

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2008

THE REGULAR MEETING of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order on March 11, 2008, at 7:05 p.m. by Dick Stauffer, Supervisor, in the Municipal Building, 2055 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Marc Florian, Deb Peterson, Terrie Smith, Dick Stauffer, Sharon Geisler, and Al Pscholka

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Jewell.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was given.

CHANGES TO AGENDA. None.

Set Public Hearing for “Safe Routes to Schools”. Motion Carried. Peterson moved, seconded by Smith, to set a public hearing for 7:00 p.m. on April 8, 2008, on “Safe Routes to Schools” grant application.

Public Hearing on Street Light Special Assessment District. Motion Carried. Geisler moved, seconded by Pscholka, to hold the public hearing on establishing a street light special assessment district for Marquette Estates II Subdivision at 7:05 p.m. Geisler explained the Township requires street lights in subdivisions, the developer has paid for the electricity for the current year, and each parcel will receive an assessment on their 2008 tax bill. No public comment. Pscholka moved, seconded by Stauffer, to close the public hearing at 7:06 p.m. **Motion Carried.**

Resolution to Establish Street Light Special Assessment District. Motion Carried. Geisler moved, seconded by Peterson, to adopt Resolution for Street Light Special Assessment District for Marquette Estates No. 2. *Resolution #08-06. Attachment A.* Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Florian, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer, Geisler, and Pscholka. Nays: None.

Budget Public Hearing. Motion Carried. Stauffer moved, seconded by Peterson, to hold the budget public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Loren Gerber, 1668 Bonny Bruce Dr., Stevensville; concerned with the amount of legal expenses, contracted services, employee pension benefits.

Don Kamp, 3795 Peach St., Stevensville; concerned with planning and legal fees. Why are we paying an attorney for lawsuit when our insurance carrier provides one? Also requests the Board review the pension ordinance and benefits – believes our benefits are too costly.

Pscholka replied we are investigating ways to reduce legal expenses, but the Township does need to defend itself, and the Board has asked the clerk to review and present report to the Board on all benefits. Geisler replied our liability coverage is \$100,000, and there is a good chance one of the lawsuits will surpass that amount. Gerber and Kamp thought the Board should have at least \$1,000,000 coverage with umbrella coverage over that. Peterson moved, seconded by Florian, to close the public hearing at 7:25 p.m. **Motion Carried.**

Resolution to Approve 2008 - 2009 Budget, and Wages, and Set 2008 Millage Rates. Motion Carried. Pscholka moved, seconded by Peterson, to approve the resolution to adopt the annual budget and to set 2008 millage rates pursuant to the General Appropriations Act, and approve the 2008-2009 wage schedule. *Resolution #08-07. Attachment B.* Pscholka noted we are making needed improvements in our parks; general fund expenditures increased by 2.2%; we’ve purchased a new fire

truck for \$190,000; and our budget is lean and mean. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Peterson, Smith, Stauffer, Geisler, Pscholka, and Florian. Nays: None.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Stauffer reported, letters from MI Wind working Group regarding Brownfield site for a community wind project; U.S. Board on Geographical Names approving Lake Ann for a small lake formed by past sand mining in Lake and LCT; and letter from Larry Merritt questioning zoning in new zoning ordinance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED. Stauffer moved, seconded by Peterson, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- 1. Minutes of the 2/12/08, special noon, closed session, and regular meetings, budget workshops of 2/20 and 2/21, and 3/5 special meeting and closed session.
- 2. Approve the 2/28/08 and 3/15/08 bills from the following funds.

General Fund	\$ 141,530.84
Parks Fund	2,693.91
Parks Capital Improvement	-0-
Cemetery Fund	1,672.69
Building Fund	28,851.55
Township Improvement Fund	-0-
Police Fund	87,934.29
Police Drug	9.60
Police Capital Improvement	-0-
Sewer Enterprise	
Sewer Operating	25,354.46
Water Enterprise	
Water Operating	181,727.15
Water Improvement	-0-
TOTAL	469,774.49

UNFINISHED BUSINESS. None

NEW BUSINESS.

Spring Trash Days. Motion Carried. Geisler moved, seconded by Smith, to approve resident trash passes for April 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 7:00 a.m. until noon, with two passes per household.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT.

Drains. Echo Ridge-South Drain. Stauffer moved, seconded by Pscholka, to approve the resolution authorizing the Drain Commissioner to expend in excess of \$2,500 per mile to maintain and repair Echo Ridge – South Drain. *Resolution #08 – 08. Attachment C.* Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Smith, Stauffer, Geisler, Pscholka, Florian, and Peterson. Nays: None.

BCRC. The Road Commission will be slurry coating the following: Echo Ridge (J. Beers to Joni), Joni Lane (Willow Creek to Bonanza), Willow Creek Path, Ridgewood, Fountain Ln., Glen Haven (Gordon to Jewell), Green Acre Dr. (Gordon to Jewell), Jewell, Michelle, Kristine, Pioneer Ave., Wooded Way, Roberts, Bell Circle, Ravine Way, Woodcreek Tr., and Silver Creek Pl.

Ordinance Enforcement. Received update.

CLERK’S REPORT.

BOOK BALANCES are as follows: \$586,495.09 in the general fund; \$234,572.85 in police; \$15,722.69 in police capital; \$7,284.31 in parks; \$82,240.46 in parks capital; \$379,235.09 in township improvement; 2,048,589.05 in sewer operating; \$1,838,041.03 in sewer replacement; \$293,469.60 in sewer improvement; \$2,301,282.28 in water operating; \$599,146.54 in water replacement; \$4,427,487.42 in water improvement; \$78,688.11 in street light fund; \$83,666.59 in building fund; \$459.00 in Glenlord sidewalk special assessment fund; \$0 in Cleveland Ave. sidewalk special assessment fund; \$2,191.82 in DeFay Road special assessment fund; and \$86,663.51 in cemetery fund. We also have funds in trust & agency \$3,630.04; t & a delinquent taxes \$4,487.49; tax account \$104,301.94; fire station debt fund \$62,986.64; library bond debt fund \$126,287.20; and flex spending account \$2,479.78. All balances have been verified with the treasurer’s records as of 2/29/08.

Budget Adjustment. Motion Carried. Geisler moved, seconded by Peterson, to approve following budget adjustments:

Department	Budget	Adjustment	Adjusted Budget
General Fund Expense			
Assessor	\$163,690	\$ 3,310	\$167,000
Township Hall	36,070	6,930	43,000
General Maintenance	42,750	1,250	44,000
Planning & Zoning	77,000	8,000	85,000
General Fund Revenue			
Revenue Sharing	875,000	36,000	911,000
Sewer Operating	1,821,335	145,665	1,967,000
Water Operating	654,385	153,615	808,000
Street Lighting	38,000	500	38,500

TREASURER’S REPORT. Smith reported all funds are in the money market for year end at rates of 3.9% to 3.2%. Her annual report will be available next month.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT. Florian reported they approved the Zoning Ordinance and map with the changes noted on William & Works letter of 3/4/08.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT. None.

ASSESSOR’S REPORT. Distributed to board.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT. Three single family residential permits were issued in February.

Ordinance to Adopt the Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Codes, 2006 Edition. Motion Carried. Stauffer moved, seconded by Florian, to adopt at its second reading Ordinance 08-01, an ordinance to adopt the Michigan Plumbing and Mechanical Codes, 2006 Editions. **Attachment D.** Roll call Vote: Ayes: Stauffer, Geisler, Pscholka, Florian, Peterson, and Smith. Nays: None.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY REPORT. Distributed to board.

FIRE BOARD. Minutes distributed to board and they will research information Board requested.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT. Distributed to the board.

LIBRARY REPORT. None.

PARKS REPORT. Smith reported the State received the grant for restrooms at the soccer park on 2/29/08; as soon as weather permits, we will start on ground maintenance; and the bricklayer will be starting on the dugouts as soon as weather permits.

LMSWSTA (water authority). Pscholka reported they will soon be starting on the two water towers; the total capital project for the St. Joseph City Water Plant is \$21 million, of which the City is responsible for 1/3 of it. We need to proceed with talks with the City regarding a governmental partnership, where we would have some ownership, control, and ability to set rates.

Public Comment.

Susan Bond, Cornerstone, asked us to review our records for available properties. Florian asked her about business retention in our area and requested reports and calls to businesses in Lincoln Charter Township over the past two years.

Loren Gerber praised our police department in responding within five minutes to a medical emergency at church.

Don Kamp asked when the Zoning Ordinance would be on the agenda; if Smith was the Parks contact; commended our building inspector for being consumer friendly; and suggested we send a proclamation to Walgreens for locating in our Township.

Florian thanked Loren and Don for participating in our review of the zoning ordinance and agreed something should be sent to Walgreens. Stauffer will handle.

ADJOURN. Pscholka moved, seconded by Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. **Motion Carried.**

Sharon Geisler, Clerk

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