

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
September 12, 2023

THE REGULAR MEETING of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order on September 12, 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. None.

ADJUST AGENDA. None.

CORRESPONDENCE. None.

PUBLIC HEARING. None.

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

1. Approval of minutes for the August 15, 2023.
2. Approve the 9/13/23 and 8/29/2023 bills from the following funds.

General Fund	\$ 57,406.89
Fire Fund	7,776.72
Parks Fund	57,883.40
Parks Capital Improvement	0.00
Cemetery Fund	5,494.20
Building Fund	27,285.27
Township Improvement Fund	7,771.52
Police Fund	68,254.57
Police Drug	0.00
Police Capital Improvement	0.00
Sewer Operating	174,949.19
Water Operating	3,188.99
Road Fund	0.00
Fire Capital Improvement	0.00
Brownfield Fund	15,173.75
ARPA Fund	14,575.00
TOTAL	\$439,759.50

LIBRARY REPORT. Joelle Wake, Library Director, presented the library report and upcoming events. Total check outs for the month of August for the Township- 14,713.

NEW BUSINESS. None.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT. None.

Appointments/Reappointments.

Reappointment Approved. Motion Carried. Gillette moved, seconded by Peterson, to approve the reappointment of:

- Dick Stauffer to the Medic 1 Board for one-year term to expire 11/20/24.
- Fire Chief Brandon Chiarello as alternate to the Medic 1 Board for a one-year term to expire 11/20/24.

Medic 1 Audit Report. A copy of the 22/23 audit is available in the supervisor's office.

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

Radar speed sign request. Loar-Porter reported the sub-committee met on 9/7/23. The Berrien County Road Department updated their policy on radar speed signage. The policy is *BCRD allows radar speed signage on County Primary or Secondary roads ONLY and NOT in platted subdivisions. Radar signs should be used when a change in a speed limit occurs or there is crash history due to speeding. Radar signs should not be a replacement for police speed enforcement.*

The road department completed a traffic and speed study at both Fox Woods 100 ft north of Fox Prairie and at Fox Crossing 100 ft south of Maiden Ln., the results were:

- average daily traffic on Fox Crossing is 233 vehicles
- 269 vehicles on Fox Woods.
- The 85th % speed on both was 29 mph.
- Most drivers are falling into the 27 mph to 30 mph range.
- When the most "speeding" occurs they are only slightly exceeding 30 mph.

In conclusion, the department did not feel that there really is a speeding problem on these roads, they believe drivers are driving appropriately for the conditions that exist on these roads and the lack of any crashes in the last 10 years show that this is true.

CLERK'S REPORT.

August Balances.

General	\$3,407,791.67	Road	\$97,071.79
Fire	\$357,543.09	Police	\$1,197,169.85
Parks	\$151,149.93	Cemetery	\$139,713.30
Street Lighting	\$35,434.35	Building	\$629,730.66
Police Drug Fund	\$7,904.11	Brownfield	\$391,107.81
Township Improvement	\$324,021.48	Fire Improvement	\$185,207.59
Police Improvement	\$23,521.28	Park Improvement	\$111,233.45
Sewer Operating	\$5,425,137.63	Water Operating	\$7,412,835.18

Trust & Agency	\$259,148.21	T&A Delinquent Tax	\$3,968.49
Tax Fund	\$2,989,254.59	Police Bond T & A	\$523.72
Flex Spending	\$2,790.78	ARAP	\$709,671.01

CivicEngage Website update. We have been assigned a project leader, the goal is to have the website transfer to be completed by January 2024.

Early Voting. A presentation about early voting was presented by Loar-Porter. With the opportunities being provided by the State and options to work in conjunction with the County of Berrien, Loar-Porter filed the Township's intent to combine with the county for early voting. There is both financial and staffing benefits to working with the county. **Attachment A.**

TREASURER'S REPORT. Smith reported YTD interest is \$127,751.54.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT.

Approval of an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Motion Carried. Florian moved, seconded by Loar-Porter, to approve the adoption of an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance of the compilation of ordinances of Lincoln Charter Township to revise the definition of "Dwelling" to exclude watercraft. # Z23-03. **Attachment B.** Roll call vote: Ayes: Florian, Gillette, Loar-Porter, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer, and Stone. Nays: None.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT. No meeting.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT. Distributed to board.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT. No single-family residential permits were issued in August. There have been 5 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

Community Center Improvements. Only one bid was submitted for the project. The bid was \$175,000 over budget. The engineer recommended not to accept and try to bid out the project again in the winter with a spring construction start.

WATER/SEWER.

Approve 2024 Rates. Stauffer moved, seconded by Gillette, to approve the consultant's recommended 9.9% wastewater rate increase in accordance with the Townships five rate plan, and no increase in our water community surcharge, rates effective January 1, 2024.

Consider Adoption of updated Greater St. Joseph Water System Rules and Regulations. Delayed until next meeting.

Public Comments for items not on agenda. Tom Norbey stated Community Fun Day was well attended, approximately 1,000 people. He thanked everyone for their help. The Board thanked him and his committee for all they hard work in celebrating our community.

Board Member Comments. None.

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Stacy Loar-Porter, Clerk

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