

Town of Lake Holcombe
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2022 @ Lake Holcombe Town Hall

Chairman Guthman called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Chairman Brian Guthman, Supervisor Doug Olson, Supervisor David Staudacher, Treasurer Jim Mataczynski, Clerk Tracey Larson were in attendance and a quorum was established. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Doug motioned to approve the previous meetings minutes and Dave seconded. Motion passed. Dave motioned to approve the treasurers report and Doug seconded. Motion passed

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Brian attended the Fire and EMS Banquet and talked more on the satellite fire station. He thanked the Cornell Fire Department, Sheldon Fire Department, Cornell EMS, the town crew and multiple other community members for help with clean up of the storm. Paving of 276th Ave is tentatively scheduled for June 20th with shouldering two weeks after that. The Town of Ruby has asked to purchase 100 yards of gravel for Rangeline Road where Ruby would match that amount. Ben thinks that amount is overkill and our gravel supplies are getting low so he will talk with them.

PUBLIC COMMENT: It was requested that a Curve Sign be added at the corner of 276th Street and 273rd Street going around the corner by the school and playground.

DISCUSSION/ACT ON PROPOSED LHIA ORDINANCES: Brian discussed that as far as the ordinances go he can't see where there is a public health hazard due to the campgrounds. There was much discussion back and forth between the board and public. Pat Viergutz spoke and stated that the ordinacnes can be modified. He also stated that the ordinances were not meant to refer to existing campgrounds but to new ones. Pat also talked about how they have partnered with the DNR on starting a Liaison Program for education. They already have around town life jacket kiosks, and other boater safety info9rmatino and this is stated on their website. The Town of Willard and Town of Birch Creek already have campground ordinances and they would like for us to have one also. This is just a starting point. Doug Olson spoke up and read a letter he drafted regarding his stance on the matter (attached at end of minutes). Darrell Hornick asked to table the matter for now and gather more information and work together to try to remedy the problem. Larry Becker agrees with Doug Olson but stated he wants to see a comprehensive plan put into place before any talk of a campground or any other ordinance should be visited. Bill Stimeling asked for a motion to table the issue until a later date. Doug stated he will not make a motion. Dave made a motion to place it on the table. The motion died from lack of a second.

The owners of Silent Waters spoke at the end of the meeting regarding the ordinances and stated that they are inspected every year by the Chippewa County Public Health and that only 50-60% of their campers use the lake. They thanked the board on how they handled it because they were against the ordinances.

ROSE BAIER – CHIPPEWA COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS: Rose Baier spoke about the Crime Stoppers organization and how it came to form and what it is. Scott Sullivan, President of the Crime Stoppers group, spoke about the Methamphetamine epidemic everywhere and this was organized to try to help combat that and other public safety issues. The board gave them permission to hang signs in town with a completely anonymous number to call to report crimes. They offer rewards for helping solve a crime.

REVIEW TOWN ORDINANCES: Tracey presented the board with suggestions on revisions of Chapters 1 and 3 of the Town Ordinances. The board will review them and report back at the next meeting.

APPROVE RENEWAL BEER/LIQUOR, TOBACCO, AND OPERATOR LICENSES FOR 2022-23: Dave made a motion to approve all licenses applied for and Doug seconded. Motion passed.

CLERK'S REPORT: The board reviewed the building permits that were issued.

APPROVE BILLS: Dave motioned to approve the bills as presented and Doug seconded. Motion passed.

ADJOURN: Dave motioned that the meeting be adjourned, and Doug seconded. Motion passed.

Submitted by:

Tracey Larson, Clerk

LETTER FROM DOUG OLSON:

June 9, 2022

Town of Lake Holcombe board meeting

Topic- Proposed LHIA campground/Mobile home ordinances

I have seen no hard evidence or factual data presented that supports the idea that Lake Holcombe is overcrowded or that the increased activity on the lake is caused by campgrounds or mobile communities any more than the people who own homes and cottages on the lake and their friends and family that visit them.

I have heard from over a dozen business owners in the last couple days, most of whom are also members of the LHIA, as a result of receiving emails from the LHAI that it was important for them to attend this meeting to show support for the ordinances. Every single one of them indicated they are adamantly opposed to the proposed ordinances presented by the Lake association. They believe it's important for the community of Lake Holcombe to continue to grow and promote tourism and recreation allowing businesses to thrive and provide goods and services to all residents, full and part time year-round. I have not received one call, one email, or in person conversation in support of these ordinances. *read to me email.*

I believe most of the people that live and/or own property on the lake are not native to the Lake Holcombe area but came here as children with parents, as young adults, or as parents bringing their children here to take advantage of the recreation activities the area offers as I did over thirty years ago. Just like the daily users that trailer their boats here on weekends from surrounding communities, or the campers that have chosen to invest in a camper and rent or own a lot to locate that camper or mobile home so that they too can enjoy what the lake has to offer as a result of the decision of Northern States Power over 70 years ago to put in a hydro electric station which created this reservoir, we all enjoy. I think it would be wrong for the town of Lake Holcombe board to choose one group of lake users over another group. I think these ordinances being proposed are ill conceived, mean spirited, and hypocritical by people who have their piece of paradise but want to deny others of lesser means that same opportunity and I cannot support that.