

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
BUDGET WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 23, 2010

THE LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SET A BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010.

THE BUDGET WORKSHOP of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:10 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2055 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Florian, Gillette, Loar-Porter, Norbey, Peterson, Smith (arrived at 6:25 p.m.) and Stauffer.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

Berrien County Road Commission. Brian Berndt from Berrien County Road Commission presented the projects slated for Lincoln Charter Township for the fiscal year 2010-11. The Commission received a Federal Safety grant to fill in the ditches and widen the shoulders on Cleveland Ave .4 miles north to .5 miles south of Rocky Weed Rd. The work is scheduled to begin July 5, 2010.

The Commission received a Safety Grant to widen John Beers Rd. in front of Lakeshore Middle School. The total project cost is \$54,000 the Township portion will be \$15,000. Bidding is scheduled to begin in June with construction in July.

Culvert wall repair is needed at Washington Ave and Marquette Woods Rd. There is no need to replace the concrete box that is under the road, but the wall which is being held up by railroad ties is starting to deteriorate and causing the area to erode into the creek and needs to be replaced. The repair cost is \$12,000. Discussion was held on the possibility that this project could qualify for a 319 Program Grant. This grant is focused on controlling sediment into drains. Florian will provide Berndt with additional information on the grant.

Seal coating will be completed on 3.5 miles of township roads. The cost for the supplies has doubled. 2.45 miles of the roads need a seal coat and slurry seal, 1.07 miles only require a slurry seal, the total cost to the township will be \$101,000.

Cornerstone Alliance. Wendy Dant Chesser presented Cornerstone's annual review and strategic plan. Cornerstone's focus for 2010 is on retention. They met with 22 Lincoln Charter Township businesses to discuss business retention. She stated that Indiana Michigan Power has donated \$40,000 to Cornerstone to create a branding for Michiana area. She stated that Cornerstone would like to begin communications with the township in regards to the Meijer corridor and assist in attracting business to that area.

Compensation. The Compensation Committee consisting of the trustees approved a 0% wage increase for the Clerk, Treasurer, Supervisor and Trustees. The budget was presented with a 0% increase for the staff.

Office Fixed Asset. Loar-Porter presented the need for a new server. The current server runs a 2000 Windows operating system; Windows is no longer supporting this software. The choices we have are to replace the system with a 2008 R2 server; the cost is approximately \$5,200. The other choice would be to add additional RAM to the current server and buy Windows 2003 Small Business Server software, the cost would be approximately \$2,200 but the server would only last about 3 years. The consensus was to purchase the new server that would last longer.

All the funds were reviewed.

Township Improvement Fund. Discussion was held on Township Improvement Fund. The requested budget included \$60,000 for a non-motorized path down Roosevelt to Hidden Pines that would connect to the Safe Routes to School Trail. The board felt at this time the funds are not available for this large of a project, it was cut from the budget.

Discussion was held on Glenlord Beach restoration, Engineer Dave Austin will be contacted to discuss MDEQ issues holding up the project.

Parks Capital Improvement Fund. The play equipment at Lincoln Township Beach was removed from the budget.

Cemetery Fund. Discussion was held on raising opening and closing fees. The fees have not changed since 1999. We need to verify that the fees are covering the actual cost the Township is incurring. Loar-Porter presented the idea of purchasing a columbaria and designing a cremations garden and/or area at the cemeteries. The cost for a columbaria is approximately \$15,000-20,000 depending on design. Consensus was to remove the item from the budget and convene the cemetery committee to work on the details.

Sewer Operating Fund. The major changes in the 2010/11 budget request include a full-time sewer maintenance employee. This employee would work strictly on sewer issues. The budget also includes the Hickory Creek Sewer Interceptor Bond payment.

Water Improvement Fund. The requested budget includes water installation at the soccer complex and water at Lincoln Township Beach. The water installation at the beach was removed. Portable restrooms are being used at the beach and seem to be working well.

Fire Department. Gillette questioned the increase in hourly wages (702). Peterson replied that there will be more public service work being done with the schools. Gillette questioned the additional hours being paid to the officers above their salary for items such as meetings and trainings; he felt there should be some certain expectations for the salary before the officers receive extra compensation. He requested that the fire board present the board with finalized job descriptions for the officers.

Smith left at 9:55 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Stacy Loar-Porter

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