

Larkin Charter Township
Regular Board Meeting
3027 N Jefferson Rd, Midland
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Absent: *Sadow*

Guests: *Paul Junge, Candidate for Congress*

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Sadow is absent and meeting moderator needs to be appointed.

Motion to appoint Trustee Draves as meeting moderator by Owens, support from Hitchcock.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Sadow*

Correspondence

Thank you from Gerstacker family for flower arrangement for Earl's death.

Public Comment

Guests

Paul Junge introduced himself to the Board as a candidate for Congress.

Action Items:

- *Update on Acorn Path to Park.*

We have received 4 bids for tree removal on/near the path, ranging from \$2,000 to \$2,700.

Motion by Draves, support by Owens, to accept bid from M & M Stump Removal in the amount of \$2,000. Contingency that M & M will not use heavy equipment due to wetlands restrictions. If cost for this contingency results in the bid being more than \$2,400, we will contract with Concorde Tree Service.

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

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Sadow*

Todd Bennett, adjacent property owner brought up concerns regarding path users trespassing on his property late at night on the way to the park. He would like to see a gate at the entry way to the park and a fence installed. The Board responded that we will be addressing these issues in the future. The first step is removing the trees and moving the path to the correct location.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2024 BUDGET*

Motion by Hitchcock, support by Deitsch, to approve the 2024 Township Budget.

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

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Sadow*

REGULAR MEETING RESUMES*

- *Hall Policy Changes.*

Jill Deitsch (Hall Liaison), Lisa Benter-Rich (Clerk), and Mandy Archbold (Office Manager) met to discuss the current hall policy and proposed new policies. The details are included as an attachment to the minutes. Board is asked to approve these policy changes.

Motion by Hitchcock, support by Owens, to approve the hall policy changes.

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

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Sadow*

- *Columbarium.*

The columbarium and benches are installed in the cemetery. Sexton Atton is working on pricing .

- *Assessor Interviews Follow Up.*

Coiene Tait (current assessor), Kathy Moe, and Lisa Benter-Rich interviewed two candidates for the assessor position. They will meet with Supervisor Sadow to discuss and make a hiring decision.

Consent Agenda

Approval of December Payroll, November/December Invoices, November 27, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.

Yeas: *All*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Sadow*

Approval of November 14 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Yeas: *All*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Sadow*

Abstain: *Draves*

Department Reports:

Fire Department:

- 35 calls since last report:
 - 25 medical emergencies
 - 6 vehicle accidents
 - 3 powerlines down
 - 1 public assist
- Santa Parade went great. Fire Department will be participating in the 2024 Shop With a Hero Event on the 14th.
- Request to purchase a topper the 551. Within budget, so no Board approval needed.

Clerk:

- New Deputy Clerk began working Tuesday, December 5, 2023.
- Presidential Preferential Primary in February. Absent Ballot Applications will go out this week.

Treasurer:

- General Fund: \$3,992,910.84
- Sanitation: \$85,884.51
- Water 1: \$489,059.34
- Water 3: \$448,398.73
- Water 4: \$20,495.17

Township Code Authority:

- Building Permits: 1
- Mechanical: 5
- Electrical: 2
- Plumbing: 3

Park/Park Committee:

- Closed for winter.

Cemetery:

- No additional report (see columbarium update above).

Hall:

- No additional report (see report above).

Assessor:

- There are two pending Michigan Tax Tribunal appeals.
 - Robert Granett 3075 Alderberry Court. I have answered the appeal with the Tax Tribunal. Court date is December 12, 2023 11:30 am (same day as Board of Review).
 - Michel Brendan 3758 E. Acorn Lane Petition has been answered with the Michigan Tax Tribunal.
- We have 1 pending STC (State Tax Commission) taxable value appeal for 4251 Monroe Road. This hearing will be in Lansing and should be scheduled soon.
- All new construction has been entered in computer, working on sketching new homes in the computer.
- October deeds have been entered in the computer. Working on November deeds.
- December Board of Review is scheduled for Tuesday December 12, 2023 at 11 am. At this time, we have 3 Hardship applications, and one clerical error to fix. Effective in 2025 the Veteran exemptions will not have to go before the Board of Review. The assessor can grant them, and the Veteran does not have to apply every year for the exemption.

Planning Commission:

- Looking for Home Occupation guidance – what do you think a Home Occupation is/is not.

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Appeal regarding greenhouse on Eastman Road was approved.

Zoning Enforcement:

- Researching owner of blighted property.
- Four blight cases in court.

Roads:

- None.

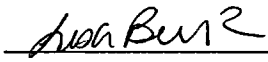
Supervisor:

- No report.

Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Benter-Rich, Clerk



~~Marla Sandow, Supervisor~~
Todd Draves