

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
March 14, 2023

THE REGULAR MEETING of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order on March 14, 2023 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, Deborah Peterson, Terrie Smith, Richard Stauffer, and Rick Stone.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Brandon Mieras, Township Engineer.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was given.

**PRESENTATIONS.**

Sergeant Ralph Bansen introduced all the new police officers to the board. Each gave a brief statement about themselves.

Officer Michael Dorr

Officer Joseph Mastalanski

Officer Morgan McGhee

Officer Spencer Smith

Sergeant Ralph Bansen also presented the Officer of the Year Award to Wesley Springer-Grounds

**ADJUST AGENDA.** None.

**CORRESPONDENCE.** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING.**

**Budget Public Hearing. Motion Carried.** Gillette moved, seconded by Peterson, to open the budget public hearing at 7:01 pm.

**Closed Public Hearing at 7:05 pm. Motion Carried.** *Due to technical issues*

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED.** Gillette moved, seconded by Florian, to approve the consent agenda. With the one spelling correction.

1. Approval of minutes for the February 14, 2023.
2. Approval of minutes for Budget Workshop Special Meeting February 28, 2023
3. Approve the 3/15/23 and 2/27/2023 bills from the following funds.

General Fund	\$	53,346.87
Fire Fund		43,280.31
Parks Fund		14,151.44
Parks Capital Improvement		220.88

Cemetery Fund	688.95
Building Fund	22,953.93
Township Improvement Fund	3,235.73
Police Fund	43,482.69
Police Drug	0.00
Police Capital Improvement	0.00
Sewer Enterprise	
Sewer Operating	274,263.77
Sewer Replacement	0.00
Sewer Improvement	2,802.34
Water Enterprise	
Water Operating	989.68
Water Improvement	0.00
Road Fund	0.00
Fire Capital Improvement	0.00
Brownfield Fund	500.00
ARPA Fund	0.00
TOTAL	\$460,336.59

**PUBLIC HEARING.**

**Budget Public Hearing. Motion Carried.** Gillette moved, seconded by Peterson, to open the budget public hearing at 7:11 pm.

Loar-Porter presented a PowerPoint Presentation reviewing the 2023-24 budget. **Attachment A.**

**Closed Public Hearing at 7:25 pm. Motion Carried.****Resolution to Approve 2023-2024 Budget, wages, and Set 2023 Millage Rates. Motion Carried.**

Moved by Gillette, seconded by Peterson, to approve the resolution to adopt the annual budget and to set the 2023 millage rates pursuant to the General Appropriations Act, and approve the 2022-2023 wage schedules. *Resolution # 23-6. Attachment B.* Roll Call vote: Ayes: Gillette, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer and Stone. Nays: None.

**LIBRARY REPORT.** Joelle Wake, Library Director, presented the library report and upcoming events. Friends of the Library Madness Book sale is open until 3/31. Circulation for the month of January for the Township was 8,081.

**NEW BUSINESS.** None.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.** None.

**Berrien County Road Department.** Stauffer stated the speed study on N. Roosevelt was completed and the new limit is 40 mph. The new speed signs have been posted.

**OTHER ITEMS.**

**Trash Passes.** Stauffer reminded residents no charge trash days for April 8,15,22, and 29; and for October 21 and 28 and November 4 and 11, with one pass per household.

**Exit 23 Clean up.** Exit 23 clean ups are scheduled on Saturdays; April 22, July 15 and September 23. Those interested in helping can call Dave Driscoll at 269-927-9885 or at the Township Hall.

**Adopt GRSD Ordinance. Motion Carried.** Stauffer moved, seconded by Gillette to approve the adopt an Ordinance to Establish Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Users Connected to GRSD Sewer Authority System. *Ordinance #23-01. Attachment C.* Roll call vote: Ayes: Florian, Gillette, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer, and Stone. Nays: None.

**Resident Request for Ordinance Amendment.**

Resident Sue Pscholka presented to the board a request to amend the current ordinances to allow residents to have chickens in residentially zoned areas of the Township. Currently chickens are only allowed in areas zoned in Agricultural.

The resident listed some of the benefits she feels the change would have, including; food stability, self-reliance, their assistance in keeping the bug population limited and reduce food waste in landfills. She addressed the concern of odor produced by their waste; stating that with proper bedding, composting bins and using their waste for fertilizer it can limit the odor.

She stated St. Joseph Charter Township allows residents to have up to 4 animals per home, this includes chickens.

A few residents spoke in support of the request.

Some of the Board's concerns included; noise, odor, man-power to enforce.

Mrs. Pscholka has also presented the request to the Planning Commission; Florian stated the Planning Commission was looking for guidance from the Board. The consensus of the Board was for the Planning Commission create a subcommittee to gather information and statistics in regards to the request.

**CLERK'S REPORT.**

**February Balances.** Were not available at the time of the meeting, Treasurer was collecting investment financials from recently closed CDs.

Loar-Porter reminded residents there is a May election. On the ballot there will be Lakeshore Bond proposal and for the Village residents an ordinance proposal.

**Resolution for Charitable Gaming License. Motion Carried.** Stauffer moved, seconded by Gillette, to approve the Friends of the Library obtaining a charitable gaming license as a nonprofit organization for the free drawings they conduct during the reading summer program. *Resolution #23-09. Attachment D.* Roll call vote: Ayes: Florian, Gillette, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer, and Stone. Nays: None

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Smith reported the department is settling with the County on the 2022 tax roll.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT.** Florian stated the commission is creating a subcommittee to review how to handle aging hotels.

The subcommittee that worked on the short-term rental communication, a 'Good Neighbor Brochure'

has been created. The brochure will be provided to all rentals and placed on the Township website.

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

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

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT.** No single-family residential permits were issued in February. There have been 0 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.** Distributed to board.

### **PARKS**

Township Engineer presented two resolutions supporting submission of community project request for improvements.

**Approve Resolution for FY24 Community Parks Improvements.** Gillette moved, seconded by Stauffer, to approve a resolution supporting submission of FY24 Community project request for community park improvements. The submission is for a grant totaling \$600,000 for improvements Lincoln Charter Township parks including; parking, pickleball, volleyball, and amenities. The Township would be responsible for a 20% match. *Resolution #23-07. Attachment E.* Roll call vote: Ayes: Florian, Gillette, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer, and Stone. Nays: None

**Approve Resolution for FY24 Community Improvements.** Stauffer moved, seconded by Gillette, to approve a resolution supporting submission of FY24 Community project request for S. Roosevelt Rd, between Hidden Pines and Marquette Woods Rd. The submission is for a grant totaling \$2,000,000, the improvement has a critical network of sidewalk and shared use path. The Township would be responsible for a 20% match. *Resolution #23-08. Attachment F.* Roll call vote: Ayes: Florian, Gillette, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer, and Stone. Nays: None

**Lincoln Beach.** Township engineer has presented a few drafts of parking options that minimize the impact on the dunes. The work will continue on this project.

**WATER/SEWER.** Smith reported she will be distributing the budget for the authority to adopt for 2023-24. The main increase in the budget relates to the lead requirements implemented by the State.

Township Engineer reported the final CCTV report for the sewer televising is complete, the report will be sent to the Township Clerk. It will include the update to the Captiol Improvement plan.

### **Public Comments for items not on agenda.**

County Commissioner Bob Harrison gave an update of happenings at the County level. He stated the Commission is still working with the State on Broadband and should know more by the first of July. They have also developed a work group to review improvement options for the jail and courthouse.

State Representative Joey Andrews introduced himself to the Board and audience. Stated he is working on items including; pipe replacement, parks and trails and shoreline restoration.

**Board Member Comments.** None.

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.

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Stacy Loar-Porter, Clerk

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