

**Lake Township-Roscommon County
Regular Board Meeting
Teleconference
March 9, 2021 @ 7pm**

The Lake Township Board met on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 for a regular board meeting. Keith Stiles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America was recited.

Present: Keith Stiles - Supervisor, Pam Surprenant-Clerk, Harry Trier-Treasurer, Anthony Farhat-Trustee and David Russo Jr.-Trustee.

Motion: Russo Jr. to approve the March 9, 2021 agenda with one additional bill to MTA for \$90.00, financial update, and OEO/Attorney fees. **Second:** Trier. **Roll Call Vote:** Russo Jr.-yes, Surprenant-yes, Trier-yes, Farhat-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Motion: Russo Jr. to approve the February 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes. **Second:** Surprenant. **Roll Call Vote:** Surprenant-yes, Trier-yes, Farhat-yes, Russo Jr. - yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Motion: Farhat to approve the February 22, 2021 Special Board Meeting minutes. **Second:** Russo Jr. **Roll Call Vote:** Trier-yes, Farhat-yes, Russo Jr. - yes, Surprenant-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Motion: Stiles to approve the February 25, 2021 Special Board Meeting minutes. **Second:** Russo Jr. **Roll Call Vote:** Farhat-abstain, Russo Jr. - yes, Surprenant-yes, Trier-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Budget Amendments: None

Approval to Pay the Bills and Payroll Checks: Surprenant provided the public with the credit card distribution report as well as a report of all payroll and accounts payable checks, including descriptions, written since February 10, 2021. **Motion:** Surprenant to approve to pay the bills and payroll checks (checks #43230 through #43272). In addition, paying MTA \$90.00 for BOR training. **Second:** Stiles. Russo Jr. questioned bill from Fahey. **Roll Call Vote:** Surprenant-yes, Russo Jr.-no, Trier-yes, Farhat-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Financial Update: Trier stated the Trust & Agency and Checking account have been changed to non interest bearing accounts.

Old Business: Marihuana

Trier stated he felt the Marihuana Ordinance has been stalled for over a year. Trier spoke of the excise tax money that was recently published; 28k for one adult use provisioning center. Trier stated with new retail on M55 blight issues and appearance would be taken care of. Trier stated he would like to do what is needed to opt into Adult Use/Recreational Marihuana. Farhat stated received input from residents that are against Recreational, and no input for Recreational; and that is where I stand. Stiles stated he is leaning toward the revenue for the Township. Surprenant spoke of the revenue sharing being a benefit to the Township, and employment in retail sales locations. Russo Jr. stated he sees the benefits in adult use; but he is seeing all the letters against it, my position is torn.

Motion: Trier to have attorney draw up an Ordinance to repeal Ordinance 56 and opt into Recreational Marihuana. **Second:** Stiles. **Roll Call Vote:** Russo Jr.-no, Farhat-no, Trier-yes, Surprenant-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Board discussion; Trier explained attorney suggested one ordinance for medical and one ordinance for adult use. Ordinance has not been forwarded to attorney. **Motion:** Trier to change number of facilities to zero with two provisioning centers. No second motion falls to floor.

Motion: Trier to rescind motion allowing “2” under Section 3; item 2; a-g., Medical Marihuana. **Second:** Surprenant. **Roll Call Vote:** Farhat-abstain, Trier-yes, Surprenant-yes, Russo Jr.-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion is rescinded.**

Board discussion; question arises regarding number of provisioning centers with a plausible two ordinances. Trier to follow up with attorney for guidance.

New Business:

Supervisor Correspondence Stiles stated received correspondence relating to, short term rentals, Marihuana ordinance, street lights out and trash not being picked up. Everyone on board receives the emails.

Ordinance Amendments: Stiles spoke of Ordinance 9 relating to six foot fence with varying lot sizes. **Motion:** Stiles to have Planning Commission look at six foot fence on roadside of homes. **Second:** Trier. **Roll Call Vote:** Trier-yes, Farhat-no, Russo Jr. - yes, Surprenant-no, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Motion: Stiles to recommend to Planning Commission to allow two campers in AG with five acres or more. **Second:** Russo Jr. **Roll Call Vote:** Farhat-no, Russo Jr. - yes, Surprenant-yes, Trier-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Planning Commission Appointment: Stiles received one interested person in the position. Stiles opened up questions for applicant. **Motion:** Trier to appoint Pat Riss to the Planning Commission for three year term (3/31/21-3/31/24). **Second:** Farhat. **Roll Call Vote:** Farhat-yes, Russo Jr. - yes, Surprenant-yes, Trier-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Approval of FY 2020-2021 Home Office Rents Motion: Surprenant to pay home office rents for \$300.00 for FY 2020-2021 for Treasurer. **Second:** Russo Jr. **Roll Call Vote:** Surprenant-yes, Trier-abstain, Farhat-yes, Russo Jr.-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

ZBA Second Mileage Charge: **Motion:** Surprenant to approve pay for ZBA for second site visit. **Second:** Russo Jr. **Roll Call Vote:** Trier-yes, Farhat-yes, Russo Jr.-yes, Surprenant-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Rental of Hall: Farhat stated the Clerk is now working out of the hall and also due to Covid 19 not being completely eradicated, preference would be to not to rent the hall. **Motion:** Farhat to not allow renting of the township hall for the year 2021. **Second:** Trier. **Roll Call Vote:** Russo Jr.-yes, Farhat-yes, Surprenant-yes, Trier-yes, Stiles-yes. **Motion Carries.**

Capital Improvement Projects: Farhat spoke of the township master and recreational plans. Farhat mentioned hall, recycling, potential bridge over Muskegon River, Engineered Bike Trail and walking path at current hall location. Board discussion on recycling. Farhat volunteered to follow up with Republic on recycling.

Motion: Stiles to dissolve any previous committees related to new township hall and Surprenant volunteered three person advisory committee (1 from PC, 1 resident) with minutes and report information back to the board. **Second:** Farhat. **Roll Call Vote: Surprenant-yes, Russo Jr.-yes, Trier-no, Farhat-yes, Stiles-yes. Motion Carries.**

Farhat would like to have board review current bike path and reserve right to discuss in future.

Motion: Surprenant to have clerk's office research foot bridge over the Muskegon and provide information to the township board. **Second:** Russo Jr. **Roll Call Vote: Russo Jr.-yes, Trier-yes, Surprenant-yes, Farhat-yes, Stiles-yes. Motion Carries.**

Stiles spoke of walking path behind current township hall. Board discussion regarding signage, path coverage, cemetery extension, placement of recycling and hall.

Motion: Stiles to move ahead with survey \$800.00 and brush hog path not to exceed \$1,800.00, including signage. **Second:** Russo Jr. Farhat pointed out bid policy. **Roll Call Vote: Trier-no, Surprenant-no, Farhat-no, Russo Jr.-no, Stiles-no. Motion Fails.**

PO Box/Mail: Surprenant stated at the budget meeting the issue of having a PO Box came up, now that I am working at the hall could the bills be redirected to the township hall. Trier stated tax bills will remain going to the PO Box. **Motion:** Surprenant to change bills to the Michelson Road address. **Second:** Farhat. **Roll Call Vote: Russo Jr.-yes, Trier-yes, Surprenant-yes, Farhat-yes, Stiles-yes. Motion Carries.** Surprenant stated she would like to complete her statutory duty and pick up the mail from the post office. Surprenant to pick up mail from the post office; change addresses on bills; to reduce trips to the post office; Trier to pick up mail during busy tax times.

Township Support of County Resolution 2021-02-01: Motion: Stiles to support Roscommon County Resolution 2021-02-01 Support Local Businesses and Covid 19 Vaccine. **Second:** Trier. **Roll Call Vote: Trier-yes, Surprenant-yes, Farhat-yes, Russo Jr.-yes, Stiles-yes. Motion Carries.**

Annual Meeting Date: Stiles stated meeting will be March 27, 2021, 10:00 am, at the Lake Township Fire Hall, 13473 W. Shore Drive, Houghton Lake, Michigan.

OEO/Attorney Policy: Russo Jr. discussed attorney bill and OEO report. Russo Jr. feels the attorney approval should come to the township board. Currently the supervisor gives permission for board etc. to speak with the attorney, if there is a review or a extended process than that would be a different. Should we look at a dollar amount. A lot of money is spent on attorney correspondence and I am concerned about that. Stiles stated attorney fees as line item on the budget has his attention. Trier concerned over cost of pursuing short term rentals. Farhat stating setting a limit would be difficult, as a board we voted to support the ordinance, entrust our OEO, ZBA and PC to do their jobs, I would expect some high fees in the beginning. Keep it all in prospective, we don't

know how much they will bill for different analysis. Let's find out what we have spent in these different areas and talk to attorney to get an estimate on how much it will cost. Russo Jr. feels the policy we have now is not working.

Public Comment: Comments received regarding six foot fence, disappointed board member insinuated delay by Planning Commission getting Ordinance written, street lights and Marihuana.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Surprenant, Lake Township Clerk

www.lake-township.com

Approved at LTRM April 13, 2021

