

Diane Ratkovich
Supervisor
Michelle Stamboulellis
Clerk
Maris Metz
Treasurer,
Lonnie Scott
Karen Nolte,
Laura Sanders,
Karen Sikkenga,
Trustees

DEXTER TOWNSHIP

6880 DEXTER-PINCKNEY RD.
DEXTER, MI 48130
(734) 426-3767

www.dextertownship.org



Regular Meeting of the Dexter Township Board Tuesday, December 20, 2022 6:00 PM

Location: Dexter Township Hall, 6880 Dexter-Pinckney Rd., Dexter, MI

CALL to ORDER: Supervisor Ratkovich called the meeting to order at 5:59 PM.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE: Recited by all.

ROLL CALL: Present – Ratkovich, Stamboulellis, Metz, Sanders, Nolte, and Scott.

Absent – Sikkenga, with notice.

Also present: Alexandra Dieck, Attorney; David Rohr, Director of Planning and

Zoning,

and Janis Miller, Recording Secretary.

SUPERVISOR'S REMARK/CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Supervisor Ratkovich remarked: **a)** she wished everyone a safe and happy Holiday and a Happy New Year; **b)** the Township will be closed on Dec 23rd, Dec 26th, Dec 30th, and January 2nd; **c)** the Open Space and Land Preservation Committee is giving way to a Board and they are seeking members; contact lsanders@dextertownship.org; **d)** Doug Armstrong has accepted the position of Fire Chief with the Dexter Area Fire Department; **e)** recognizing longtime Dexter Township resident and farmer Carl Lesser on his recent 98th birthday; **f)** thanked everyone who attended Kim Jordans retirement party with a shout out to Office Manager Abbie Norsworthy for an awesome job planning and executing; **g)** Pinckney Recreation is hiring for summer positions. No Board conflicts of interest.

1st CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Opened 6:04 pm

Bill Christian, Chestnut Drive, Chelsea

He wanted to clarify the foam collection program. He and his wife started a foam collection 3 years ago in their driveway, driving 3-4 loads of each Styrofoam collection to DART Industries in Okemos themselves. Over a year ago they were notified by WWRA that DART was bringing a truck [collection trailer] to WWRA's collection site across from the Chelsea Fairgrounds. They have collaborated with WWRA for about 7 collections in the last year and a half. The Christian's have a group of volunteers and continue to work with the Stamboulellis family. With miscommunication from WWRA about the January Styrofoam collection, they will collect one day in January in their driveway. Bill also mentioned that the Chelsea City Manager has offered them a location for the DART trailer, if the weather is good.

Closed 6:07

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APPROVAL of the AGENDA:

Clerk Stamboullellis requested a change to the wording in 9. New Business, C. Update on the *current Deputy* and finding a new Deputy Clerk.

Motion by Nolte to approve the agenda as amended. Motion second by Metz. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: November 15, 2022

Discussion: Page 3, under f. Summary of Clean-up Day put the word “approximately” in front of the dollar amount collected in donations.

Motion by Nolte to approve the regular meeting minutes as amended. Motion second by Metz. All ayes. Motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**A. Re-appoint Board of Review Members**

Motion by Metz to reappoint Board of Review Members Lois Beerbaum, Ryan Doletzky, and David Diesing for the term December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2024. Motion second by Nolte. All ayes. Motion carried.

B. Accept Charlie Taylor resignation from the Chelsea District Library Board

Motion by Metz to accept Charlie Taylor’s resignation from the Chelsea District Library Board. Motion second by Sanders. All ayes. Motion carried.

C. Introduce and appointment Bob Swistock to the Chelsea District Library Board

Bob Swistock introduced himself by saying he had lived in the township for 41 years, was a business CFO type person, and had worked around the world. Library Director Lori Coryell had approached him about filling the Dexter Township vacancy on the Library Board.

Motion by Sanders to appoint Bob Swistock as the Dexter Township representative to the Chelsea District Library Board for a three-year term [January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025]. Motion second by Metz. All ayes. Motion carried.

ORAL REPORTS:**A. Discussion on Sheriff contract/public safety – Representatives from Sheriff’s department and DAFD**

Washtenaw County Sheriff’s representatives Lt. Al Hunt, and Police Service Commander Keith Flores, as well as Dexter Area Fire Department’s Lt. Mike Grissom and Fire Chief Doug Armstrong spoke regarding Police services.

Dexter City, Dexter Township, and Webster Township contract for 8 Deputies. Dexter City pays for 3 Deputies (plus an additional ½ Deputy paid by the schools), Dexter Township pays for 3 Deputies and Webster Township pays for 2 Deputies. The number of Deputies assigned to each is based on call volume. The Deputies work out of the Dexter Substation downtown Dexter with 2 assigned the AM shift (8:00 am – 4:00 pm), 3 assigned to the midday shift (4:00pm – 12:00am), and two assigned to the night shift (12:00 am – 8:00 am). All the speakers reiterated how important it was to have adequate police coverage and as the population is increasing so too should the number of officers. With many impending retirements the Washtenaw County Sheriff is hiring. Discussion of “Banked Hours” and how they try to be at zero hours by the end of the year. Trustee Nolte asked about traffic control

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on truck weight limits. The answer was that the Sheriff Deputies are not trained to do that work but future recruits will be trained to address weight limits on our roads. Trustee Nolte asked if there could be a Deputy present for traffic control on Dexter Clean-up days.

Recess: 6:56 PM

Back in Session: 7:04 PM

B. Dexter Senior Recreational Authority – Jim Carson

Board President Jim Carson explained that the current Recreation Authority is Dexter Community Schools authority and not the Senior Center's authority. Due to the failed millage (confusion on what the millage actually funded), asked by the Dexter School's Recreation Authority, of which part was to help the Senior Center, the Dexter Senior Center is seeking their own Recreation Authority so they can raise funds for the Senior Center. In order to establish this authority, the Senior Center needed the approval of Dexter City Council, Dexter Township Board of Trustees, and Webster Township Board of Trustees. There is no cost to the municipalities but each will have 3 representatives on the Senior Center Recreational Authority Board. Dexter Senior Center was incorporated in 1969 without a sustainable funding source. With support from Dexter Schools ending and losing their facility due to the Encore Theatre purchasing the building they are in, the Senior Center needs a vehicle to raise funds hence their request for a Senior Center Recreational Authority. Jim said that the Senior Center Board is looking at 4 properties in the City of Dexter to move into. The suggested Bates Elementary is off the table as there is a growing preschool program and State Laws separate children and Seniors. The Board tabled further action pending more discussion and review.

C. Planning Department Update / Director of Planning and Zoning – David Rohr

Master Plan Steering Committee met Dec. 19th. The consultant is working on setting up public engagement. There still needs to be a youth engagement. A complete Master Plan draft could be available to the Board by the end of January 2023.

D. Stantec Report for Multi Lakes Sewer Authority – Trustee Karen Nolte

Multi Lakes is very appreciative to Dexter Township for funding the \$15,000 for the study. The Santec study brought forth that our pricing isn't too far out of range, had it been done in a more systematical way in the last ten years. Recommendations have been made for modifications to the vacuum system (one of two in the state). The study has also started the thought process, conversation on how to keep it going for another 20 years. The Multi Lakes Board is proactively looking into the future and is now discussing the debt payoff in 2028. Township contributed approximately \$154,000 in American Rescue Plan funds to MSLWA to replace Silver Lakes pump, Copper Meadows pump, and work on the wastewater treatment plant. Copper Meadows is still having pumping problems. We are going to try to reallocate about \$40,000 away from the waste water treatment plant and put it to the pump on Half Moon because it is a major pump in the system, it's in our township, and we're still using our township dollars to help township residents, but that needs immediate help.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Washtenaw County Police Service Contract & Mental Health Grant –

Supervisor Diane Ratkovich

Two separate resolutions.

Supervisor Ratkovich stated the motion: A motion to approve the Resolution approving amendment to Washtenaw County Police Service Contract. Trustee Scott so moved. Second by Treasurer Metz. Discussion: Resolution #22-656 supplied by Clerk. Supervisor Ratkovich stated the it was late in the game to make any changes [contract expired December 31st]. Attorney Alex Dieck summarized the contract: Police service contract

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signed in 2012 through about 2018. An amendment was signed in 2018 which extended the contract another 4 years, taking us through 2026. The lower deputy cost was due to a grant the township received. Contractually the township is on the hook for the full cost of each deputy, whether the 2023 grant applied for is received or not. The millage does run out in 2024, to be voted on by the voters. The contract contains a termination provision with a 6-month termination period. Trustee Sanders: Possibility of changing the number of deputies from 3 to 2. Trustee Scott: We need to engage with the other communities [Webster Township & Dexter City] starting now instead of when the contract is to expire.

Trustee Scott amended the motion: Move the approval of Washtenaw County Police Service contract which is Resolution #22-656. Metz seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Yea – Scott, Metz, Nolte, Stamboulellis, Sanders and Ratkovich; Nays – None; Absent – Sikkenga. Motion carried 6-0.

Supervisor Ratkovich was in a ZOOM meeting with the Sheriff and there is a Resolution approving the grant application for public safety and mental health, which is additional money. Resolution #22-657. Supervisor Ratkovich stated the motion: to approve Resolution #22-657. Trustee Scott so moved. Trustee Sanders seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Yea – Metz, Stamboulellis, Sanders, Scott, Nolte, and Ratkovich; Nays – None; Absent – Sikkenga. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Update on General Ledger – Clerk Michelle Stamboulellis

Clerk Stamboulellis said her office has been working with Heather Farmer, an accountant with Maner Costerisan. After familiarizing herself with our General Ledger she found a step that wasn't being performed; after journalizing payments the eft's (electronic fund transfers) were not being deducted, which has now been corrected to show accurate accounting and a ledger total. On Heather's third visit she worked with the Deputy Clerk making corrections from Auditor Rana Emmons, from the precious fiscal budget, and correcting some of journal entry codes. Heather's next visit will be to sit down with the Executives to make sure everyone is confident and can work together.

Concerns of Board:

Ratkovich – The last meeting you (Michelle) agreed you would be working with Heather to learn how to make these corrections and move forward with the General Ledger in good shape. With a Board vote of no confidence for the Deputy Clerk, he seems to be spending more time with Heather and you haven't been spending much time with her to learn how to make these adjustments yourself. With the commitment to replace the current Deputy Clerk, what happens when Heather leaves and there isn't anybody to do this?

Clerk Stamboulellis – Heather was working with me her first two visit's. Heather's third visit I was sitting in my chair and we were all communicating. She didn't need the Clerk's office for more than a couple of hours but worked with the Treasurer. She did go through the entire General Ledger with my Deputy Clerk.

Ratkovich – Still confused why you are having your Deputy coming in learning to do these things when a) you decided you are going to have a different Deputy Clerk and b) you said you were really looking forward to learning from her; and as far as I can access you really haven't picked up on that and spent the time with her to learn what she's doing.

Clerk Stamboulellis – My Deputy Clerk is my Deputy Clerk and although I am trying to have a replacement, the replacement is not here.

Ratkovich – I'm uncomfortable with the amount of money spent having Heather here and the lack of time I saw you spending with her and having your Deputy Clerk come in and be the one really engaged with her. It contradicts the reason we brought her in, and what you agreed to at our last meeting, which was to be engaged with her and learn from her. It contradicts the reason we brought her in and what you agreed to at our last meeting. We need to figure out a way you can demonstrate that you are able to serve the function of your office.

Clerk Stamboulellis – The Deputy Clerk corrected, Rana Emmons our state auditor, some things from the previous fiscal year. When I hire a new Deputy, that absolutely fits the standard of this office, this Deputy will be trained and I will be delegating certain responsibilities to my new Deputy. That is just how my office is going to go. The office of the Clerk is a very large job.

Nolte – Personally I don't have a lot of faith of what is coming out of the Clerk's office and any information and any reliability of documentation being stored in our township. It scares me for our residents, it scares me that the minutes are not corrected on our website

Clerk Stamboulellis – the minutes are all correct.

Nolte – This process is costing us thousands and thousands of dollars and we have a person working in the township that this Board has deemed not capable to really fulfill the job that is there. We're spending 16 -20 thousand dollars to correct the past years errors and yet that person still has fingers in our books. You're repeating the same errors. I don't see a lot of the corrections are happening. We're asking Dexter Township to lay out a whole lot of cash to fix things that have happened, and you're asking us to have faith in the same person who contributed to those errors.

Ratkovich – Heather says they have only done a small portion of what our scope of, what our contract was, because they had to go back to zero due to so many errors they had to fix.

Treasurer Metz – The first Deputy Clerk had a process in place and the two offices functioned very well. With the departure of that Deputy Clerk, and subsequent assistance from the Woodhill Group ended there was a huge decline divide and neglect, all those processes went away. Going forward there needs to be processes, we have to figure out who's doing what.

Nolte – I would like a report that the Clerk sat with her (Heather) and I know how to do this. I would love a report that you are assuming responsibility for the accuracy of this report, the accuracy of the bill runs, because ultimately you are the leader of that office. I don't like to hear my Deputy does it, I want to hear accountability. I hear victim and I hear blame.

Ratkovich – Do we have some measurable requirements that we would like Michelle to provide for us in a certain amount of time?

Nolte – I'd like to know when we are going to get an accurate General Ledger. These have been inaccurate for six months and we do not know our financial status, and as Trustee's our whole job is to hold the financial responsibility of Dexter Township. I can't do my job.

Clerk Stamboulellis - I will have an accurate General Ledger at the next board meeting and a description as to what happened to make it right.

Sanders - There have been a lot of mistakes and the idea of hiring an accountant was to work with you personally Michelle, not your Deputy, to make sure you could learn the job. It's troubling that much of this attention has gone to your Deputy as it seems likely that you are

going to continue to make mistakes. The second thing that troubles me is that you think this Board is hanging you out to dry. Everything you say is defensive as these people are out to get me. This is frustrating as the Board has been trying to help you. You will continue to make mistakes if you continue to keep defending instead of acknowledging that this is a really hard job that you need a lot of help in training. I'm not sure why you are having your Deputy trained when he may not be here much longer. It's gotten to the point where these conversations have to happen in public because it hasn't been possible to have you change this in private.

Note: For the January Board meeting Clerk Stamboulellis will present an accurate General Ledger with a description as to what happened to make it right. Also requested by the Board is a complete breakdown of the General Election expenses.

Discussion of General Ledger & Budget: Clerk Stamboulellis answered questions.

- C. Update on current Deputy and finding a new Deputy Clerk – Clerk Michelle Stamboulellis
Clerk Stamboulellis read a letter sharing her position on her duties and the Deputy Clerk.

I make a Motion to the Dexter Township Board of Trustees to Reinstate my Deputy Clerks compensation immediately beginning today December 20, 2022, at the compensation rate that he was making of \$25.00 per hour. Motion seconded by Sanders.

Discussion: Trustee Scott stated that as he is new, he has no preexisting thoughts or experiences with the Clerk's office. There are dozens, hundreds, of township clerks across the state that perform, and are required to perform the exact same duties. It is a big job. I have to question as a Trustee, and someone who has to be a good steward of Dexter Township residents specifically finances, how you can name all of those things [refer to Clerk duties listed in letter above] knowing that the Board has had to approve large contracts to fix those issues in the office. By this, the other township clerks are not existing in the same realm. Other townships, with new clerks, I doubt are dealing with these types of issues. As a new Trustee without an accurate General Ledger, I have no idea how I'm supposed to plan for next year. I appreciate you are doing this job at all. Clerks around the state are doing it [the job] without charging their residents tens of thousands of additional dollars to fix it. I believe that anyone who is doing work should be compensated for that work. There has to be some accountability, and some reflection, on what that means [holding township office] for everybody, especially the Clerk's office. It's getting personal and our meetings need to focus on the facts of the matter. We are all here to figure it out and make sure the office is run correctly. My job is as a fiduciary and it is clear to me, we are spending far above and beyond the normal training. How much have we spent, in two years, on training for the Supervisor and Treasurer's Office versus the additional spending we've spent on the Clerk's office? The letter struck me as very defensive. What we really need to address is whether you recognize that there are issues and want to move forward with assistance and how are we doing that together?

Further discussion: Current resumes and hiring of a new Deputy Clerk. The reason Colleen was in the Treasurer's office was to make the whole office function, including the Clerk's office. The upgrades made with Woodhill Consulting actually helped the Clerk's office by cutting down the Deputy Clerks hours, and saving the township money. Every Board member has accountability, fix your mistake and move forward, which isn't happening in the Clerk's office. Trustee Scott offers an amendment to the motion to reinstate the Deputy Clerks salary at \$25.00 an hour through the end of January 2023, pending the hiring of a new Deputy Clerk by that date. Attorney Dieck says that would not work procedurally, tying a salary of the Deputy Clerk to an appointed position.

Roll Call Vote: Yea – Stamboulellis; Nays – Scott, Nolte, Metz, Sanders, Ratkovich;
Absent – Sikkenga. Motion failed 1-5.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Funding OSLP Committee purchase of development rights for the Monier property / letter of engagement with lawyer – Trustee Laura Sanders

Trustee Sanders asked OSLP Consultant Barry Lonik to update the Board. Barry stated the appraised price of the property was approximately \$544,000.00, with the OSLP Committee asking the Board to approve purchasing the development rights. The source of monies is: \$245,000.00 State Grant; \$240,000.00 Federal Grant; \$29,450.00 Washtenaw County Parks Grant; leaving the Dexter Township share of \$29,450.00.

Motion by Nolte to approve the OSLP expenditure of \$245,000.00 to the purchase the development rights to the Monier property, and authorize the Supervisor to sign all the documents regarding the purchase. Motion second by Stamboulellis.

Consultant Lonik clarification: To approve the OSLP's recommendation to expend \$29,450.00 of township funds for the purchase of the conservation easement on the Monier property, and to authorize the Supervisor to execute all associated documents.

Attorney Dieck: Yes, execute, negotiate, review, any and all documents to effectuate the purchase of development rights.

Roll Call Vote: Yea – Sanders, Stamboulellis, Metz, Scott, Nolte, and Ratkovich; Nays – None;
Absent – Sikkenga. Motion carried 6-0.

AUTHORIZATION of PAYMENTS – Treasurer Metz

Motion by Metz to approve payments for: General Fund \$78,772.89, Fire Fund \$179,940.62, Police Fund \$41,376.51, Open Space and Land Preservation \$370.00, General Agency \$933.00 and Payroll \$34,301.39; for a grand total, including gross payroll, of \$335,694.41. Motion second by Nolte.

Roll Call Vote: Yea – Sanders, Metz, Scott, Stamboulellis, Nolte, and Ratkovich;
Nays – None; Absent – Sikkenga. Motion carried 6-0.

2nd CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Opened 9:49 PM

Lt. Mike Grissom said it was scary to talk of fewer deputies covering Dexter Township and encouraged the Board collaborate with Webster Township regarding more complete police coverage.

Closed 9:56 PM

OTHER ISSUES, COMMENTS and CONCERNS of BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF:

Trustee Scott said he would be willing to work with Clerk Michelle on anything that's helpful and to try to get to a place where we can provide compensation to the Deputy Clerk.

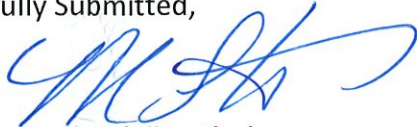
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- i) Create a policy for threshold expenditures
- ii) Create a policy for RFP's
- iii) Property fraud protection
- iv) Dexter Senior Center Recreation Authority

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Metz to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Nolte. All ayes. Motion carried.
The meeting was **adjourned** at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Stamboulellis, Clerk

Dexter Township

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, MICHELLE STAMBOULELLIS, THE DULY QUALIFIED CLERK FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF DEXTER, WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING IS A TRUE AND COMPLETE COPY OF CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS TAKEN BY THE DEXTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT A REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2022 AND THAT THE FORGOING MINUTES ARE THE APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH, DAY OF DECEMBER 2022.

MICHELLE STAMBOULELLIS, CLERK, DEXTER TOWNSHIP

