

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2009

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS CALLED BY SUPERVISOR DICK STAUFFER FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEETING PUBLIC HEARING HOSTED BY WITH BERRIEN COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER ROGER ZILKE TO PRESENT PLANS TO IMPROVE STORM WATER DRAINAGE IN THE HOLLYWOOD ROAD AREA.

Notice was posted June 19, 2009.

THE SPECIAL MEETING of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Dick Stauffer on June 22, 2009 at 6:34 p.m. at the St. Joseph-Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Ave., St. Joseph, MI.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Peterson, Norbey and Florian.

ALSO PRESENT: Township Engineer Dave Austin.

INTRODUCTIONS were made.

Drain Commissioner Zilke presented the history of the project. On 2/11/2008 the Board of Determination met and heard resident testimony for the need for drainage improvements. The board determined it was a necessity and began to plan for the project.

The project consists of 1,030 acres of drainage district, 3.5 miles of open drains, 5,000 ft of storm sewer and includes J.F.B. Thompson Drain, Miller & Beach Drain and Bort & Lambrecht Drain. At the completion of the project the drains will be one county drain.

The project needed to include channel improvement and needed to convey a 4% recurrence in the design. Bort & Lambrecht drain needed to be rerouted to an outlet west of Green Acres subdivision and reroute storm water through green areas. Spicer engineering stated they analyzed several different scenarios. The alternate plan that decided upon includes 2 outlets- NW & SE, conveyance improvements, without regional detention, with the total preliminary estimate being \$6,010,000.

Zilke reviewed the grant that the county has been awarded and the grants they are applying for which include:

- 319 Grant (Two Stage Channel)- The County Drain Commission has applied for a \$450,000 grant with a 25% match from the district for funds to complete two stage channel ditches and clean out of the entire Bort & Lambrecht Drain.
- State Revolving Fund Grant (SRF) Application- the County Drain Commission has applied for a \$4 million grant. The grant has the possibility of being a 0% interest loan, a

low interest loan or current federal rate loan. The funds would be used for the entire project.

- Economic Development Grant (EDA).-This application is being filed on behalf of the County Drain Commission through the ECT in Fette's office. The total application is requesting \$1.75 million in funds.

Zilke stated he could not tell the residents the total cost to them at this time. The project can be built in modules so that it could be bid out in modules and certain projects can be removed if grant funding is not received. He estimated that it could cost private property owners between \$1,500 and \$10,000 per parcel spread over 20 years.

After the bidding process is complete residents will receive a Notice of Letting for the Day of Review. At that point the cost of the assessment will be known.

Austin clarified that as the Township engineer he had not been given a chance to review the details of the project. The information was requested by the Townships involved, but was never received.

*Gillette left at 8:06 p.m.*

**Public Comment:**

- Mr. & Mrs. Herman stated that flooding had not occurred since Lakeland corrected the issues with the detention pond and were concerned with bringing the water to the north end of the subdivision which is already a low area.
- Mark Jones, questioned if there would be any improvements to the ditch that runs behind his home. Spicer stated that the ditch would be eliminated as part of the basin retrofit grant because it is a safety hazard.
- Terrie Smith, questioned if Lakeland was going to help out financially, the residents in the area took the biggest financial hit in the previous assessment. Also questioned if those residents would receive credit for the assessment amount they have already paid. Zilke stated that he spoke with bond counsel and the owners will get credit for benefit paid previously.
- Bob (Royaltan), questioned what guarantees were there that this project will work this time. Zilke stated there are no guarantees, but design work has been done better this time.
- Gary Coate, stated Lakeland detention ponds have helped, but ditch under Kristine still overflows.
- Stacy Loar-Porter, questioned if there was any guarantee from Lakeland that they would not appeal to the courts against the special assessment as before. Zilke stated they are aware they are part of the special assessment district.
- YMCA representative was concerned with the possibility of such a large assessment.

Zilke stated that the assessment would be equitable and fair to all land owners.

Zilke stated that the deadline for the SRF Grant application is 7/1/2009.

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

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Stacy Loar-Porter, Clerk

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