

Lake Township, Roscommon County  
March 26th, 2022  
Annual Meeting of the Electors  
Minutes

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The Lake Township Supervisor, Keith Stiles along with Trustee David Russo Jr. met alongside residents/electors on Saturday March 26th, 2022 at 11:00am. The meeting took place at the Lake Township Hall 1380 Michelson Rd. Houghton Lake, MI 48629 with 25 Electors attending. Electors were verified at the door by their driver's license. Keith Stiles called the meeting to order at 11:00am. The Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America was recited.

**Motion:** George Mika to approve the March 26th, 2022 agenda. **Second:** John Hibbard. Voice Vote taken. **Majority in Favor. Motion Passes.**

Kirstie Russo, Deputy Supervisor, read to the Residents what qualifies you to be an Elector of the Township. (MCL 41.102)

Lake Township Clerk Pamela Surprenant was absent, and Deputy Clerk Rhonda Cassabon was absent. In the absence of the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk fulfills the duties of the Clerk. If the Deputy Clerk is not present, the Electors select a person to take the minutes. **Motion:** Al Harper to have Kirstie Russo, Deputy Supervisor, to take the minutes. **Second:** Cindy Russo. Voice Vote taken. **Majority in Favor. Motion Passes.**

Kirstie Russo read the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Electors.

**Motion:** Sharon Mika to approve the March 27th, 2021 Annual Meeting of the Elector Minutes. **Second:** Al Harper. Voice Vote taken. **Majority in Favor. Motion Passes.**

**Supervisor's Report :**

Keith Stiles discussed Marihuana Facilities, Short Term Rentals. Supervisor Stiles elaborated we are still enforcing no short term rentals in the Township. The recommended budget is less than what we spent last year. We have about 2.2 million dollars in the bank. Stiles asked the Electors if he could do an informal vote of the people since there was a good crowd. Stiles explained to the Electors there are 2 facilities allowed, but a 3rd facility who did not get a license was suing the Township.

Stiles also explained it could cost the Township a lot of money fighting this case, upwards of 6 figures. Residents asked why they are suing. Stiles said he does not know the fact for sure and could not say much about the case. A resident asked what the attorney recommendation was. Stiles said that he could not discuss that. Another Resident is concerned with other facilities suing the Township. Stile said without releasing anymore details would you want the Township to spend big money to prevent this. Kirstie Russo said she would like to say something before Stiles asked. K. Russo felt it was unfair to ask the residents this question without them knowing all the details of the case. K. Russo also said I don't believe you can give any more details out. Stiles said he thought if he could get a quick consensus, if not we can move on. Another Resident questioned how did the Township decide we were getting 2. Was it a State law? Stiles answered it was a Board decision to allow 2 Facilities with an Ordinance. Stiles answered the Resident he doesn't believe it was a State law as to how many you can allow. Stiles reiterated our Ordinance does allow them to add a 3rd facility, if the Board changed the Ordinance. Another Resident stated if you only allow 2, then go to court and fight. Another Resident said I think it is time for the Board to follow the Ordinance as written. If you have an Ordinance for 2 then you have an Ordinance for 2. You have an obligation to abide by that. Several residents agreed to that point. Stiles stated since Taxpayer money could be spent against this, that is why he wanted to see if he could get a little consensus. Stiles also stated this could be the biggest thing being spent money wise for the Township today. Another Resident said the Marihuana Ordinance was approved by the Township attorney and the procedure on how these facilities were going to be picked. Our Ordinance only allows for 2 facilities. If our Township Attorney's can't stand up for us and win this case then I think the Township needs to look for new attorneys. Several Residents in the crowd agreed. Stiles asked for a quick show of hands if the Township should battle this case. All the Electors in the room raised their hands. Stiles said this could potentially put a Capital Improvement project on hold. Residents questioned if they could go after Attorney money back from this case, Stiles agreed that is an option. Another resident said Capital Improvement is important to them and the Township could ask for a millage for Capital Improvements. Stiles thanked the Residents for their input.

### **Salary Resolutions:**

Stiles told the Electors he is not asking for an increase. The wage is \$22,100. Stiles stated he appointed a Deputy Supervisor and does not feel he needs a raise. Stiles stated the Clerk is requesting a \$2,000 raise from \$22,100 to \$24,100. **Motion:** Cindy Russo to not approve the raise for the Clerk. **Second:** Bruce Olson. Discussion. Residents inquired about Township benefits. A resident questioned how many hours a week. Another Resident said you know the wage when you run, if you are not happy

with it, then don't run. Another resident asked if the budget could support this raise. Stiles answered the Resident yes we do. A resident asked why the raise is this much. Another resident said they feel this resolution is inappropriate due to the Clerk resigning. Voice Vote taken. **Majority in Favor. Motion Passes.**

K. Russo offered the resolution on the Supervisor Salary asked the floor for action.

**Motion:** Al Harper to increase the Supervisor's salary \$1,000 a year. **No second.**

**Motion fails. Motion:** David Russo Sr. to keep all the salaries the same for Supervisor (\$22,100), Treasurer (\$22,100), Clerk (\$22,100), Trustee's ( \$5,077.68) **Second:** Bruce Olson. Voice Vote taken. **Majority in Favor. Motion Passes.**

### **Public Comment:**

A resident made a comment about Short Term Rentals- she believes it looks like the State is going to pass this. She would like the Township to regulate Short Term Rentals through a permit process, yearly inspections. Another Resident commented about regulations, as to what the Township should be regulating. A comment was made by another Resident saying it hasn't passed yet. She got a petition with 362 signatures against Short Term Rentals. She also stated it will be sent to an attorney in the next day or so. Bruce Olson introduced himself and said he was a little embarrassed for Supervisor Stiles. You have 4 other officers that don't have the courage to show up and respect your position and respect the Township. That is extremely embarrassing for me as a Member of this Township. David Russo Jr. was pointed out by a resident for Olson. Olson said as far as I am concerned the ones that didn't show up have no respect. Olson stated rumor has it they are going to try and recall you. Bruce Olson commented on the fact why can't they work together. He reads the minutes and newspaper. How can we support the Township when other Board members can't support themselves. You work for us, he stated. Olson commented when he was Land Use Officer and the Short Term Rental issues he had. Olson also commented how current Ordinance Enforcement Officer is out of compliance, he can't even keep his own paperwork correct and still isn't done. Another Resident made a comment that the Land Use Officer needs to be fired. Olson said people will remember this at election time. Olson said it is an absolute disgrace when important people need to be here to hear what the Township residents have to say instead they will read it in the paper. Another resident made a comment about asking for a raise then not even showing up. Supervisor Stiles pointed out David Russo Jr., Trustee was sitting in the back at the table. Another resident commented about Clerk not showing up but asking for a raise. Several residents thanked Bruce Olson for his comments. Another resident commented for the 3 that are missing I would like to see how they vote on everything, it looks like it is a pow wow

over there. Another resident said they do not understand that. Stiles thanked everyone for coming out.

**Meeting Adjourned 11:55AM**

**Subject to Correction and Approval.**

**Respectfully Submitted;**

**Kirstie Russo**

**Deputy Supervisor**