

**MINUTES
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING**

August 18, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Electronic meeting via zoom, per Governor Whitmer's Order

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order, via Zoom, by Supervisor John Gast at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a total of sixty (60) guests attending via Zoom.

Supervisor Gast read the agenda and meeting procedure. (A copy of this is attached).

ROLL CALL

Clerk Payne called the roll. Board members present were John Gast, Supervisor; Gloria Payne, Clerk; Robert Clark, Treasurer; John Wilk, Trustee; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee; and Pat Heyn, Trustee. James Stine, Jr., Trustee was absent. A quorum of the board was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Gast asked the board if there were any additions/deletions to the agenda. There were none. The agenda stands as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Howard, 420 East Front Street, Traverse City, Michigan a lawyer for the Lake Front Preservation Group informed board members that a petition against the installation of revetments with 323 signatures on it is circulating. Nine residences have applied for permits. Something has to be done about high lake levels. Scientists say sea walls and revetments destroy the habitat and degrade beaches. Professor Guy Meadows cautions, waves create turbulence, stirs sediment, blocks access to the water and stone and rip rap have negative effects on the shoreline.

The township needs to heed the voice of the 323 signatures and oppose the use of revetments. The City of Bridgman at their Monday night board meeting on August 17, 2020 adopted a Resolution to not disturb the shoreline.

Alternatives to revetments include 3' x 50' geo tubes filled with sand and placed on the beach which protects the beach. Once the lake levels recede, it's just a matter of removing the geo tubes.

With regard to septic systems, it is a matter of relocating the septic system on the land to the side of the house, rather than on the lake side. Upgrading a septic system will help function better as well.

We ask that you pay attention to the scientists. Work through the denial process.

Gene Schoon, 4970 East Kevin, Bridgman, Michigan commented, he is the President of the Woodland Shores Beach Association. He asks that we support the petition and everything Mr. Howard has said. This is a very important issue, and there are deep concerns and emotional connections to people. Again, the City of Bridgman recognized its value and passed a Resolution that expressed the sentiments of many people. Thank you for your attention to this matter and taking responsibility. We appreciate what the City of Bridgman did and Chikaming Township, as well.

Mary Kay Steel, Wildwood Drive, Bridgman, Michigan commented the lakeshore is irreplaceable. She appreciates the Preservation Group and what they are doing regarding the problems we are facing. Listen to the science and have a responsibility to preserve the blessed restful place that is Lake Michigan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 22, 2020

It was moved by Wilk seconded by Heyn to approve the July 22, 2020 meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee Yes and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

After alerting board members to an amended set of July bills, it was moved by Clark seconded by Wilk to approve the July bills in the amount of \$889,976.75. Roll Call Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee Yes and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE PACKET

Lake Charter Township account balances for July 2020.

Michigan Townships Insights.

Michigan Township Voice

Copy of a check from Worker's Compensation for a Group Dividend.

A copy of a letter from James Jasper thanking Supervisor Gast for his recommendation. James Jasper passed his Board of Review and is now an Eagle Scout.

Copy of a letter from Faith Schoon regarding the rock revetments.

Supervisor's Report

Attached.

Clerk's Report

Attached.

Treasurer's Report

Attached.

Planning Commission Report

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission Meeting minutes are on file in the Township Hall offices.

Water Plant Report

Attached.

GRSD Sewer Authority Report

GRSD Sewer Authority meeting minutes of June 24, 2020 are attached.

Police Department

Baroda-Lake Township Police Board meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2020.

Fire Department Report

None.

Park Committee Report

Attached.

Library Report

Bridgman Public Library board meeting minutes of August 18, 2020 are attached.

Cemetery Committee Report

Attached.

Building Department Report

None.

Lake Township Economic Growth Alliance Report

Attached.

Medic One Report

Medic One meeting minutes of June 25, 2020 are attached.

Utility Committee Report

Attached.

Capital Improvement Report

No meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals Report

The Lake Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2020.

AGENDA ITEMS

Holden Road Resolution Sober & Decker Drain #476

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Berrien County Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin. He directed board members to the resolution included in the board packet. This is to fund the reconstruction of the culvert under Holden Road, in the Decker Drain system. The funding to be shared by 1/3rd with the Berrien County Road Department; 1/3rd Berrien County Drain Commissioner and 1/3 spread out over the drain district. Lake Charter Township's portion is \$77,983.50. A copy of the project is attached.

It was moved by Wilk seconded by Mensinger to approve the Resolution for reconstruction of the culvert under Holden Road, in the Decker Drain system. Lake Charter Township's portion totaling \$77,983.00. Roll Call Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee Yes and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Motion carried.

Amendment of Zoning Ordinance

Supervisor Gast brought board members attention an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance "Medical and Elderly Hardship Conditions" (Copy Attached). The Lake Charter Township Planning Commission has worked on this and held a public hearing for comments. The Berrien County Planning Commission also concurred with the Lake Charter Township Planning Commission.

It was moved by Wilk, seconded by Heyn to, upon publication, approve the Lake Charter Township Zoning Ordinance amendment for "Medical and Elderly Hardship Conditions." Roll Call Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee Yes and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Motion carried.

Exercise Equipment for Baroda-Lake Township Public Safety Building

Supervisor Gast reported, after having heard comments, opinions and discussions with board members, it would be better to address this issue during the 2021 budget meetings. It was moved by Gast seconded by Heyn to discuss this agenda item, during the compilation of the 2021 budget. Roll Call Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee Yes and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Motion carried.

Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors LLC Invoice

Supervisor Gast brought to board members' attention the invoice of Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC, in the amount of \$16,000.00, who offered their professional services regarding a water and sewer rate study. An explanation of the work done, is attached to these minutes. Treasurer Clark thanked Jeff Burkhard, Water Plant Superintendent and Toban Riley, Assistant Water Plant Superintendent for their input. Further, Treasurer Clark commented that it is best to have a professional who can back up why the need for any kind of increase.

It was moved by Payne seconded by Heyn to approve the invoice of \$16,000.00 from Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC for their work done on the water and sewer rate study. Roll Call Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee Yes and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Hellenkamp, 9060 Lakeway Lane, Bridgman, Michigan commented she is in favor of revetments. She pursued a proper permit to build on the lot in the critical dune, 208 feet between their home and the water's edge. Twenty two years there has been a rock revetment and there were no complaints. We were just protecting our home.

John Froberg commented that his grandmother named "Dunewood" it is not a revetment, it is a pile of rip rap which lowers the property values. There is no oversight over the construction, digging close to 8' below. The Lake will recede. The house can be moved back 40' and geo tubes are a suggested method.

Ruth Skidmore, 99 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, represents individual owners in their building efforts to build revetments. She commented, instead of revetments, moving structures is not feasible. She asked that the Township allow EGLE and the Army Corp of Engineers to do their job.

Pamela Baumgartner, 9455 Big Beach Trail, Bridgman commented that there is drone footage from northern Indiana up to Ludington and you can see what has happened. A hard revetment 20 years ago was different. Since that time, science has shown these structures do not last. Build a swimming pool to people will come to the community. Mother Nature wins. Hard revetments are more of a problem that a solution. Pay close attention to Scott Howard who represents 373 voices. It might not be popular, but it is least invasive.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for September 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled for September 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Joint City of Bridgman/Lake Charter Township Meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

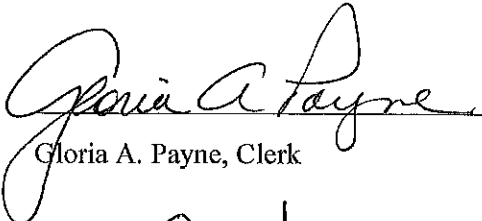
Lake Charter Township Hall offices are closed, Monday, September 7, 2020, in observance of Labor Day

ADJOURNMENT

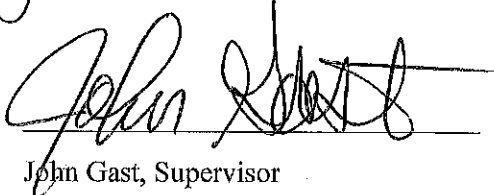
With no further objection and no further business it was moved by Payne seconded by Clark to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee Yes and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Dated: August 25, 2020


Gloria A. Payne, Clerk

Dated: 8-25-2020


John Gast, Supervisor