

Larkin Charter Township
Regular Board Meeting
3027 N Jefferson Rd, Midland
Tuesday, June 13, 2023 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members present: Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Owens, Hitchcock, Draves, Deitsch

Absent: None

Guests: None

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of agenda as written.

Motion to accept agenda as written by Draves, support from Deitsch.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: *Draves, Deitsch, Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Hitchcock*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Owens*

Guests

None

Correspondence

Beaver Township letter regarding Master Plan.

Auditor's Letter of Engagement.

Public Comment

None.

Action Items:

- *Pest Control Contract for 2023-2024.*

Our current contract with Midland Pest Control expires in June, 2023. New contract is same as last year - \$1,200 for annual service of Office, Hall, and Fire Department.

Motion by Deitsch, support by Draves to renew Pest Control Contract with Midland Pest Control for 2023-24.

Yeas: *Deitsch, Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Hitchcock, Draves*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Owens*

- *MTA Dues.*

MTA Dues and Legal Defense Fund have went up approximately 28% over last year (based on calculation involving Taxable Value, and revenue sharing). The Online Learning Subscription is also available, but due to it not being utilized by many, it may not be worth purchasing.

Motion by Deitsch, support by Moe to pay MTA Dues and Legal Defense Fund contribution, but not purchase any Online Learning Subscriptions.

Yeas: *Sadow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Owens, Hitchcock, Draves, Deitsch*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *None*

- *Columbarium Purchase.*

Mike Atton, Cemetery Sexton, has submitted a quote from Huron Granite Works for a 48 Niche Columbarium. The price is \$17,400 and includes delivery and installation. We will need to prep the space and put in a foundation slab.

Motion by Benter-Rich, support by Hitchcock to purchase columbarium and prepare space for installation.

Yeas: *Moe, Benter-Rich, Owens, Hitchcock, Draves, Deitsch, Sadow*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *None*

- *Wedding Request.*

Another couple has requested the use of the Township Office Lawn for their wedding ceremony. Discussion as to whether or not Board needs to approve each request. Going forward, addendum will be added to Hall Rental Contract if the renter wants to use the lawn. It can only be used if the renter is also renting the Hall, and only used for the ceremony. The addendum will also ensure the Township is not liable for any injury, etc., and that the renter is responsible for any damage done to the property.

Motion by Benter-Rich, support by Owens to allow couple to use the Township Office lawn for ceremony, adding addendum to Hall Rental Contract for use of lawn with liability waiver and responsibility of renter for any damage.

Yeas: *Benter-Rich, Owens, Hitchcock, Draves, Deitsch, Sadow, Moe*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *None*

- *Introduction of Facilities Use Ordinance.*

During the most recent MTA conference, MTA encouraged townships to adopt a Facilities Use Ordinance to ensure that residents and the general public are clear as to which areas of the township are open for public use, photography, and videography and when those activities can take place.

Motion by Benter-Rich, support by Hitchcock to introduce the Facilities Use Ordinance.

Yeas: *Owens, Hitchcock, Draves, Deitsch, Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *None*

- *Survey for Whispering Pines Walkway.*

Zailey Archbold, a township resident and Girl Scout, has proposed to make improvements to the walkway between the Whispering Pines Subdivision and the Township Park. Before any improvements can be made, the Board needs to determine if they want to continue to maintain the walkway or close it. During events at the Park, the walkway can be used as an emergency access if Jefferson Road is blocked or congested. If the Board continues to maintain the walkway, a survey needs to be complete to clearly mark where the path boundaries are and what areas are in the conservation easement, as improvements to the conservation easement will need to be approved by the DNR or left as is.

Motion by Hitchcock, support by Draves to continue to maintain the walkway between Whispering Pines and the Township Park.

Yeas: *Hitchcock, Draves, Deitsch, Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich*

Nays: *Owens*

Absent: *None*

Motion by Deitsch, support by Draves to contract with Rosenbrock Land Surveying to survey the walkway.

Yeas: *Draves, Deitsch, Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Hitchcock*

Nays: *Owens*

Absent: *None*

Consent Agenda

Approval of June Payroll and May Special Election Payroll and May/June invoices.

Yeas: *All*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *None*

Motion by Hitchcock, support by Owens to approve May 9th board meeting minutes as written.

Yeas: *Deitsch, Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Owens, Hitchcock, Draves*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *None*

Motion by Deitsch, support by Owens to approve June 7th special meeting minutes – both open and closed sessions – as written.

Yeas: *Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Owens, Hitchcock, Deitsch*

Nays: *None*

Abstain: *Draves*

Department Reports:

Fire Department:

- No report.

Clerk:

- August special election for Meridien Schools on August 8th.
- Meeting with County Clerk regarding Proposal 2:
 - County Super Center for 9 days of early voting.
 - 2027 election equipment will need to be upgraded. Need to start budgeting for that (estimated costs are \$36,000).
 - Presidential Preferential Primary date not set yet – either February or May.
 - Ballot drop boxes must be under video surveillance and video kept until after election.
- 2024 Budget process starts in July. Clerk will distribute year-to-date information to all departments in July and requests all proposed budgets be returned in August. Workshops will be held in September and October.

Treasurer:

- General Fund: \$4,315,843.98
- Sanitation: \$282,254.37
- Water 1: \$435,526.98
- Water 3: \$726,403.14
- Water 4: \$21,334.80

Township Code Authority:

- Building Permits: 7 (2 new construction)
- Plumbing Permits: 4
- Mechanical Permits: 12
- Electrical Permits: 4

Park/Park Committee:

- Kubota has been delivered.
- Benches in two baseball field dugouts (2 per field, 4 total) need to be replaced.

Motion by Hitchcock, support by Moe to purchase 4 aluminum benches for dugouts, not to exceed \$2,400.

Yeas: *Sadow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Owens, Hitchcock, Draves, Deitsch*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *None*

- Several residents have requested that the restrooms be open during park hours. Historically, there has been vandalism to the restrooms.

Motion by Benter-Rich, support by Owens to open the old concession restrooms during park hours on a trial basis.

Yeas: *Deitsch, Sadow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Owens, Hitchcock, Draves,*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *None*

Cemetery:

- No updates.

Hall:

- No updates.

Assessor:

- 2023 July Board of Review meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
- There is one pending Michigan Tax Tribunal appeal. Robert Granett, 3075 Alderberry Court. Assessor has answered the appeal with the Tax Tribunal and now waiting for a court date.
- The 2023 Assessment Roll Audit, as required by Public Act 660 of 2018, has begun for all townships and cities in Midland County. Assessor has uploaded all documents to the state website, including the 2023 assessing database. After they review the information, we will schedule an in-person audit with Reason Consulting, the company that was hired by the state.
- We have 1 pending STC (State Tax Commission) taxable value appeal for 4251 Monroe Road.

Planning Commission:

- Fence ordinance still in progress.

Zoning Board of Appeals

- No report.

Zoning Enforcement:

- Investigating smaller complaints at this time.

Roads:

- No report.

Supervisor:

- No report.

Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Benter-Rich, Clerk



Maria Sandow, Supervisor