

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
REGULAR MEETING
November 10, 2009

THE REGULAR MEETING of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order on November 10, at 7:00 p.m. by Dick Stauffer, Supervisor, in the Municipal Building, 2055 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Gillette, Marc Florian, Stacy Loar-Porter, Tom Norbey, Deb Peterson, Terrie Smith and Dick Stauffer.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was given.

CHANGES TO AGENDA. None.

PRESENTATIONS.

Mark Ficks, tennis director at South Shore Racquet Club, approached the Board about the possibility of setting up a youth tennis program to be held at the Township tennis courts. South Shore would run the program at no cost to the Township. It would hold lessons from morning time until noon 2 days a week.

Florian expressed his concern for allowing a for profit enterprise to use the township facilities. The Township currently derives financial and sweat equity from our current programs which are non-profit. Ficks stated that South Shore is not looking to gain large profits from this program and that management was open to setting up a financial arrangement with the Township.

Ficks also spoke on the possibility for Adopt-A-Court grants through the USTA once you become a member. The grants are used to make improvements to tennis courts and set-up programs.

Consensus of the board was to possibly allow the program after a meeting with South Shore to discuss a financial contribution. The issue will be discussed at the December meeting.

LIBRARY REPORT. Dina Reilly reported it is the International Year of Astronomy, in observance of this the library will have on display two pictures taken from the NASA Observatory of the center of the Milky Way. The pictures will be displayed for approximately one month in the Lawrence Room. The Super Smash Double Dash event will be held November 16th from 3:30 pm-5:00 pm. The Library will close at 5:00 pm on November 25th and all day on November 26th for Thanksgiving.

CORRESPONDENCE. None.

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

1. Minutes of the 10/13/09, special noon, regular meeting
2. Approve the 11/11/09 and 10/27/09 bills from the following funds.

General Fund	\$ 108,831.13
Parks Fund	8,894.54
Parks Capital Improvement	-0-
Cemetery Fund	1,784.97

Building Fund	13,514.27
Township Improvement Fund	2,565.80
Police Fund	135,526.11
Police Drug	-0-
Police Capital Improvement	-0-
Sewer Enterprise	
Sewer Operating	45,279.97
Sewer Improvement	-0-
Water Enterprise	
Water Operating	2,156.65
Water Improvement	-0-
TOTAL	318,553.44

UNFINISHED BUSINESS. None

NEW BUSINESS. None.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

Drain Commission. Stauffer reported the Township received the invoice for the 2009 Drains at Large. The cost is \$26,102.36, \$30,000 was budgeted. Notice of Review of Apportionments for the Herbert Brown Drain was received; the Township share will be \$822.00 per year for the next three years.

Appointments/Reappointments. Ralph Bansen was appointed as an alternate member to the ZBA at the noon meeting. Norbey requested to be the second alternate to the ZBA, Stauffer will review if it is allowable for a trustee to serve on the ZBA.

CLERK'S REPORT.

Book Balances at 10/31/09 are as follows: \$696,304.80 in the general fund; \$642,720.26 in police; \$20,437.49 in parks; \$71,187.63 in cemetery; \$42,886.67 in building; \$144,451.55 in township improvement; \$8,021.40 in police capital; \$33,990.87 in parks capital; \$2,218,810.35 in sewer operating; \$1,995,137.14 in sewer replacement; \$275,989.34 in sewer improvement; \$2,259,789.07 in water operating; \$719,076.66 in water replacement; \$4,675,195.91 in water improvement; \$9,297.61 in trust & agency; \$206.00 in Glenlord sidewalk special assessment; \$263.77 in DeFay Rd. special assessment; and \$119,467.48 in street lighting. We also have funds in T & A delinquent taxes \$5,481.59; tax account \$333,361.33; fire station debt \$72,112.73; library bond \$133,921.55; flex spending \$3,877.46.

Loar-Porter reported that the Township should anticipate a reduction in revenue sharing of approximately \$108,000 for the 2009/2010 year. Revenue sharing payments received through October from the state are 7.5% less than the state estimated. She is estimating future payments to be approximately 8% less than estimated. She presented budget adjustments to account for the loss in revenues.

Budget Adjustments. Motion Carried. Loar-Porter moved, seconded by Peterson, to approve budget adjustments as presented. **Attachment A.**

TREASURER'S REPORT. Smith reported earnings of \$82,694.16 in interest YTD. 93.4% of the summer taxes have been collected. The winter taxes bills will have a new look. We are participating in the demo of a new tax bill program from the county.

Norbey requested written confirmation of completion of recommendations made by the auditor at the September meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT. Florian reported that an application received for a Bed & Breakfast on Waverland Path has been postponed until the December Planning Commission meeting, pending further review. Two text amendment proposals, Article 4 and Article 9 of the Zoning Ordinance, are being sent back to the Planning Commission for language review by the attorney.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT. Stauffer reported that the ZBA had a tie vote concerning the sign application for Christ Lutheran Church at the November meeting. The application will be presented for a re-vote at the December meeting.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT. Distributed to board. It was noted that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate that will be applied to the Taxable values for 2010 is .997. The CPI was 4.4 in 2009.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT. Three single family residential permits were issued in October. Year to date there have been eight permits for single-family dwellings.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY REPORT. Distributed to board.

FIRE BOARD. Peterson reported that a draft of Standard Operating Guidelines for the use of lights and sirens on personal vehicles was presented at the noon meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT. Distributed to the board by e-mail.

PARKS REPORT. Smith reported the restoration has been completed at the community center from the damage caused by vandalism.

WATER/SEWER. Stauffer presented information to support a recommended 9% increase in sewer rates, an average of \$22 per year for an average user. As a result of the rate study that was completed by Mark Beauchamp it was determined an appropriate increase would be 9%. The increase will cover any treatment plant cost increases and infiltration treatment costs the Township may see in the next year. The increase will also cover the Township's share of the bond that is being acquired to repair the Hickory Creek Interceptor and general operating expenses.

2010 Sewer Rate Increase. Motion Carried. Stauffer moved, seconded by Norbey, to approve a 9% increase in sewer rates to be effective on the March 2010 billing.

Public Comment. Loren Gerber voiced concerns of the 9% increase and questioned if the Township was using any of the reserve sewer funds to pay for the interceptor project. Members of the board explained that some cash reserves would be used toward the bond payments, that the 5% increase would not completely cover the annual expense increase and the bond payment interest which estimated to be 5.5%.

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Stacy Loar-Porter, Clerk