

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 29, 2023

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS CALLED BY SUPERVISOR DICK STAUFFER TO VIEW A PRESENTAION BY PLANTE MORAN TO PROPOSE SERVICES WITH ANALYSIS OF FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS, PROJECT OVERVIEW, PROJECT APPROACH, PROJECT COSTS.

Notice was posted June 26, 2023.

THE SPECIAL MEETING of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees and Lake Charter Township was called to order by Supervisor Dick Stauffer on June 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lake Charter Township Municipal Building, 3220 Shawnee Rd. Bridgman, MI.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer and Stone.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Gillette and Florian.

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Patton, Plante Moran.

Lake Charter Township Supervisor, Zach Carson and Lincoln Charter Township Supervisor, Richard Stauffer, welcomed everyone to the workshop.

They reviewed the purpose of the workshop; Lake Charter Township approached members of Lincoln Township board and the fire chief to see if there was interest in analyzing what our fire department resources would look like for our residents and fire staff, would it provide a benefit if we worked together.

Plante Moran will present the scope of the purposed study and the cost.

Scott Patton, Plante Moran's Government Operations Practice Leader, introduced, gave professional background.

Gave overview of what he is seeing in the fire industry, several municipalities have completed this study to assist the community in providing the best services possible for their residents, with the recently seen decline of funding and staffing.

The study would investigate three possible arrangements to help assist in which would provide the most value to the communities;

1. Scenario A: Status quo
2. Scenario B: Consolidation
3. Scenario C: Enhanced Services

He explained what the process would entail and the timeline.

Each board expressed their desire to have the best information to make the best decision for the residents.

Each board would independently have to make the decision to financially support the study, each plan to discuss as a board at their next regular board meeting.

There were questions/comments from the public;

- Was there a reason it was just Lincoln and Lake in the study? Patton explained, it is generally best to start with 2 communities in the beginning, but could grow in the future to include other communities. These 2 communities seem to fit well together and this created a good starting point.
- Plante Moran answered questions concerning details of the study
- There were comments from the board members on their view of the study
- It was stated that if the agreement to complete the study was approved by both boards, there would be a visioning session and possibly additional public informational sessions.
- Board members stated the study could prove that the status quo is what is best for both communities at this time.

The Supervisors stated that agreement to complete the study does not guarantee that any consolidation or combined services would occur, the outcome depends on what the study finds.

The boards thanked everyone for their participation and comments.

There being no further business, the Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.