

Larkin Charter Township  
Regular Board Meeting  
3027 N Jefferson Rd, Midland  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

**Absent:** *Draves*

**Guests:** *Gary Hicks, Priority Waste; Kevin Kendall, Republic Services; Rick Fancon, GFL Environmental*

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of agenda with addition.

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

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Draves*

Correspondence

Midland County Drain Commission – Informational Meeting regarding Marilyns and Kens Drain work on December 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment

One public comment.

Guests

None.

**Action Items:**

- *Choose proposal for Trash/Recycling.*

The Township received three proposals for trash/recycling collection. Representatives from GFL Environmental, Priority Waste, and Republic Services introduced themselves and their company to the Board. The Board reviewed the 5-year proposals from each company.

**Motion by Hitchcock, support by Owens, to contract with Priority Waste for trash/recycling for 5 years, beginning 1/1/24.**

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

Nays: *None*  
Absent: *Draves*

- *Home Occupation Ordinance.*

The Board reviewed and discussed the Home Occupation Ordinance. After discussion, it was determined that the ordinance should be returned to Planning Commission for further revision and clarification.

**Motion by Benter-Rich, support by Deitsch, to return Home Occupation Ordinance to the Planning Commission for further revision and clarification.**

Yeas: *Owens, Hitchcock, Deitsch, Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich*  
Nays: *None*  
Absent: *Draves*

- *Fence Ordinance.*

The Board reviewed and discussed the Home Occupation Ordinance. After discussion, it was determined that the ordinance should be returned to Planning Commission for further revision and clarification.

**Motion by Benter-Rich, support by Owens, to return Fence Ordinance to the Planning Commission for further revision and clarification.**

Yeas: *Hitchcock, Deitsch, Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Owens*  
Nays: *None*  
Absent: *Draves*

- *Escon Generators Maintenance Agreements.*

The new generators at Hall and Office will require annual maintenance provided by Escon Group. The cost for each is \$350. This maintenance is necessary to keep the warranty valid. Clerk to also check to see if Fire Department can be added to Escon Group for maintenance to streamline procedures.

**Motion by Moe, support by Benter-Rich, to contract with Escon Group for generator maintenance in the amount of \$350 per generator, or \$700 total.**

Yeas: *Deitsch, Sandow, Moe, Benter-Rich, Owens, Hitchcock*  
Nays: *None*  
Absent: *Draves*

- *Eagle Scout Project.*

Nathan Hansen, Eagle Scout, has proposed to construct a “bounce-back wall” at the Larkin Park for his Eagle Scout project. Nathan was unable to attend the Board meeting. The Board has additional questions for Nathan, so action was tabled until Clerk can follow up with Nathan to get clarification.

- *Text My Gov.*

The Board reviewed a proposal from *Text My Gov*, a service that provides text message alerts to residents. After much discussion, it was determined that the service was too expensive for the limited times we would utilize it. The Clerk will research other companies that offer the service to compare pricing.

- *Assessor Interviews.*

The deadline for applications for Assessor is now passed. We have received two applications. Office Manager to coordinate interviews with the candidates. Interview panel will consist of Maria Sandow, Kathy Moe, Todd Draves, and Coiene Tait.

- *Blinds for Front Door of Office.*

Elections and other busy times in the office require the staff to work after-hours. In an effort to provide a safer working environment, we need to install blinds at the front door and side window to provide privacy. Tri-City Blinds, who provided blinds throughout the office a few years ago, provided a quote of \$505, plus installation of \$95 (may be less) for the blinds.

**Motion by Hitchcock, support by Owens, to contract with Tri-City Blinds to install blinds at the front office door and side window.**

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

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Draves*

- *Hall Committee Findings.*

Nothing to report as committee has not met yet.

- *AT & T Metro Act Right of Way Permit Extension.*

Our agreement with AT &T for the Metro Act Right of Way Permit expires December 31, 2023. The extension will end December 31, 2028.

**Motion by Sandow, support by Moe, to extend the AT & T Metro Act Right of Way Permit.**

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

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Draves*



## Consent Agenda

Approval of November Payroll, October/November Invoices, October 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting Minutes, October 16<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes, October 25<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes, and November 6<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes. Motion by Hitchcock, support from Deitsch.

Yeas: *All*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Draves*

## Department Reports:

### Fire Department:

- 32 calls since last report:
  - 23 medical emergencies
  - 2 vehicle accidents
  - 2 structure fires
  - 1 brush fire
  - 1 gas leak
  - 1 odor investigation
  - 1 powerline down
  - 1 public assist with lockout
- Annual Business Inspections are complete. We inspected 55 buildings at 46 different businesses. Significant improvements have been made at the majority of locations of those that had concerns last year.
- The Fire Department will have a truck in this year's Santa Parade.
- The Fire Department would like to use the Hall for the department Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion by Benter-Rich, support by Deitsch, to allow Fire Department to use Hall for Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at no charge.**

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

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Draves*

- Introduction of new recruit – Corey Armstead. He will be trainee/probationary firefighter until he completes the fire academy.

**Motion by Deitsch, support by Owens, to hire new recruit as trainee/probationary fire fighter.**

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

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Draves*

- Lloyds Door Systems was here earlier this week to repair a door that wasn't opening. While the technician was here, he noticed some other repairs that needed to be done and provided quotes for that work. One door needs panels replaced as they are damaged. The cost for this is \$1,370. The other doors need new weatherstripping and maintenance on the doors and operators. The cost for this is \$478.

**Motion by Sandow, support by Benter-Rich, to contract with Lloyds Door Systems to make repairs to Fire Department doors.**

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

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Draves*

**Clerk:**

- Vaccine Clinic was very successful. We had 53 individuals receive vaccines.
- Clerk continues to work on policies and procedures, as well as prep for 2024 elections.
- Budget Workshop will be November 28 at 6:00 pm.

**Treasurer:**

- General Fund: \$3,993,110.84
- Sanitation: \$118,179.03
- Water 1: \$489,059.34
- Water 3: \$448,398.73
- Water 4: \$20,495.17

**Township Code Authority:**

- No report

**Park/Park Committee:**

- Preparing for winter.
- Clerk contacted City of Midland Parks employee Bart Heil and Marcie Post regarding agreements they have with baseball leagues use of parks. They are currently working on User Agreements and have shared with Clerk so Larkin Township can update our agreement with Little League.

**Cemetery:**

- No update on Columbarium delivery.
- Columbarium pad has been clearly marked to avoid damage from snow plowing.

**Hall:**

- Jill Deitsch, Mandy Archbold, and Lisa Benter-Rich to review the Hall Policy and present revisions to the Board in December.
- Renter reported that one of the large coffee pots was leaking and some chairs were broken. Clerk to order two replacement coffee pots and ask Tom Strunk to dispose of broken chairs.

**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.
- September deeds have been entered in the computer.
- December Board of Review is scheduled for Tuesday December 12, 2023 at 11 am. At this time, we have 4 Veteran exemption applications, 2 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:**

- Pond Ordinance is being drafted.
- One meeting date change for 2024 – July meeting will be July 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

- Appeal scheduled for 11/29/23 regarding greenhouse on Eastman Road.

**Zoning Enforcement:**

- Investigating smaller complaints at this time: noise, blight.

**Roads:**

- Supervisor did ride along to evaluate roads.
- 2024 road budget will not be prepared until January, but for Township budgeting purposes, amounts should remain the same, with a slight increase do to increased cost of asphalt.

**Supervisor:**

- No report.

Public Comment: None

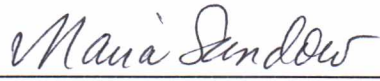
Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Lisa Benter-Rich, Clerk



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Maria Sandow, Supervisor