

**MINUTES
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
February 20, 2018
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; Robert Clark, Treasurer; Trustees Nancy Mensinger, Patricia L. Heyn, James Stine Jr., and John Wilk. Nine visitors were present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. The agenda stands as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Rose, 11760 Holden Road, Baroda, Michigan. Spoke about the boat ramp in the City of Bridgman at Weko Beach. Lake Township could be a good neighbor and help out a neighbor when they are in need. We have a Recreation fund and some of that money could go toward helping the City with the boat ramp.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 16, 2017

With one correction, it was moved by Heyn seconded by Wilk to approve the January 16, 2018 meeting minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

With a few explanations, it was moved by Clark seconded by Payne to approve the bills of January 2018 in the amount of \$477,934.73. All ayes, motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE PACKET

Lake Charter Township account balances for January 2018.

Michigan Townships Insights.

2017 Water Billing Report.

A copy of a check from Comcast for franchise fees.

A copy of a concerned citizen regarding junk cars on Cedar Lane.

REPORTS

1Supervisor's Report

Attached.

Clerk's Report

Attached.

Treasurer's Report

Attached.

Planning Commission Report

Meeting minutes are on file in the Township Hall offices.

Water Plant Report

Attached.

Jeff Burkhard, Lake Charter Township Water Plant Superintendent reported the pumpage is up four million gallons. A main break occurred on California Road.

GRSD Sewer Authority Report

Galien River Sanitary District meeting minutes attached.

Police Department

Baroda-Lake Township Police Board meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2018.

Fire Department Report

None.

Park Committee Report

No meeting held.

Library Report

Bridgman Public Library Board of Directors meeting minutes attached.

Cemetery Committee Report

Attached.

Building Department Report

Building Department report for 2017 attached.

Lake Township Economic Growth Alliance Report

Makers Trail Festival is June 9, 2018 at Weko Beach.

Medic One Report

Medic One meeting minutes attached.

Utility Committee Report

Attached.

Capital Improvement Report

No meeting held.

Zoning Board of Appeals Report

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets March 8, 2018.

AGENDA ITEMS

Public Hearing - Apollo Seiko Tax Abatement Request

Supervisor Gast reported that a call for a public hearing needs to be set for March 20, 2018 to hear the request for a tax abatement by Apollo Seiko.

It was moved by Payne seconded by Mensinger to set the public hearing for March 20, 2018 to hear the request for a tax abatement by Apollo Seiko. All ayes, motion carried.

Final Pay Request - Ballistic Barrier

Supervisor Gast brought board members attention to the final pay request from McGuire's for the installation of the ballistic barrier in the amount of \$15,107.50.

It was moved by Gast seconded by Clark to approve final payment of \$15,107.50 to McGuire's for the ballistic barrier in the Lake Charter Township hall offices. All ayes, motion carried.

Republic Services Trash Contract

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Bob DeOrsey from Republic Services who reported the trash contract would remain at the current rate for the 96-gallon cart, \$3.40 for recycling and \$22.00 for drop off vouchers until March of 2019, then after that, year one rate \$11.91 for the 96-gallon cart, \$4.00 per month for recycling and \$23.00 for drop off vouchers, then year two rate \$12.39 per month for 96 gallon cart, \$4.16 for recycling and \$24.00 for drop off vouchers.

After discussion, it was moved by Gast seconded by Stine to approve the proposed renewal of the current agreement as follows: \$11.91 for the 96-gallon cart, \$3.40 for recycling and \$22.00 for drop off vouchers until March of 2019, then after that, year one rate \$11.91 for the 96-gallon cart, \$4.00 per month for recycling and \$23.00 for drop off vouchers, then year two rate \$12.39 per month for 96 gallon cart, \$4.16 for recycling and \$24.00 for drop off vouchers. All ayes, motion carried. (Copy of Agreement attached).

Water Plant Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent

Supervisor Gast reminded board members the six-month interim period for the Water Plant Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent has now lapsed.

After discussion, it was moved by Gast seconded by Payne to keep the Water Plant Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent in place and continue with the Operational structure. (Copy attached). Further, allowing the Superintendent to step on the salary progression table to Grade 14, Year 2 and the Assistant Superintendent to step on the salary progression table to Grade 13 Year 2. All ayes, motion carried.

Attorney Services

Supervisor Gast informed board members that our current Lake Charter Township Attorney, Scott Dienes has accepted a position with Barnes and Thornburg, a Grand Rapids law firm. It is necessary to decide whether we keep Scott Dienes as our attorney, keep the law firm Scott was with, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, or go out for bid. After discussion, this agenda item was tabled to obtain fee structures.

Janitorial Services

Supervisor Gast asked board members to discuss whether we continue with our current janitorial services contractually or whether we decided to make the position an employee of Lake Charter Township.

Trustee Pat Heyn expressed that we indicated that the board said we would not make the janitorial position an employee of the Township as it had been in the past.

Clerk Payne commented that we need to remember that we after we decide to hire contractual services, the two contractors were horrible. The hall was left in a shambles and flies were on the window sills, trash was not being taken out. So why, when we have an individual who is doing a good job, wouldn't we want to reward them. Our personnel policies speak to only offering health, dental and vision insurance. That isn't giving away the farm.

Trustee Stine agreed with Trustee Heyn, and indicated that we could address this situation again in the future.

Trustee Wilk agreed that with Trustee Heyn, we should leave it as a contractual position.

Trustee Mensinger agreed with Trustee Heyn that we should continue with the janitorial contract.

Supervisor Gast wished to make the position an employee with Lake Charter Township.

Treasurer Clark indicated that he believes that an employee would have more of a commitment to the Township versus a contractor. The janitor has proven to be very dedicated and dependable and honest. These are important qualities for an individual who might see sensitive information that could be lying on a desk in the hall offices. The janitor has proven to go above and beyond what is expected of her.

It was moved by Heyn seconded by Mensinger to continue the janitorial contract. Roll call vote: Gast No; Payne No; Clark No; Heyn yes; Wilk yes; Stine yes; Mensinger yes. Motion carried.

1992 Backhoe

Supervisor Gast reported Baroda Village has expressed interest in purchasing our 1992 backhoe. The appraisal by Michigan CAT, indicated that the value of the unit is approximately \$22,679.00. If Baroda Village offered an amount for consideration by the time our new unit arrives, we would like board approval to sell the 1992 backhoe to Baroda Village.

It was moved by Clark seconded by Gast to approve selling the 1992 backhoe to Baroda Village, if offered an amount for consideration by the time our new unit arrives, no less than \$22,000.00. All ayes, motion carried.

Upgrade Estimate Generator Electric Switch

Supervisor Gast brought board members attention to the letter from Ibid County Electric, Inc., quoting installation of an electrical feed between the main water plant and the membrane side of the water plant, in the amount of \$35,000.00.

This ensures that if the incoming utility service and the generator were to fail during an outage in the main water plant area, a series of switches could be manually operated to feed power from the membrane side of the water plant to the main water plant. This feed will be installed to feed the membrane side of the water plant to the main water plant, if desired, and under proper direction it could also be used to back feed from the main water plant to the membrane side of the water plant. Price includes 400 amp disconnect with fuses, 400 amp circuit breaker, conduit, wiring, miscellaneous fittings and hangers.

It was moved by Wilk seconded by Heyn to accept the quote from Ibid County Electric Inc., for installation of an electrical feed between the main water plant and the membrane side of the water plant in the amount of \$35,000.00. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Harold Heyn wished to convey, since Berrien County Commissioner Terri Freehling was in the audience whether the Gast Road culvert could be fixed sooner, since there is a Nursing Home on Gast Road. Ms. Freehling indicated she would look into the matter.

Terri Freehling reported Jason Latham as the new Berrien County Road Department Director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for March 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

A meeting regarding the Weko Beach boat ramp is scheduled for March 5, 2018 6:30 p.m., Bridgman City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, Michigan.

A Berrien County Board meeting will be held at Weko Beach House on April 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., 5239 Lake Street, 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 8:34 p.m.

Dated: _____

Gloria A. Payne, Clerk

Dated: _____

John Gast, Supervisor