

**MINUTES
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
March 17, 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 A Bill@ Geukes, Terry Eichler, James Stine, Jr. and Tom Carson. Five visitors were present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Eichler seconded by Payne to approve a change in the order of the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 18, 2008 Board Meeting

It was moved by Korcek seconded by Geukes to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2008. All ayes, motion carried.

March 4, 2008 Special Board Meeting

It was moved by Geukes seconded by Korcek to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2008. All ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

After a few explanations, it was moved by Stine seconded by Payne to approve the February 2008 Lake Charter Township bills in the amount of \$372,646.16. All ayes, motion carried.

Mast & Janca Drain Resolution

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Berrien County Drain Commissioner, Roger Zilke who reported that the Mast & Janca drain is plugged. A resolution must be passed by Lake Charter Township to allow Drain Commissioner Zilke to spend more than \$2,500.00 to make the necessary repairs. Commissioner Zilke has spoken with the railroad and with Technisand for monetary help. There are 15 people in the drainage district and Commissioner Zilke would like to avoid assessing the taxpayers on their 2008 winter tax bills. The purchase of a 6" vacuum trash pump by the county will help in this project. This pump will be available to all municipalities. The projected cost is \$75,000.00 for the repair of the 24" pipe. The worst case scenario would be that the county would have to pay for the repairs. However, with the conversations Commissioner Zilke has had with the railroad and Technisand, all are willing to share in the cost and share in getting the drain repaired.

After discussion, Supervisor Gast asked to forego reading of the Mast & Janca Drain Resolution. It was moved by Eichler seconded by Payne to approve the Resolution of the Mast & Janca Drain to allow the Drain Commissioner to spend more than \$2,500.00. 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 March 10, 2008; Galien River Sanitary Sewer Authority Agenda; Lake Township Park Committee meeting minutes; Bridgman Public Library meeting minutes; Medic 1 meeting minutes; Lake Charter Township Water Filtration Plant report; Lake Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals meeting minutes; 911 Advisory Committee meeting minutes; Lake Township Fire and Rescue meeting minutes.

Copy of a letter from Berrien County Rural Task Force; Copy of a letter from Berrien County Road Commission regarding Date Road Bridge over Keelo Creek; Copy of a letter from Berrien County Drain Commissioner regarding the Kaschube Branch Drain; Copy of a letter from the United States Board on Geographic Names naming Lake Anne.

REPORTS

A. Supervisor=s Report

Supervisor Gast reported as follows:

- a. Attended the 911 Advisory meeting;
- b. Attended Galien River Sanitary District Authority meeting;
- c. Attended Wine Trail meeting;
- d. Met with Abonmarche on numerous occasions;
- e. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- f. Attended Board of Review organizational meeting;
- g. Attended the Special Board meeting on the Public Safety Building;
- h. Attended the CEO meeting at Lincoln Township;
- i. Attended the Michigan Townships Association Capitol Conference in Lansing
- j. Attended Bridgman Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

B. Clerk=s Report

Clerk Payne reported as follows:

- a. Attended the Bridgman Chamber of Commerce breakfast;
- b. Attended the Bridgman Chamber of Commerce meeting;
- c. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- d. Attended the Economic Growth Alliance meeting;
- e. Attended the Michigan Townships Association Capitol Conference in Lansing;
- f. Attended the Special Board meeting on the Public Safety Building;
- g. Attended the Bridgman Elementary School breakfast.

C. Treasurer=s Report

Treasurer Korcek reported as follows:

- a.. Attended the Special Board meeting on the Public Safety Building;
- b. Attended Utility Board meeting;
- c. Attended Economic Growth Alliance meeting;
- d. Attended Steering Committee meeting;
- e. Attended Bridgman Chamber of Commerce breakfast;
- f. Attended the Michigan Townships Association Capitol Conference in Lansing

Collected \$4,896,560.07 in winter taxes. Collected \$15,339,362.30 in summer taxes. Planning to settle with the County of Berrien this week or early next week.

D. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Geukes reported the Planning Commission approved a special land use permit for 7349 Red Arrow Highway to rebuild his garage if destroyed over 50% and build a home to go with the garage.

E. Water Superintendent=s Report

Water Plant Superintendent Stewart Beach reported #2 Claricone is down for painting. The construction site is going well with both tanks passing the test. The micro-filtration equipment has been delivered. No main breaks have occurred, and problems and delays with right-of-ways in repairing the blue poly in Dunewood are being addressed.

F. GRSD Sewer Authority Report

Supervisor Gast reported no pay request was submitted this month. The inverted siphon is up and running and the lift station is on line. A proposal is being looked into to investigate lift station #6, #8, and #30 for either rebuild or repairs. The casino collection fee has not been collected, and they are being billed monthly with a percent fee. Overtime callouts included lift station #46 and #35.

G. Police Department

Trustee Eichler reported the 2008-2009 budget has been approved. A new part-time female officer has been hired.

H. Fire Department/Fire Chief

Fire Chief Harold Heyn reported 19 calls were handled in the month of February. 15 medical, 1 false alarm and 2 CO alarms. Chief Heyn reported that a despondent missing person call afforded them the use of the thermal imaging camera and they were able to find a minor on the lake, out about 200 feet in an ice cave. The individual lost his shoes and was barefoot, but they were able to rescue him and get him to the hospital.

The firefighters are scheduling a pancake breakfast in June.

I. Park Report

Treasurer Korcek reported the Park Committee meeting discussed irrigation for the soccer fields and baseball fields. Interviews were held this week and more interviews are scheduled.

J. Library Report

In the absence of Carol Siewert, Carol Richardson reported new lighting was installed over the video and DVD section of the library. The roof will be replaced by April 2008. The Library Board authorized purchasing an AED to be kept on sight. Training is scheduled for use of the AED.

K. Cemetery Committee Report

Clerk Payne reported that six burials took place since our last board meeting. The cemetery board meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

Cell Tower Contract Extension

Supervisor Gast reported on the cell tower contract extension with Crown Castle International Cell Tower Lease for an additional thirty (30) years in five (5) year increments. Language to require the removal of the tower and all sub-surface improvements in the event there is a default of more than six (6) months. It was moved by Gast seconded by Geukes to authorize and direct the Township Supervisor to execute the Letter of Agreement for and on behalf of the Township upon receipt of costs to date. All ayes, motion carried.

Out-Field Fencing for Pony League

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Treasurer Korcek who submitted a proposal from Wiltse Fencing to install a 230' linear foot, 6' high 9 gauge galvanized chain link fence, including 2 3" foul posts for \$2,991.00. It was moved by Korcek seconded by Payne to accept the proposal from Wiltse Fencing for an out-field fence for the Pony League. All ayes, motion carried.

Bleachers

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Treasurer Korcek who submitted a quote from Epic Sports for 4-row aluminum bleachers for \$1,299.99, plus shipping for the ball fields. After discussion it was moved by Korcek seconded by Geukes to accept the quote from Epic Sports for 4-row bleachers for \$1,299.99, plus shipping for the ball fields. All ayes, motion carried.

Large Trash

Supervisor Gast informed board members large trash pick-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 2008. This will be the last large trash curb side Reliable will furnish. They are going to a voucher system and will have residents bring their trash to Reliable and they will unload it.

Tire Collection

Supervisor Gast presented to board members a quote from Earl Maxwell for the Saturday, April 19, 2008 tire collection. \$1.25 for automobile tires; \$2.50 for light truck tires; \$6.00 for semi-truck tires; \$12.00 for tractor tires and \$30.00 for oversized tires. The inmates will be secured for that day, as well as a backhoe. Lunch to be provided. It was moved by Eichler seconded by Korcek to approve the quote from Earl Maxwell for the Saturday, April 19, 2008 tire collection. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for April 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.
Utility Board meeting is scheduled for April 1, 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 Stine to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Dated: _____

Gloria A. Payne, Clerk

Dated: _____

John Gast, Supervisor