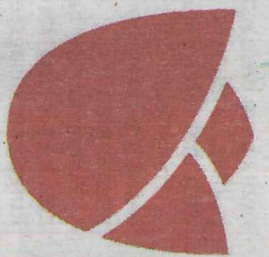




## Powerful storms leave at least 16 people dead NATION, 5A



# The Holland Sentinel

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025 | HOLLANDSENTINEL.COM

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## Jury reaches decision in 3 hours

### Lindsey found guilty of first-degree murder of Holland father

**Cassidey Kavathas**  
Holland Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK

GRAND HAVEN — Through tears and quiet celebration Friday, April 4, Miguel Zamudio's family heard the verdict that will put Jerrell Alexander Lindsey away for life.

Lindsey was found guilty on all counts in the jury trial for the murder of Zamudio, a Holland father and

husband, on April 13, 2024. Lindsey was charged with one count of open murder, three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, and two counts of felony firearm. An open murder charge allows the jury to decide whether first- or second-degree murder is more appropriate.

Lindsey was found guilty of first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole.

During closing arguments Friday, April 4, the defense argued the jury should be able to consider an involuntary manslaughter charge, which carries a sentence of 5-7 years. Judge Karen Miedema approved the motion, but the jury wasn't convinced.

Throughout the four-day trial, multiple witnesses testified about what they saw Saturday, April 13, on W. 19th Street in Holland. Karina Zamudio testified Lindsey approached the couple and their 14-year-old son in the driveway of Miguel's parents' home and told them

See LINDSEY, Page 4A



Rezoning the two parcels of property near Eldean Shipyards in Laketown Township has been put on hold.  
CODY SCANLAN/SENTINEL

## Laketown tables rezoning request over bad smell

**Mitchell Boatman**  
Holland Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK

LAKETOWN TWP. — A decision on conditionally rezoning two parcels of property near Eldean Shipyards in the northwest corner of Laketown Township has been put on hold.

After pushing back discussions on a request by Gator Properties, the Laketown Township Board of Trustees voted Wednesday, April 2, to table talks until May 7.

The two adjacent lots included in the request are located at the corner of Fern Walk and S. Shore Drive. They are owned by Gator Properties and leased to Eldean Shipyards, with both entities run by Wade Eldean.

The vote to table followed a suggestion from Eldean's lawyer, James Doezenia, after board members voiced opposition to the rezoning during the meeting. Doezenia indicated Eldean would be willing to tweak his conditional zoning request if the board tabled the

item.

That vote was approved 4-1, with Trustees Mark Timmerman and Mike Koeman, Clerk Jim Delaney and Treasurer Jim Johnson voting in favor and Supervisor Steven Ringelberg voting against.

### A matter of use

Eldean is asking to change the land from R-2 Medium Density Residential to a limited scope of C-2 General Business District. The conditional rezoning would limit the property uses to parking, storing boat trailers and lifts, and using a small portion for a sand volleyball court.

The land is already being used for these purposes, but that's not allowed under R-2. Eldean claims the use dates back before current zoning laws were established in 1981 — which would grandfather the land as a legal, non-conforming use.

See REZONING, Page 2A

### AGENDA

## Ottawa County to discuss 'legal ramifications' of denying contracts

**Cassidey Kavathas**  
Holland Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK

HOLLAND — In 2025, The Sentinel is providing a weekly round-up of the biggest topics in upcoming municipal meetings, giving our readers a chance to engage with their local officials on the projects, appointments and decisions that hit closest to home. These round-ups are written on Fridays, and will not include an agenda if one hasn't been posted by 1 p.m. Municipalities are not required by the Michigan Open Meetings Act to provide an agenda in advance of a meeting, but they are required to provide notice. Please visit your local municipality website for the most updated information.

Here are the biggest topics for meetings Monday-Friday, April 7-11:

### Ottawa County

- **Plat Board:** 12 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex
- An agenda was not immediately available
- **Planning and Policy Committee:** 9 a.m. Thursday, April 10, at the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex
- The agenda includes:
  - A vote on whether to go into closed session for the purpose of considering the purchase or lease of real property
  - Consideration to approve and forward to the full board a proposed update to the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission Motor Vehicle Permit Schedule to add a discounted rate for veteran annual permits
  - Consideration of an update a portion of Article I of the Rules of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners to read as follows: Roberts Rules of Order 12th Edition shall govern all questions of procedure not otherwise provided by these rules or by state or federal law, except for Section 16.5, which shall instead require a simple majority vote to pass.

See AGENDA, Page 2A



# Rezoning

Continued from Page 1A

Why, then, should the business bother rezoning at all? Eldean said it's to reduce complaints and help with "future business planning" on the site.

Ringelberg disagreed with the claim the land has been consistently used for parking since pre-1981. He said he felt the use hasn't been continuous, while acknowledging the property's grandfathered status wasn't up for a vote on Wednesday.

"We're trying to avoid the whole fight over (grandfathered use)," Doezeema said. "That's why this request makes sense."

"I just wanted to make it clear to my fellow board members that there's at least one board member that does not believe you have a pre-existing, non-conforming use that's been continuous since before 1981," Ringelberg said.

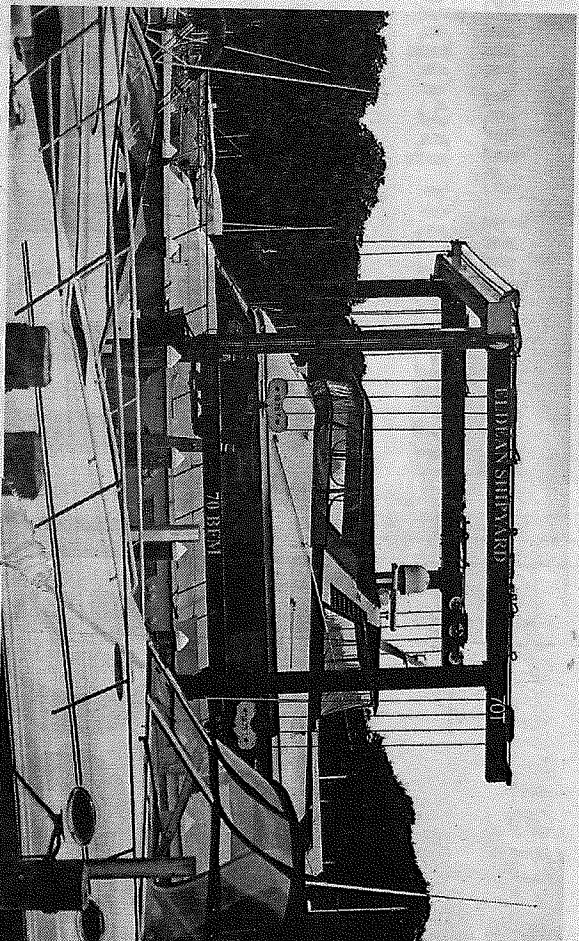
"I'm trying to say, 'Let's not fight that fight,'" Doezeema said. "That's why we're here, to fix this issue. This is a good way to do it, because it's a contract."

## "We don't have to accept it, but we can't amend it"

Should a conditional rezoning be approved, the property would be limited to the uses outlined in the agreement. Any violations of that agreement would revert the property back to R-2.

Some board members indicated they might support the proposal if the language around boat lifts were changed.

Township Attorney Ron Buljic said the board can only accept or deny a conditional rezoning request, not amend it. Per state law, conditional zoning must be offered, in writing, by the applicant. Municipalities cannot directly request



Boats are stored at Eldean Shipyard at 2223 S. Shore Drive in Laketown Township. CODY SCANLAN/SENTINEL STAFF

"We don't have to accept it, but we can't amend it," Buljic said. "We can agree with the conditions and enter into the contract, or we reject the conditions."

Buljic later clarified the applicant, at their own discretion, can amend the conditions prior to township approval.

Part of the hang-up for board members was the reported smell of boat lift stations. Neighbors at recent board meetings have said zebra mussels, an invasive species, attach to the lifts and eventually die, releasing a "stench."

Doezeema said Wednesday that Eldean would be willing to amend his request to state that lifts must be cleaned before being stored on the property.

"We hear the comment on the boat lift, the potential smell of it," Doezeema said. "I would suggest that, if we can tame this, Wade is willing to revise something on the boat lifts. They're going to start cleaning these boat lifts, the zebra mussels will be off."

"I don't think there's any prohibition for tabling this and letting us amend our written offer, so to speak, and we'll deal with smelly boat lifts."

Buljic said this could be done without having to pass the matter back to the Laketown Township Planning Commission.

Johnson added that, in addition to the smell issue, "whatever can be done to minimize the visual pollution" of having the boat lifts, which he called "darn ugly," on the site "would be great."

Timmerman motioned to table a decision, supported by Delaney. That motion was approved 4-1.

## Does the land in question really belong to Eldean?

Prior to the vote to table, Ringelberg said he would be voting no, preferring to deny the request altogether. He said he couldn't get past the issue of compatibility with the master plan, saying the

current zoning is "entirely compatible." Ringelberg raised several questions with Doezeema and Eldean over the property, including that the land was originally platted as a park.

While he admitted that would be private issue rather than one for the township, Ringelberg said it would be "waste of township time" to rezone neighbors had rights to the land.

Doezeema said a court ruled those rights have been extinguished, but Ringelberg, a lawyer himself, disagreed with that interpretation.

The supervisor and Eldean also debated interpretations of the township master plan.

Eldean argued having the land available for parking fits within the plan, but Ringelberg disagreed. He said the 2022 plan says the township "should consider" that use in the future, but doesn't explicitly call for it.

If the board ends up denying the request, it doesn't necessarily mean Eldean can't use the property for parking. Buljic said he would not advise the township to seek enforcement of the current zoning.

"They've been there, at least intermittently, for many years, several decades," Buljic said. "I would not be inclined to recommend that we try to take enforcement action against them with such a checkered history and long standing (fact) that we haven't taken any action to this point."

The conditional rezoning was previously approved by the planning commission in a 2-1 vote Feb. 5. In that meeting, Timmerman and Jay Cravens voted in favor of sending the issue to the board and Patrick Dietrich voted no. Char Nienhuis recused himself because he's a patron of the marina. Ray Buursman was absent.

— *Contact reporter Mitchell Boatman at mboatman@hollandsentinel.com.*

# Agenda

Continued from Page 1A

- A discussion on the legal ramifications of denying ratified contracts
- A discussion on the Campbell Plant
- An update on public health from Health Officer Adeline Hambley
- An update on Community Action Agency from Jennifer Brozowski
- An update on the administrator search from Double Haul

**Read the packet:** [tinyurl.com/yrc4pnxh3](http://tinyurl.com/yrc4pnxh3)

**Finance and Administration Committee:** 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 10, at the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex

The agenda includes:

- Consideration to approve and forward to the full board a contract with Dykhouse Construction for services related to the renovation of the Probate Court at the Grand Haven Courthouse for a total cost of \$72,198.70.
- Consideration to approve and forward to the full board a contract for mailing services for election-related notices sent from the Ottawa County Clerk's Office to registered voters.
- Consideration to approve and forward to the full board a three-year contract with Citibot Inc. to provide chatbot software for the county website at a total cost of \$96,865.
- Consideration to approve and forward to the full board a contract with Emphasys Computer Solutions Inc. for an investment software upgrade at a total cost of \$108,299.

- Consideration to approve and forward to the full board a contract with SHI for a cybersecurity awareness subscription, increasing the county's agreement to a Diamond Plan, at a cost not to exceed \$190,000 for a term of three years.
- Consideration to approve and forward to the full board a contract with Fidler Technologies to renew the Ottawa County Register of Deeds subscription. Services for recording software, vitals

Creek by LaCatt Group in Hudsonville, and to request a public hearing be held April 22.

• An end-of-month update from Ottawa County Treasurer Cheryl Clark.

**Read the packet:** [tinyurl.com/yR38h5e](http://tinyurl.com/yR38h5e)

**Note:** A meeting of the Appointment and Alignment Committee for 12 p.m. Thursday, April 10, has been cancelled. However, there will be a Board of Commissioners Work Session from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## City of Zeeland

**City Council:** 7 p.m. Monday, April 7, at Zeeland City Hall

The agenda includes:

- A work session immediately preceding the meeting at 6:15 p.m.
- Consideration of a contract award for the remodel of the BPW Administrative Offices
- Consideration of a bid award for Taft Street
- Consideration of a bid award for Hoogland Park
- Consideration of a bid award for window upgrades at the Public Safety Building

• Adoption of the 2025 Strategic Action Plan

**Read the full agenda:** [tinyurl.com/2k6ub4zu](http://tinyurl.com/2k6ub4zu)

## City of Saugatuck

**City Council Workshop:** 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Saugatuck City Hall

• An agenda was not immediately available

## City of the Village of Douglas

**City Council:** 6 p.m. Monday, April 7, at Douglas City Hall

The agenda includes:

- Consideration of the appointment of Jennifer Ludwick to the KLSWA
- Consideration of approval for the Town Chief Race
- Hearing a Saugatuck Center for the

Jeffrey Roberts

• Consideration of a motion to approve the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee's recommendation of controlled hunts to manage the growing deer population

• The first reading for a rezoning at 453 W. Center St.

• Consideration of a council training workshop on May 1

• Hearing reports from various commissions and authorities

**Read the packet:** [tinyurl.com/4ysh3rs3](http://tinyurl.com/4ysh3rs3)

## City of Fennville

**City Commission:** 6 p.m. Monday, April 7, at Fennville City Hall

• An agenda was not immediately available

**Planning Commission:** 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at Fennville City Hall

• An agenda was not immediately available

**Downtown Development Authority:** 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Fennville City Hall

• An agenda was not immediately available

## Port Sheldon Township

**Board of Trustees:** 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Port Sheldon Township Hall

The agenda includes:

- Discussion and consideration of paving options at 164th and Van Buren
- Consideration of irrigation canals
- Consideration of an Office Safety Action Plan

• Discussion of office hours

• Consideration of a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Committee to hire a consultant to help create a revised five-year plan

**Read the full agenda:** [tinyurl.com/4js4drj5](http://tinyurl.com/4js4drj5)

**Park Township**

**Board of Trustees:** 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 7, at Park Township

**Planning Commission:** 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at the Zeeland Charter Township Offices

• An agenda was not immediately available

## Laketown Township

**Township Board:** 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Laketown Township Hall

• An agenda was not immediately available

**How to attend remotely:** By calling 312-626-6799 and typing in 455 6718351. You can attend via Zoom on your web browser by visiting [zoom.us/j/4556718351](http://zoom.us/j/4556718351)

## Overisel Township

**Township Board:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at the Overisel Township Offices

• An agenda was not immediately available. Overisel Township has not posted an agenda or meeting minutes to its website since January.

## Saugatuck Township

**Committee of the Whole Meeting:** 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 8, at Saugatuck Township Hall

**Read the agenda:** [tinyurl.com/muaj7n8](http://tinyurl.com/muaj7n8)

**Township Board:** 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Saugatuck Township Hall

The agenda includes:

- Hearing reports from various commissions and authorities
- Discussion of a dangerous structure removal agreement
- Discussion of a light agreement for Clearbrook Street
- Discussion of a firework funding request from the Visitors Bureau for July 4

• Consideration of Wildlife Management Resolution 2025-10

• Consideration of a funding request from the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority

**Read the agenda:** [tinyurl.com/nme7kzi](http://tinyurl.com/nme7kzi)