

Township of Lake

Huron County, Michigan
Minutes of June 16, 2008

Supervisor Kelterborn called the regular meeting of the Lake Township Board to order at 7:30 P.M. Present were Kelterborn, Fischer, McCallum, Hyzer and Remer along with approximately 38 guests.

Kelterborn suspended the regular order of business in order to allow those in attendance time to present their petition regarding the sewer study. Gerry Simmons presented petitions signed by 459 township residents requesting the township board terminate their efforts to bring sewers to Lake Township.

Kelterborn applauded their efforts but emphasized that the sewer study was only a study and the township board is not making any effort to install sewers. He asked whether anyone had contacted any of the five board members to find out whether sewers were being discussed. Kelterborn continued to explain the ordinance drafted by the septic committee for maintenance of onsite waste systems. He asked those in attendance whether they would support an ordinance requiring maintenance of onsite systems if that was the recommendation of the septic committee. Comments were heard from the following individuals in addition to Gerry Simmons:

David Brady
Don Vandenberghe
Julia Strieter
Tim Lalley
Dick Green
Larry Crews
Walt Kloc
Paul Beck
Bob Siver
Bill Vondette
Larry Schuldt

Several questions were asked about the ordinance, such as what would happen if someone recently had their septic system replaced, if there was not enough room on the property for a new system, what constitutes an inspection, who would do the inspection, to whose criteria would the system need to comply and how many septic systems are actually failing within Lake Township. Kelterborn read the letter written by Dale Lipar from the Huron County Health Department included in the sewer study.

Paul Beck asked about an ordinance for inspections of septic systems at the time of selling or buying and stated he is in favor of such an ordinance. Several others stated it should be a county ordinance and up to the Huron County Health Department. Larry Crews stated that there are no shoreline properties in Lake Township that could meet the standards of 100' from the water and it is the board's directive to push people into installing sewers.

Kelterborn mentioned how water quality concerns have precipitated the formation of the Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative and several studies, including the Pinnebog Watershed Project. He asked Remer to relate her experience at the MTA annual convention in January.

Remer described a seminar she attended given by a man from the DEQ who described problems statewide with sanitation pollution and toxic waste and the fact that there is no money to clean it up. Slides showing rivers, lakes and polluted holes left behind by businesses. Remer said the presenter was in tears by the time he finished and in showing a satellite view of Michigan said we are destroying it.

Kelterborn stated that things are never going to change unless we start at the local level.

There were additional concerns raised, such as the cost of the inspection and who would have to pay that and concern about requiring inspections for septic tanks will lead to other types of inspections when selling.

Bob Siver mentioned that the Health Department is economically in the same position as many businesses, is considering layoffs, and is scrambling just to keep up with the basics. He further stated that paying for an inspection is a cost attached to owning a home and living in a community. Larry Crews agreed but stated it doesn't make sense if it's only in Lake Township. Bob Siver responded that it would be a start and maybe we would be a model to others.

At 8:30 Kelterborn continued with the prepared agenda.

Minutes of May 19, 2008. Lou Bushey asked that the minutes be corrected to say "Chandler Township residents on the road have to pay for 10% of the cost of blacktop." Motion by Remer to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by McCallum. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Motion by Hyzer to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Remer. Motion carried.

Agenda. Motion by Fischer to approve the agenda, seconded by Remer. Motion carried.

Correspondence.

Letter of May 21, 2008 letter from Richard and Susan Romain to Agri-Valley and May 28, 2008 letter from Agri-Valley to Richard and Susan Romain read. Agri-Valley representatives Bob Reynolds and Barb Main had no comment.

June 2, 2008 letter from FEMA read. Floodplain ordinance will need to be updated.

June 9, 2008 letter from Harry and Helen Kirk read regarding sewers.

Communication from Michigan Department of Community Health regarding a new WaterWatch program read.

No additional petitions.

New Business:

Tree clean up. Motion by Remer to have JP's Tree Service clean up fallen tree limbs for \$125.00, seconded by Fischer. Motion carried.

Hall Cleaning Rate Increase Request. Motion by Fischer to approve \$5.00 increase as requested, seconded by Remer. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Planning Commission Appointment. Kelterborn recommended reappointing Lou Colletta. Hyzer suggested Paul Golsch. Kelterborn stated he has not interviewed Paul Golsch for the planning commission position and that Lou Colletta would like to continue with the planning commission. Motion by McCallum to reappoint Colletta, seconded by Remer. Fischer and Hyzer opposed. Motion carried.

Ethics Policy. Board members were given copies of policies adopted by other municipalities to review.

Comments:

Pat Przystup mentioned a rumor going around about a new township hall. Kelterborn mentioned that the board has discussed renovations of the current hall and the purchase of the Gott's Corner store for additional space.

Frank Konke asked about the zoning amendment defining a bedroom as anything over 70 square feet. Tim Lalley stated that he hopes it will be on the next planning commission agenda for further discussion and the reason it was even brought up was due to people building and/or renovating houses with undersized septic systems. He stated that the township needs some type of oversight.

Kelterborn read a letter from the Huron County Health Department to a property owner whose property could not accommodate a septic system for the number of bedrooms being proposed in a new home.

Jim Simmons asked whether the county has the final say. Kelterborn responded that the Health Department will honor the township's zoning regulations. Kelterborn further stated that state officials have said that the only way things will change is if it is instituted at the local level.

Bob Siver expressed that he doesn't believe the purpose of these changes is to punish people, although some may feel that way.

Paul Golsch asked whether seasonal cottages need as large a septic as year round homes considering they are only used on a limited basis.

Additional comments regarding basis for determining size of system and concerns about porches or other rooms not typically bedrooms being considered a bedroom because they meet the definition of a bedroom.

Payment of bills: Motion by Remer, seconded by Fischer to pay bills. Motion carried.

Motion by Fischer to adjourn, seconded by Hyzer. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Valerie McCallum, Clerk

Approved at a Township Board meeting held on the ____ day of July, 2008.

Clay Kelterborn, Supervisor