MINUTES OF THE LAKE ANGELUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

Present: Mayor, Lee McNew; Councilmembers Jon Cabot and Karl Storrie; Police Chief, Jim Prosser; Attorney, Dan Christ; Treasurer, Julie Frakes; Building Official, Brian Oppmann; Clerk, Rosalie Lake; Environmental Board Chair, Linda Daniels

Absent: Councilmembers David Haines and Chuck Poploskie

Visitors: Ray Siwiec and Officer Don McLellan

Mayor McNew opened the meeting at 7pm and the Pledge was recited.

The Minutes of the meeting of August 9, 2011 were approved as corrected.

The James L. Howlett Volunteer Service Award, designated for longtime service to the City, was proposed to be awarded. The proposal will be discussed with Jim Howlett.

Ray Siwiec, Chair of the Board of Review, had been asked to provide an evaluation of the services of City Assessor, Linda Burton. Mr. Siwiec has worked with Ms. Burton for over twenty years in her capacity as City Assessor. He contacted numerous others from the City, past and present, and some of those with whom she works at the County. Mr. Siwiec’s information suggested that Ms. Burton may get things done at the last minute or be a little tardy. However, she has the highest level of assessors’ license; she works well with Oakland County; she is well prepared to handle the work of the Board of Review. Mr. Siwiec meets with Ms. Burton six or so times a year to review home assessments. She keeps good records related to sales and has gone out of her way to help residents with unique cases. Mr. Siwiec feels comfortable working with her. Councilmember Cabot suggested that the problem of tardiness may be an irritation and not a major issue. Mr. Siwiec had not yet spoken with Ms. Burton about the issues and wondered who should address them. Attorney Christ indicated that it is the Council’s duty to supervise her.

Councilmember Storrie felt his house was poorly assessed and it took him four years to get money back from overassessment. The responses his attorney received from Ms. Burton were in error and inappropriate. Mr. Storrie felt Ms. Burton should be dismissed. Mr. Siwiec explained that Ms. Burton is given plans for houses and gets square footage from the building department. In most cases, it is allowed to visit homes in question. Mr. Storrie’s case is the only one the City has lost. Mr. Storrie wondered whether there needs to be a general review of assessments on the Lake and whether the Council should initiate such a review. Dr. Cabot noted that Ms. Burton does not dictate assessments; there are formulas. Mr. Siwiec indicated that there are values for the property and values for the home; there are a lot of factors. Ms. Burton keeps detailed records regarding the reasons values have been established. Mr. Christ noted that there are controls through the Board of Review. Mr. Storrie asked the Council whether it would take on a review of a number of houses about the same size as his. Mr. Siwiec suggested that he bring those houses to the Board of Review to consider. Based on Mr. Siwiec’s review, Dr. Cabot felt that the issue was one of timeliness. Ms. Burton should continue to be retained and be given an opportunity to improve. Mr. Storrie felt that someone who has been in a job as long as Ms. Burton has been may not be fresh in viewpoint and may not be productive. Mr. Siwiec pointed out that Ms. Burton has gone through years of changes at the Lake and has a perspective of the
Mr. Christ indicated it was most appropriate for the Council to meet with her about the concerns. Mayor McNew, Councilmember Cabot and Mr. Siwiec will do so.

Councilmember Cabot moved to place other items further down on the agenda to accommodate visitors present. Councilmember Storrie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no information on the Shores Road bridge project. There is no other action that can be taken on Smartmeters other than formulating a resolution. There were no resident comments.

Police Chief, Jim Prosser, gave the Department report. The contract with the Sheriff’s Department for dispatch services will be up for renewal. Chief Prosser is pricing other options. There was a fire at the unfinished Incarnati residence. Mr. Storrie indicated that there is now a person at the house full-time to watch the property. The Waterford Fire Department with the LAPD has devised a plan for fire protection on the Island during the bridge repair. The new bridge will need to accommodate a 41,000 lb fire truck. The Chief asked for $250 to take the Reserve Officers to dinner to thank them for their service. Councilmember Cabot moved to provide the funds. Councilmember Storrie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Chief explored acquiring a radar trailer for the Shores Road, but found it too expensive to purchase and found no rentals available. Officers have parked along the road and have not identified problems while they were there. They will keep patrolling intermittently. Linda Daniels felt much of the problem was service vehicles.

Building Official, Brian Oppmann, reported that the Chase family plans to build on their vacant lot. The family purchasing the former Oles property plan to either renovate or tear down the house and rebuild. Landscaping walls at the Incarnatis are being constructed. The Planning commission approved an amended site plan allowing the walls to slant back at a lesser degree than originally approved. Mayor McNew questioned Mr. Oppmann about what procedure should be followed when aberrations to approved plans are observed. The review of as-built plans was discussed. This is a final review rather than an intermittent review. The procedure is that Bill Dinnan or Mr. Oppmann will contact PC Chair, Bob Bailey. Treasurer Frakes has received additional escrow fees from the Incarnatis. She also indicated that there are three invoices that Bob Bailey has not yet approved. He has questions regarding some work.

City Property: The work at the Barn is done. The fence project for the Sinking Bridge Drain is done. A key to the gate is needed. The unsightly trash can at City Hall has been removed.

Treasurer, Julie Frakes, presented the financial report. She reviewed the warrants, the Profit and Loss sheet and Balance sheet. There were some big invoices putting the percentage of use higher than predicted. The City’s balance is $12,000 above where it was at the same time last year. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the financial report noting items over $500. Councilmember Storrie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. 

#17319 to RCOC for $2058  
#17320 to Linda Burton for $1061  
#17321 to Billington Serv for $880  
#17324 to Voyager Fleet for $1178.40  
#17327 to Hafeli, Staran for $1684.02  
#17328 to OC Sheriff for $1764.67
All but 11 parcels have paid summer taxes. Mrs. Frakes has completed almost all items required for the audit. The Lake Angelus apportionment for the Clinton River Spillway Drain 10 year maintenance and operations project is .1527% which would amount to $749 over the 10 years. A capital improvement study of the Drain will require a local match of funds to complete in one year. Lake Angelus’ portion would be $149. At issue is the apportionment. The previous apportionment figures are unknown. The concern may be capital improvements determined by the study. Mrs. Frakes noted an article in the MML Review regarding revenue sharing. Statutory Sales Tax is now called EVIP. Lake Angelus may lose that portion of revenue sharing. Attorney Christ indicated that the City would have to prove that it is eligible for the funds if it thinks it is. The City already has a host of cooperative efforts with other communities. If the City is over the threshold, there are deadlines that are almost immediate. The City may want to provide the dashboard required anyway.

Environmental Board Chair, Linda Daniels, reported that the Bureau Veritas water quality survey report is similar to previous years’ reports. Fecal coliform counts seem to fluctuate in various areas but the amounts are not higher. The drainage work has made a difference in phosphorous levels. Jeff Knox feels that the abundance of the flat weeds seen cut or floating in the Lake is a natural die-off of that plant.

Clerk Lake reported that the City has received its annual proposal to match transportation funds provided by SMART. In all previous years, these funds have been returned to SMART as the City has no way to use them. Councilmember Cabot moved to return the funds this year. Councilmember Storrie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. In the future, the State will require Act 51 Road Reports to be submitted online. Materials explaining this change have been sent to Councilmember Storrie and Treasurer Frakes. The last No-Haz collection of this year will be held on September 17 at the Orion Amphitheater accessed off Joslyn Road. The General Election on November 8 is for the City Council and the Pontiac School Board. Jon Cabot, Dan Jenaras and Chuck Poploskie are running for the three seats on the City Council and two candidates are running for two seats for the Pontiac Board. There are no millages or proposals on the ballot.

Councilmember Storrie discussed tri-party funding to repave Old Baldwin Road. Part of the road would be replaced completely and part resurfaced. He addressed the concern about what funds the City would have left for supergravel if the City enters the tri-party agreement. He felt the City could do both. Councilmember Cabot thought it looked like the City was searching for a way to use tri-party funds. He would rather not spend money to repave Old Baldwin, but save money for maintaining the roads. Mr. Storrie noted that the City is being cautioned that it may lose tri-party funds in the future. He felt the City has the money and it is a good project, especially the Baldwin to Gallogly section of Old Baldwin that needs reconstruction. Mr. Storrie did not disagree with waiting until the home construction projects along Old Baldwin and Gray Woods Lane are completed. He felt that RCOC has done a good job in working with the City. Dr. Cabot commented that Mr. Storrie has done a good job in working with the RCOC.
Councilmember Cabot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Councilmember Storrie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 11, 2011 at 7pm.

Approved:                  Respectfully submitted,

Lee McNew, Mayor           Rosalie Lake, Clerk