

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
January 12, 2021

THE REGULAR MEETING of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order on January 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. by Dick Stauffer, Supervisor, via Anytime Meeting virtual host. Notice with information was posted.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Marc Florian, Kevin Gillette. Stacy Loar-Porter, Deb Peterson, Terrie Smith, Richard Stauffer, and Rick Stone.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: None.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was given.

PRESENTATIONS. None.

ADJUST AGENDA. Move presentation from Police Chief and discussion on widening the shoulders on Ridge Rd up to the beginning of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS. None.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT. Distributed to the board by e-mail.

Soper reported Safe Policing for Safe Communities executive order No. 13929 signed by President Trump in June 2020. The order set 2 mandatory guidelines and 12 discretionary national guidelines for agencies to meet. The Township Department already had policies that met one of the mandatory and all the discretionary guidelines. After updating a current policy, the department met the 2nd mandatory guideline. On 11/3/2020 the department was formally given the guidelines and requirements to begin certification process. By 11/6/2020 all paperwork was turned into the Department of Justice. On 1/12/20 the department received their certification letter of compliance. They are one of 28 departments to be completed out of the approximately 580 agencies in the state. **Attachment A.**

Ridge Road Petition.

Resident Gary Morton headed the collection of petition signatures supporting extended shoulders on Ridge Rd. There are 376 parcels that received the petition, 122 petitions in support of the project. Due to the low support for the project, board consensus was to not proceed with the project.

The main reasons most residents did not support the project were:

- Widening of the road and the addition of extended shoulders would likely draw increased speed from drivers.
- The large loss of trees to accommodate the extended shoulders
- The large disturbance to the landscaping in the neighborhood

Most residents in attendance to the meeting agreed that walking on the road is a safety factor, but there is a debate on the best remedy.

Kevin Stack, Berrien County Road Department, explained that when the road is repaved there will be a 3-

foot gravel shoulder per Federal Guidelines, this is the max they will go and 2 ft is the minimum. He also suggested that the Township and the residents could explore the option of a sidewalk or walking path that could wind through the trees and lower the impact on landscaping.

The residents in attendance expressed interest in the sidewalk/walking path option. The Township will work with their engineer to explore options and expense, as the project would still be completed through a special assessment and would still need petition support of the properties that would be involved.

CORRESPONDENCE. None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED. Stauffer moved, seconded by Stone to approve the consent agenda.

1. Approval of minutes for the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2020.
2. Approval of reappointments to boards, commissions, township engineer, township attorney, planner, building official and mechanical, plumbing, and electrical inspectors.
3. Approve the 1/13/2021 and 12/28/2020 bills from the following funds.

General Fund	\$ 223,877.99
Parks Fund	2,710.65
Parks Capital Improvement	0.00
Cemetery Fund	485.49
Building Fund	7,035.92
Township Improvement Fund	0.00
Police Fund	24,470.92
Police Drug	0.00
Police Capital Improvement	0.00
Sewer Enterprise	
Sewer Operating	46,042.15
Sewer Replacement	0.00
Sewer Improvement	0.00
Water Enterprise	
Water Operating	48,860.39
Water Improvement	0.00
Road Fund	4.98
Fire Capital Improvement	3.48
TOTAL	\$353,491.97

LIBRARY REPORT. The Library Director gave update on recent events at the library. She reported the library had the highest program attendance in the last five years for 2020, in 2019 they had 25 programs with a total attendance of 942, in 2020 they had 16 virtual programs with a total attendance of 1,042.

NEW BUSINESS. None.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

Drain Commission.

EGLC held a public hearing for the North Lake Park Channel. Everyone in attendance spoke in favor of the permit. A decision will be rendered within 10 days of the hearing.

CLERK'S REPORT.

December balances.

General	\$1,490,607.89	Road	\$131,804.06
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Police	\$78,827.84	Parks	\$10,435.21
Cemetery	\$25,531.49	Street Lighting	\$43,599.29
Building	\$486,594.29	Police Drug	\$902.11
Township Improvement	\$174,988.63	Fire Dept. Improvement	\$252,760.86
Police Improvement	\$1,754.42	Park Improvement	\$126,993.98
Sewer Operating	\$1,408,709.43	Sewer Replacement	\$1,176,288.62
Sewer Improvement	\$656,979.08	Water Operating	\$90,772.22
Water Replacement	\$1,646,182.46	Water Improvement	\$5,942,180.49
Trust & Agency	\$286,230.79	Tax Collection	\$3,163,923.43
T&A Delinquent Tax	\$8,565.19	Flex Spending	\$5,206.69
Police Bond T & A	\$509.19		

TREASURER'S REPORT. Smith reported interest earned year to date is \$ 58,417.87. Interest rates are very low at this time. Winter Tax collection has begun.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT. No meeting was held.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT. No meeting was held.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT. Distributed to board.

Assessor John Baumann reported to the board that he has been nominated by Berrien County to be the County's Designated Assessor. PA 660 requires the county to have a designated assessor. The designated assessor would come into effect when;

1. a local unit is non-compliant when the AMAR is completed
2. the local unit submits CAP or challenges audit
3. A follow up review is conducted
4. If the unit passes then the process ends until the next audit
5. If the unit fails then the local unit must hire a new assessor to make the corrections
6. If the corrections are still not made then the Designated Assessor takes over the unit to make the corrections.

All expenses associated with the Designated Assessor will be the responsibility of the unit in need of the services.

Baumann explained this designation would not interfere with his work for Lincoln.

Resolution of Support for Designated Assessor appointment. Motion Carried. Stauffer moved, seconded by Stone, to approve the resolution noticing that Lincoln Charter Township supports naming John R. Baumann as the Berrien County Designated Assessor and to authorize Richard C. Stauffer to execute the interlocal agreement with Berrien County. *Resolution 21-1. Attachment B.* Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Florian, Gillette, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer and Stone. Nays: None.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT. 1 single-family residential permit was issued in December. There have been 43 single family residential permits issued year-to-date.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY REPORT. Distributed to board.

FIRE REPORT. Chief Chiarello provided the board with a report on fire calls and activity by the department for the month.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT. Distributed to the board by e-mail.

PARKS REPORT. Smith reported Martins Supermarket is hosting a fundraiser to raise funds to improve the volleyball courts at the Community Center Park.

WATER/SEWER AUTHORITY. Smith stated the authority is meeting Thursday.

Public Comments for items not on agenda. None.

Board Member Comments. None.

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Stacy Loar-Porter, Clerk

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