

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
BUDGET WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 21, 2008

THE LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SET A BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008.

THE BUDGET WORKSHOP of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2055 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Florian, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer, Geisler, Jewell and Pscholka.
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Attorney for Police Negotiations. Attorneys Michael Snapper from Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Grand Rapids, and Tom Fette from Taglia, Fette, Dumke & White, P.C., St. Joseph, are candidates for replacing John DeWayne, who has been appointed to the bench. Both men introduced themselves to the Board and were highly recommended. Either attorney would serve the Township well.

Appointed Attorney. Motion Carried. Pscholka moved, seconded by Jewell, to hire Tom Fette as the Township attorney for police contract negotiations.

SMRSSWA Budget. Motion Carried. Pscholka moved, seconded by Geisler, to approve the proposed Southwest Michigan Regional Sanitary Sewer & Water Authority budget. **Attachment A.**

General Fund Budget Review. Geisler presented the proposed revenues, departmental budgets, and transfers. Board discussed financing of fire truck by special Township assessment; need to renew police operating millage; possibly a parks capital millage. Questioned if we had a contract with Cornerstone for the service we were paying for. Stauffer will ask for a contract and report on what they have done for us. Discussed hefty legal costs and what can be done to lower them.

Compensation. The budget was prepared with 2 ½ % increases. The Trustees approved \$40,000 salary for the treasurer, with an allocation to the parks fund; 2% increases for the supervisor and clerk; and no increase for the trustees.

Fire Department Budget was discussed. Was there justification for a full time fire chief, what are the possible solutions, and we may still not need a full time chief. The full time fire chief was removed from the budget.

The above changes were the only items to be adjusted for the draft budget proposal for the budget public hearing to be held at 7:05 p.m. on March 11, 2008. Geisler reviewed cemetery, building, township improvement and water and sewer funds.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Sharon Geisler

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