

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 9, 2008

THE REGULAR MEETING of the Lincoln Charter Township Board of Trustees was called to order on September 9, 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, Brian Jewell, and Al Pscholka

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was given.

CHANGES TO AGENDA. None

**Set Public Hearing. Motion Carried.** Stauffer moved, seconded by Geisler, to reset a public hearing for streetlight special assessments for Forest Brook Subdivision for 7:03 p.m. on October 14, 2008. Geisler did not have information to hold the public hearing at September meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

Stauffer reported on a letter from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes.

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

1. Minutes of the 8/12/08, special noon, two closed sessions, and regular meeting.
2. Approve the 9/15/08 and 8/30/08 bills from the following funds.

General Fund	\$ 158,489.98
Parks Fund	11,341.40
Parks Capital Improvement	32,177.74
Cemetery Fund	4,065.10
Building Fund	27,770.80
Township Improvement Fund	40,000.00
Police Fund	92,622.68
Police Drug	-0-
Police Capital Improvement	-0-
Sewer Enterprise	
Sewer Operating	50,081.51
Sewer Improvement	-0-
Water Enterprise	
Water Operating	72,231.43
Water Improvement	-0-
TOTAL	488,780.64

**AUDIT REPORT.** Auditor Jim Scarpone reported the Township is in excellent financial condition, the staff was very cooperative, and they made some recommendations on internal control. Although the budget projected a \$48,000 shortfall for the year, we actually increased our fund balance by \$196,895. In answer to Pscholka's questions, Scarpone stated our water and sewer rate study showed we needed certain reserves to maintain the systems and to set aside amounts for future replacement needs, and commended our board and past boards for future planning. We have a net loss in the sewer fund, which means our rate structure is not covering all of the depreciation, which is to cover replacement of the system. We have the resources to fund the water tower and we don't have to borrow money. Our

reserves are not excessive and cannot be used for projects other than water and sewer. In answer to the question - are we over dependent on State funding - we are below average in funding by taxes, only 25% of our revenue, we are more affected by decreases in state revenue. Florian noted interest accounted for much of the increase in the fund balance. It was noted the treasurer has done a great job in investing our funds, however, the current interest rates won't give the same results.

**APPROVE AUDIT. Motion Carried.** Pscholka moved, seconded by Smith, to approve the audit for fiscal year ending 3/31/08.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS.** None

**NEW BUSINESS.** None

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.**

**Drains.** Stauffer reported we will receive a report on the Hollywood drain plan at the October meeting.

**NPDES.** Their public education plan is linked to our website.

**Ordinance Enforcement.** Received update.

**Roads.** BCRC is sending letters to residents regarding slurry seal in their neighborhood.

**Fall Trash Program.** Stauffer announced Lincoln Charter Township residents only, can take their trash to reliable at a cost of \$18 per pick-up load on the four Saturdays in October from 7:30 a.m. until noon, however, there will only be someone to help unload on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Halloween. Motion Carried.** Stauffer moved, seconded by Geisler, to set Halloween for October 31 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**CLERK'S REPORT.**

**Book Balances** at 8/31/08 are as follows: \$809,880.69 in the general fund; \$802,430.37 in police; \$19,925.31 in parks; \$103,808.96 in cemetery; \$58,305.13 in building; \$324,322.30 in township improvement; \$15,912.88 in police capital; \$51,994.59 in parks capital; \$2,058,838.49 in sewer operating; \$1,957,457.68 in sewer replacement; \$253,262.25 in sewer improvement; \$2,159,636.85 in water operating; \$705,528.38 in water replacement; \$4,568,955.56 in water improvement; \$2,882.30 in trust & agency; \$74.84 in Glenlord sidewalk special assessment; \$438.77 in DeFay Rd. special assessment; and \$78,905.94 in street lighting. We also have funds in T & A delinquent taxes \$11,770.26; tax account \$2,559,571.95; fire station debt \$82,645.86; library bond \$164,936.14; flex spending \$2,862.49. All balances have been verified with the treasurer's records.

**General Election.** Geisler reported the last day to register to vote is 10/6, and reminded residents she is no longer allowed to send an application for an absent ballot unless the resident has requested it, unlike the political parties and special interest groups who can send them to anyone.

**2008 Millage Rates. Motion Carried.** Geisler moved, seconded by Pscholka, to levy the maximum allowable millage rates for 2008 for the township and the Airport Authority as listed on the L-4029. The budget public hearing included the 2008 tax rates. **Attachment A.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Taxes are due Monday by 5:00 p.m. There is an extra day this year

because the 14<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday. Current interest rate is 2.4% compared with 5.4% last year.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT.**

**Lakeside Beach Club. No Action Taken.** Anthony Perry of A. Perry Designs & Builds P.C., of Libertyville, IL, has applied for a planned unit development for 31.11 acres at 3822 Red Arrow Highway, parcels #11-12-0009-0022-01-4, #11-12-0009-0022-02-2, & #11-12-0009-0022-00-6; has revised the plan to five story condos, and wider roads for the fire trucks. The board at noon sent the project back to the Planning Commission for a public hearing as suggested by our attorney because of the material changes.

Florian also reported the water tower signage was approved, and they needed to watch for special permits issued in part because of special conditions or amendments.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT.** None.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT.** Distributed to board.

**LIBRARY REPORT.** No report because Dina Reilly was ill.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT.** Four single family residential permits were issued in July.

**AIRPORT AUTHORITY REPORT.** Distributed to board.

**By-Laws. Motion Carried.** Stauffer moved, seconded by Jewell, to approve the By-Laws of the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Authority as presented. **Attachment B.** Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Florian, Peterson, Smith, Stauffer, Geisler, Jewell, and Pscholka. Nays: None. We have also received their audit.

**FIRE BOARD.** Minutes distributed to board. The Fire Board presented information in support of a full time fire chief at the noon workshop. Stauffer will appoint a committee from the Trustees to establish priorities and if having a full time fire chief is more important than other services, make a recommendation to the Board in 90 days if items should to be cut from the budget and/or if we should go for a millage or establish a special assessment.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT.** Distributed to the board.

**PARKS REPORT.**

Smith reported:

*Glenlord Park and Lincoln Beach* - we have received complaints on the restrooms, and are planning to use the present buildings to house port-a-pots, which we hope will solve the problem.

*Baseball* – thanked us for the great dugouts and would like the Township to build four more on fields #4 and #7. Their next priority is to install a well at the fields to save money on sprinkling. It is estimated a well could cost \$8,400; if the Township would have the funds for the well, the association has \$10,000 over and above the fees that would come to the Township for a sprinkler system. If the Board would consider this for next year, they would install the sprinkler system this fall. There is a shed at the field that could be used as a well house. They asked permission to move out the wall at the concession stand six to eight feet. They will pay the estimated \$2,500 cost. Attorney Dienes noted the liability is theirs and we would need a letter from them. The parks capital fund will be reviewed to determine available funds after donations for the dugouts have been received.

**LMSWSTA (water authority).** Pscholka stated the water tower is up, we have met the deadline, and should see an improvement with water pressure in October or November. We need to have a regional solution for water service.

**Public Comment.**

Resident suggested special meeting notices be put on the web site in a prominent location and the logo takes too much space.

ADJOURN. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Sharon Geisler, Clerk

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