Air Packs

Supervisor Gast presented to board members a quote from Argus Supply Company for Scott 60 Minute 4500 psi Carbon Cylinder Air Packs. If one to seven are purchased, the price is \$1,058.89 each, if eight to fourteen are purchased the price is \$968.32. Fire Chief Harold Heyn indicated that currently the Fire Department has 30 minute air packs and should there ever be a need to assist a fire at the Cook Plant, the 30 minute air packs wouldn=t even get you in the building. It was moved by Payne seconded by Korcek to approve the purchase of eight (8) Scott 60-Minute Air Packs for \$968.32 each for a total of \$7,746.56. All ayes, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carole Siewert asked how Chief Ruhl came up with the penny in his budget. Chief Harold Heyn announced that the Fire Department will participate in the funeral of Firefighter John Oldenburg who passed away Sunday, February 17, 2008. Supervisor Gast informed board members of a Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test, which will be brought up at the Utility Board meeting. Lake Charter Township Assessor, Scott Cunningham will bring more information.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.  
Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for March 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.  
Utility Board meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2008 at 12:00 Noon, Lake Charter Township Conference Room, Bridgman, Michigan.

**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 9:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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