

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
September 14, 2021

THE REGULAR MEETING of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order on September 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. by Dick Stauffer, Supervisor at the Municipal Building, 2055 W. John Beers Rd, Stevensville, MI 49127.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Gillette.

ALSO, PRESENT: Township Engineer Dave Austin.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was given.

PRESENTATIONS. None.

ADJUST AGENDA. Move the following items to the front of the meeting:

- Audit presentation
- MDOT Bridge presentation
- MABAS Agreement

AUDIT PRESENTATION

The auditors presented the 2020/21 Audit report. **Attachment A.**

Some of the highlights were;

- In the current fiscal year, revenue exceeded expenditures by approximately \$118,000 for the General fund and by approximately by \$549,000 for the Police fund, due to the new millage being passed.
- The Township invested approximately \$312,000 in capital assets.
- The Township was able to pay down approximately \$220,000 in debt principal in the current year.
- The General Fund expenditures were under budget by approximately \$260,000, which was spread across all departments.
- Auditors applauded that the board continues to use the rate consultant for setting water and wastewater rates. This will assist the board in continuing to maintain proper balances in the water and sewer funds.

Approval of 20/21 Audit report. Motion Carried. Loar-Porter moved, seconded by Stone to approve the 20/21 Audit Report as presented.

MDOT Bridge Treatments.

MDOT Southwest Region Planning Manager, Amy Lipset, made a presentation to the board regarding esthetic design options for the Exit 23 bridge replacement planned for 2023. She explained the Township has several options for the aesthetic treatments for the bridge when they replace the bridge in 2023 that will be no cost to the Township. It was the consensus of the board to move forward with reviewing the design options available for the bridge esthetics. Lipset would provide Stauffer with a timeline of when decisions need to be made and the next steps.

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Agreement.

Fire Chief Chiarello presented a request to the board to repeal the Township's agreement with MABAS. The Township entered into the MABAS agreement in 2009 and renewed on 2017. Since this time the Berrien County Emergency Operating Center (EOC) was not as active and prepared to handle local emergency situations.

Chief stated the largest disadvantage to being part of MABAS is we would not be able to declare a state of emergency if needed until we engaged and used all MABAS funds and would not allow the Township to use the services of our local Berrien County EOC. When engaging MABAS we also would not be guaranteed local assistance. The Berrien County EOC has grown and is very capable of handling local emergency situations. Royalton and Lake Townships are have also disengaged with MABAS, to allow Berrien County EOC to be the first point of contact in a local emergency situation.

CORRESPONDENCE. None.

PUBLIC HEARING.

IFT Public Hearing. Motion Carried. Loar-Porter moved, seconded by Florian, to open the Public Hearing to consider an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate application from Advance Way, LLC at 7:45 pm.

Cathy Tilley, Business Development Manager for Cornerstone Alliance, presented the application for Advance Way, LLC / Blendco.

Blendco is a state-of-the-art dry blending facility. They are expanding their facility by 21,000 sf of manufacturing and warehouse space at the current facility. They currently employ 18 staff, the expansion will add 3-5 additional jobs. The total value of the expansion is \$1,498,267.00.

Florian reminded the board that this parcel could be included in the Brownfield after the IFT is complete if approved.

Advance Way owns the property and Blendco has a lease with Advance Way, LLC. The lease will be emailed to Loar-Porter for the file.

The exemption is for 12 years, beginning 2022.

The IFT district was established in 1975 and expanded in 1980.

Close Public Hearing at 7:58 pm. Motion Carried.

Approval of Advance Way, LLC IFT Application and Property Tax Abatement Agreement.

Motion Carried. Stauffer moved, seconded by Stone to approve the Resolution Approving the Application of Advance Way, LLC for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate and the Property Tax Abatement Agreement. **Attachment B and C. Resolution # 21-06.** Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Florian, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer and Stone. Nays: None.

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

1. Approval of minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 10, 2021.
2. Approve the 9/15/2021 and 8/27/2021 bills from the following funds.

General Fund	\$ 43,585.78
Fire Fund	10,510.81
Parks Fund	18,262.35
Parks Capital Improvement	1,029.41
Cemetery Fund	7,464.82
Building Fund	24,436.65
Township Improvement Fund	0.00
Police Fund	49,554.63
Police Drug	0.00
Police Capital Improvement	0.00
Sewer Enterprise	
Sewer Operating	122,920.45
Sewer Replacement	0.00
Sewer Improvement	30,570.00
Water Enterprise	
Water Operating	37,666.69
Water Improvement	0.00
Road Fund	119.34
Fire Capital Improvement	0.00
Brownfield Fund	2,700.00
TOTAL	\$348,820.93

LIBRARY REPORT. The Library Director, Jessica Ishmael, reported upcoming events at the library. Beginning 10/4 the library will open to the public one hour earlier at 9:00 am M-F. This change was a result of the feedback survey they collected. Circulation counts for August 8,223. Digital circulation; 20,140.

NEW BUSINESS. None.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.**Appointments/Reappointments**

Medic One Reappointments. Motion approved. Stauffer moved, seconded by Florian, to approve:

- Reappointment of Dick Staugffer to the Medic One Board for a one-year term to expire 11/20/22.
- Reappointment of Fire Chief Brandon Chiarello as alternate to the Medic One Board for a one year term to expire 11/20/22.

Berrien County Road Department

Approve a Speed Study Resolution for Glenlord Rd. Motion Carried. Stauffer moved, seconded by Florian, to approve a resolution requesting a speed study for Glenlord Rd. from Washington Ave. easterly to the Township line. The current speed is 55 mph, residents have requested a speed study in hope it will support the desire to reduce the speed limit. Normally the Township is hesitant to support speed studies as they generally result in the speed limit being increased. However, the maximum speed allowed on this portion of the road is 55 mph. **Attachment D. Resolution # 21-07.** Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Florian, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer and Stone. Nays: None.

Consider approval to allow application for extended shoulders on Marquette Woods-Cleveland Ave to Washington. Item was removed. After speaking with the Road Department, this project would not be an option until the road is scheduled for repavement, which will not be for several more years.

Other Items

Fall Trash Passes.

Fall trash passes will be available for Saturdays; 10/23, 10/30, 11/6 and 11/13 each day from 8:30 am -12:00 pm with one pass per household. Passes will be available for pickup beginning 10/11 at Township Hall.

Exit 23 Clean Ups.

Exit 23 clean ups are scheduled for Saturday, October 2nd. Those interested in helping can contact Glenn Youngstedt at 269-861-0596 or the Township at 269-429-1589.

CLERK'S REPORT.

August Balances.

General	\$1,850,583.79	Road	\$259,228.44
Fire	\$204,577.21	Police	\$862,210.04
Parks	\$52,227.55	Cemetery	\$83,620.82
Street Lighting	\$47,596.81	Building	\$530,292.05
Police Drug Fund	\$904.15	Brownfield	\$174,691.01
Township Improvement	\$334,284.21	Fire Improvement	\$163,156.34
Police Improvement	\$18,383.69	Park Improvement	\$121,731.31
Sewer Operating	\$2,001,724.53	Sewer Replacement	\$1,177,898.67
Sewer Improvement	\$657,733.90	Water Operating	\$27,236.24
Water Replacement	\$1,635,351.59	Water Improvement	\$5,848,166.47
Trust & Agency	\$17,253.89	T&A Delinquent Tax	\$563.82
Tax Fund	\$2,436,736.58	Police Bond T & A	\$509.35
Flex Spending	\$2105.00		

2021 Millage Rates. Motion Carried. Loar-Porter moved, seconded by Peterson, to levy the maximum allowable millage rates for 2021 for the Township and the Airport Authority as listed on the L-4029. The budget public hearing included the 2021 tax rates. **Attachment E.** Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Florian, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer and Stone. Nays: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Smith reported interest earned through July- \$6,970.20. Summer taxes were due today, After today there is additional interest due.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT. Florian reported the commission had one item; Eco-Friendly Housing. The commission reviewed the changes requested of the planner at the last meeting;

the ordinance is ready for review by Township legal counsel.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT. No meeting.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT. Distributed to board.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT. 7 single-family residential permits were issued in August. There have been 29 single family residential permits issued year-to-date.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY REPORT. Distributed to board.

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

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

PARKS REPORT.

Community Center Splash Pad. Austin reported construction is continuing; they are preparing to schedule training for startup and winterization. Florian requested that we speak to the company about a discount on winterization services for the year considering how far past the completion deadline they are on construction. The warranty on the equipment will not begin until the splash pad is up and working.

WATER/SEWER AUTHORITY.

Approval of Wastewater Rate Increase. Motion Carried. Stauffer moved, seconded by Peterson to approve the 9.9% wastewater rate increase recommended by the Township's utility rate consultants.

Public Comments for items not on agenda.

Board Member Comments. None.

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Stacy Loar-Porter, Clerk

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