

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
JANUARY 11, 2022

THE REGULAR MEETING of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order on January 11, 2022, 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, 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.**

The Board presented Ray Mak with a plaque of appreciation for his many years of service as the Township representative on the Water Services Joint Operating Board, SW MI Sewer and Water Regional Authority and for his many years of knowledge, volunteerism and dedication to the residents of Lincoln Charter Township.

**ADJUST AGENDA.** Move Fire Department report to beginning of the meeting.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT.**

Chief Chiarello presented each of the board members with a copy of the 2021 Fire Department Annual report.

Chief Chiarello reported on the new truck information that was emailed to the board:  
Price is \$650,830.00 and includes the following:

- One (1) day inspection trip
- One (1) overnight inspection trip
- Delivery back to Michigan
- One (1) training session
- Post-delivery inspection
- Photo progress report
- \$10,000 contingency fund (Receive a check if not used)

Advance Prepayment Option: (Used this option for our last truck)

Pay for the entire order upfront and deduct a total of \$22,540.00 from the above total. Total amount due at time of order submission will be \$628,290.00.

Build times of 16.5 – 18.5 months after receipt of order.

February 1, 2022 Price Increase:

Be advised that Pierce Mfg. has a price increase for all orders booked on 2-1-2022 or after. This price

increase is approximately 7% depending on product model and option content, this would be an increase of \$43,980 to the Township.

With the addition of this new truck the fire department would:

- Combine the equipment from two trucks into one
  - More efficient response by having both suppression and rescue equipment on one truck
- Save money by designating 4220 to a blocker truck
  - Decommission 4220 from front line engine
  - Saves money on purchasing suppression equipment (\$15,000)
  - Allows us to send a blocker truck to highway calls without risking one of our first due apparatus

Loar-Porter reported there is \$100,000 set aside from the sale of the 1995 truck earmarked for the purchase of a new truck. There is also the ability to use the \$100,000 of the Fire Asset milage funds from the 2021 winter taxes. The Township can also choose to use a portion of the ARPA funds they have received. The new Final Rules that were approved allow for Townships that received less than \$10 million in ARPA funds to select the Standard Revenue Loss option which allows townships to use the funds for any governmental lawful expenditure.

Paying for the truck out right will also save on finance and interest fees that would be incurred if we financed the money.

Florian questioned if we need to bid out the truck. Loar-Porter stated the Township Sealed Bid Policy approved in 2016 exempts the need for gathering sealed bids for unique equipment. Due to fire trucks being built to the needed specifications for our department it falls under unique equipment.

**Approve of Truck Purchase. Motion Carried.** Loar-Porter moved, seconded by Gillette, to approve the purchase of a 2021 Pierce Manufacturing Enforcer chassis rescue pumper. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Florian, Gillette, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer and Stone. Nays: None.

**Approval of ARPA fund usage. Motion Approved.** Loar-Porter moved, seconded by Gillette, to approve the use of no more than \$500,000 of the received ARPA funds to pay for the truck purchase in full, realizing an estimated saving of \$84,520.00. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Florian, Gillette, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer and Stone. Nays: None.

**Letter from Fire Fighters.** A majority of the firefighters were present at the meeting to express their unanimous support for Chief Chiarello and the operation of the Lincoln Township Fire Department. They express their concern and frustration over a former fire fighter that continuously makes attempts to spread inaccurate claims, and states his end goal is having Chief Chiarello fired. They asked the board for assistance in the constant defamation being spread about the Fire Department and Township. **Attachment C.**

Loar-Porter stated one of the fire fighters that could not be present at the meeting called and expressed his support of the letter presented and his support of Chief Chiarello and the current operations.

The Board stated they understand the concern and are here to support the fire fighters in any way they can. Legal council has been advised of the situation.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

1. Letter from St. Joseph Township noting the date of December 20, 2021 as their official notice of the two-year termination date for the Maiden Lane Sewer Agreement. Negotiations are ongoing.

**PUBLIC HEARING.** None.

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

1. Approval of minutes for the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2021.
2. Approval of reappointments to boards, commissions, township engineer, planner, building official, mechanical, plumbing and electrical inspectors. **Attachment A.**
3. Approve the 1/12/2022 and 12/28/2021 bills from the following funds.

General Fund	\$ 216,152.99
Fire Fund	6,497.47
Parks Fund	4,974.58
Parks Capital Improvement	0.00
Cemetery Fund	252.27
Building Fund	6,518.73
Township Improvement Fund	0.00
Police Fund	37,458.56
Police Drug	0.00
Police Capital Improvement	0.00
Sewer Enterprise	
Sewer Operating	47,450.07
Sewer Replacement	0.00
Sewer Improvement	0.00
Water Enterprise	
Water Operating	19.99
Water Improvement	0.00
Road Fund	120,912.19
Fire Capital Improvement	0.00
Brownfield Fund	0.00
TOTAL	\$440,236.85

**LIBRARY REPORT.** The Library Director, Jessica Ishmael, reported upcoming events at the library. Strategic planning meeting will be rescheduled to a date in February. Circulation for December was; 6,830. Digital circulation was 18,227. They offered 22 programs for the month of December; total attendance was 1,089.

**NEW BUSINESS.** None.**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.****OTHER ITEMS**

**Exit 23 Bridge aesthetics report.** Stone presented the recommended design for the Red Arrow Bridge elevation aesthetics. He stated his goal was to have the design represent the relation to the lake, and natural look of the Township.

**Approval of bridge design. Motion Approved.** Stone moved, seconded by Peterson, to approve the presented design for the Red Arrow Bridge. The aesthetics do not add any additional expense to the project.

**CLERK'S REPORT.**

**December Balances.**

General	\$1,815,751.72	Road	\$259,319.81
Fire	\$103,292.35	Police	\$197,223.46
Parks	\$132,211.87	Cemetery	\$52,841.96
Street Lighting	\$47,651.51	Building	\$570,425.97
Police Drug Fund	\$904.69	Brownfield	\$169,079.51
Township Improvement	\$334,471.76	Fire Improvement	\$163,247.33
Police Improvement	\$4,393.33	Park Improvement	\$152,914.75
Sewer Operating	\$2,167,018.17	Sewer Replacement	\$1,178,997.82
Sewer Improvement	\$627,620.58	Water Operating	\$54,107.86
Water Replacement	\$1,636,360.12	Water Improvement	\$5,851,803.41
Trust & Agency	\$23,502.76	T&A Delinquent Tax	\$1,015.41
Tax Fund	\$3,129,321.19	Police Bond T & A	\$509.44
Flex Spending	\$5,833.03	ARPA Fund	\$704,875.66

**Summer Tax Collection. Motion Carried.** Loar-Porter moved, seconded by Smith, to approve the resolution to collect summer tax for Lakeshore, St. Joseph and Bridgman Public Schools, Lake Michigan College, and Berrien RESA. *Resolution 22-1. Attachment B.* Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Florian, Gillette, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer and Stone. Nays: None.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Smith reported interest earned through December- \$15,570.67.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT.** No meeting.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT.** No meeting.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT.** Distributed to board.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT.** 2 single-family residential permits were issued in December. There have been 46 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.** Adjusted to beginning of meeting.

**PARKS REPORT.**

**North Lake Park.** Smith stated the maintenance department is finishing up the installation of the equipment at North Lake Park

**WATER/SEWER AUTHORITY.** Meeting is Thursday.

**Public Comments for items not on agenda.** None.

**Board Member Comments.**

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

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Stacy Loar-Porter, Clerk

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