

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

**MEETING OF THE DEXTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
TUESDAY JANUARY 17, 2023 6:00PM**

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

CALL to ORDER: Supervisor Ratkovich called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE: Recited by all.

ROLL CALL: Present – Ratkovich, Stamboulellis, Metz, Sanders, Nolte, Scott, and Sikkenga. Absent – None. 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 remarks: a) Happy New Year to everyone, b) Board, staff and everyone is invited to tour the WWRA Facility on Friday, February 3, at 8:30 am, c) the Dexter Area Fire Department has engaged in a second Strategic Planning Session and Dexter Township will have Public Townhall talks on public safety in 2023, d) anyone with community information they would like to share, we have an email group info@dextertownship.org, in addition to a newsletter contact knolte@dextertownship.org, e) the Huron River Watershed Council (Sue Bade representative) is testing the health of our waterways by conducting a winter Stonefly search on January 28th at 9am or 10:30 am, f) we have collected almost 60% of our winter taxes with the last day to pay property taxes [at the Township Hall] is February 14th.

No Board members have a conflict of interest.

1st CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Opened 6:08 PM

Sue Bade, 8778 Dexter Townhall Rd

Sue serves on the Huron River Watershed Board. She's part of the water quality testing team at Silver Lake; six to seven neighbors who get together throughout the summer (May through late September) to test for chemistry, invasive species, depth quality, oxygen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll. Over the last three years there has been a marked increase of Starry Stonewort, one of the worst invasive species for water quality. She supports the Silver Lake Special Assessment District to address the invasive species.

Steve Piatt, 8828 Dexter Townhall Road

His concern was why this meeting wasn't publicized better, why there wasn't more notice and he considers it last minute. He is not in favor of putting chemicals in the lake. All the reports he's read give the chemical treatments a not so good rating. His question is why spend so much money on a not so good treatment of the invasive species.

Michael Winter, 2675 Tiplady Rd.

He's definitely against this [chemicals in the lake]. There is a lack of transparency. He heard there is a limited lake access residents with a boat requirement, which is taxation without representation. How are they dealing with residents that don't have lake deeded access but use it

anyway? Who will be in control of what will be done to control the weeds and the cost? When will residents get to see a list of those who are included and excluded? Who validated the signatures and proper lot forms? The county GIS Map shows lake ownership Federal Government, State of Michigan, Treasury Department, and a few homeowners that own what is considered lake bottom. There are approximately 35 homes on the lake that I actually own the lake bottom (22 acres) in front of their houses.

Linda Singer, 9260 Anne Street

She had five questions: 1. How long can you do a petition? They have been working on it for eighteen months and she is unclear the timeframe. 2. A resident sent a letter to the Township Clerk asking when the petition started. She received no response so she sent another letter, also with no response. 3. How much are the lake owners going to pay? What about the Hunt and Fish Club and the YMCA? She's dismayed with the lack of up-front information. 4. What about those who have been charged riparian taxes? 5. She asks for transparency and postpone the signing of the resolution tonight.

Tamara Smith, 9292 Anne Street

She voted no as they haven't gotten enough information. We need to have them tell us what they are planning on doing. Was ownership verified or did the petitioners just look at a driver's license? She does not know what's going on as they haven't been transparent.

Joel Waddell, Field Representative for Congressman Debbie Dingell

He was there to lend support [present and future] to the township and the township board.

Marvin Butka, 5333 McGuiness

He stated that he was in favor of selling the 25 acres, but since June, when the Board approved the sale, nothing has happened.

Theresa Schmidt, 8760 Dexter Townhall Road

She was approached about the petition and is concerned about the lack of transparency. The residents needed more information before voting for it. She would like to take her name off the petition she signed.

Catherine Crouch, 9475 Anne Street

She is the Treasurer of the Lake Association and also on the committee to get signatures on the petition. She stated they did due diligence in verifying addresses and owners who signed the petition. They do not know, at this moment, what chemicals will be used in the lake. After presenting the validated petitions, they will go to the next level to look at treatment options. Regarding transparency, she said that in the five years she has lived on the lake they have been talking about this. Every Lake Association Board meeting has it on the agenda.

Mark Hachey, 9309 Thumm

He also sees a problem with transparency. As a State Certified Pesticide applicator, he said the problem is with runoff of the nitrogen fertilizers lake owners use. Many lake weeds went away when the sewer system was installed. He said he is totally against the chemical treatment and other options need to be explore.

Tom Fitzsimmons, 9670 Fire Lake Trail

He was President of the Lake Association during the petition drive. They have been working on the for eight years. Two studies have been done on the lake. With the Dexter Township standards requiring 2/3 of lake owner's signatures, they actually got 70% to sign the petition. Tomorrow night Putnam Township will hear the same petition. Next step will be to go to the county where there will be two more public hearings. They have worked very hard to meet the obligation as presented by Dexter Township and he urges the Board of Trustees to vote in favor of this.

Closed 6:34 PM

APPROVAL of the AGENDA:

Discussion: Including documents for approval of the Board minutes – add 6.A. Board appointments for Land Preservation Board and WWRA Board; add 7.D. Cemeteries – Trustee Nolte; add 8.B. Letter from Accountant Heather Farmer; 9.A. amended meeting calendar to include the Road Committee meetings; strike 9.D. the Closed Session meeting, pending further information. Trustee Sikkenga asked that 7.A. be a memo she will read and the remainder of the items will move down. Attorney Dieck suggested it be part of 6. Approval of the Minutes discussion. Trustee Nolte said she had additional handouts in regards to approval of the minutes.

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

APPROVAL of the MINUTES: December 20, 2022

Discussion: Trustee Sikkenga read a memo addressing the factual errors in Clerk Stamboulellis letter to the Board on December 20th. Trustee Nolte brought to the Boards attention that at the December meeting the Clerk stated all the past minutes (on the website) had been corrected, amended, and signed. Verifying the 2022 minutes Trustee Nolte found six meetings where the minutes were no corrected or signed. Trustee Nolte said the letter from the Clerk, in the December minutes, paints a wrong picture of what is happening in the township. Trustee Sikkenga was also in favor of striking the letter from the Clerk due to the inaccuracies and an implication that there is a problem with one of our contractors. Trustee Nolte also had dollar amounts and verbiage corrections to the Stantec Report.

Motion by Nolte to add a statement that the Clerk read a letter, but we remove the actual writing of the letter from the minutes. Motion seconded by Sikkenga.

Roll Call Vote: Yea – Sikkenga, Sanders, Nolte, Scott, Metz, and Ratkovich;

Nays – Stamboulellis; Absent – None. Motion carried 6-1.

Amendments to the December 20, 2022 Board of Trustee minutes:

1. Oral Reports A. Discussion on Sheriff contract, added statement "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."
2. Oral Reports D. Stantec Report, corrected the dollar amount from \$16,000 to \$154,000. Added statement "We are going to try to reallocate about \$40,00 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."
3. Old Business B. Update on General Ledger, corrected word in Treasurer Metz dialogue from "divide" to "decline".

4. Old Business C. Update on current Deputy and finding a new Deputy Clerk, deleted entire letter read by the Clerk and just stated the Clerk read a letter stating her position.

Motion by Nolte to approve the minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Metz. Six ayes. One nay (Stamboulellis). Motion carried 6-1.

6. A. Added to the agenda:

Appointments for the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board.

Term limits are outlined in Ordinance #37. Current appointments effective as of January 1, 2023.

Appointees: Kathy Bradbury, Mark Teicher, Scott Joling, Guerin Wilkinson, Gretchen Driskell, and Marty Ruhlig.

Motion by Sanders to approve the six residents to be appointed to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board. Motion seconded by Stamboulellis. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Nolte to support Laura Sanders, who has been chair of the committee for the last eighteen months, led our committee into our first 70 acres of preservation, and has earned the right to continue on the Board [as the Township Board Representative]. Motion second by Metz. Discussion: Sanders said she did not plan to be Chair as that would be inappropriate. She said both she and Michelle have been advocates for land preservation so it is hard to choose one for the position. Sikkenga acknowledged Michelle's work as it was part of her vision when she ran for office, but also noted that she would like to see the General Ledger work finished and the minutes work finished before she takes on the extra [duties]. Supervisor Ratkovich stated that not being on the board does not mean she can't be involved.

Roll Call Vote: Yea – Scott, Metz, Sanders, Sikkenga, Nolte, and Ratkovich; Nays – Stamboulellis; Absent – None. Motion carried 6-1.

Motion by Nolte to appoint Janis Miller as the Recording Secretary of the new Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board. Motion second by Metz. All ayes. Motion carried.

Appointment for the Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority Board.

Motion by Sikkenga to appoint you [Diane Ratkovich] as a WWRA Board member from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025. Motion second by Scott. All ayes. Motion carried.

ORAL REPORTS:

A. Local Roads Committee – Trustee Karen Sikkenga/Local Roads Chair Christy Maier

The committee met in November and reviewed our charge. Change to the charge was to include the word “up to” seven members. The committee narrowed their charge as they have educated themselves over the last few months. For the next year they will focus on communication through a mailing, a community event, and public input. A year ago, the committee prioritized a schedule for local road repair based on number of accidents, average daily use, and the condition of the road. Four roads are on the list this year pending funding. The Road Commission will be installing a flashing beacon at Dexter Pinckney Road and McGregor. Primary roads the Road Commission will pay for flashing beacons but local road flashing beacons the township would have to pay for. The work at the intersection of Dexter Townhall Road and North Territorial will be done in 2024, funded with a Federal Aid Safety Grant Award.

B. Property Fraud Protection – Trustee Karen Nolte

Brought to the attention of Trustee Nolte by Larry Coates, a township resident who also lives parttime in Florida. Proposed to have township residents email address on file in the township, anytime someone tries to commit fraud on the resident's property, the resident email on file will be notified. Washtenaw County has a program that is currently not functioning. The county uses homeowners and business' names as well as addresses. More information is needed before Dexter Township launches their own fraud notification system.

C. Planning Department update – DPZ David Rohr

The Master Plan Steering Committee is meeting next Monday, January 23rd. The youth participation was to be done this week so the committee hopes to have a Master Plan final draft soon. The consultant will schedule a public engagement (a scheduled meeting to solicit public comments, criticism, and ideas with no action taken) and a formal Public Hearing. The Planning Commission and the Township Board will get copies to review before it goes to other municipalities for review. There is a mandatory 60-day statutory waiting period before it becomes final.

8.D. Added to the agenda:**Cemetery Update – Trustee Nolte**

A survey of the tree trimming in both cemeteries is overwhelming. A volunteer tree trimmer

has volunteered her time to trim the trees at the Four Mile [Lima Center Road] Cemetery. and has submitted a bid of \$840.00 for the Hudson Cemetery, a much larger project, to just cover her costs. This tree trimming needs to be done while the ground is still hard and can alleviate ruts caused by the heavy equipment. The Road Commission will add off road

parking

at Four Mile Cemetery for about \$3,000. Trustee Nolte has a crew willing to clean headstones

and she has connected with a company called Past Preservation and they have given her instruction on how to clean and repair headstones. Trustee Nolte said in addition to the cemetery fund there is money in the Clean-Up Day fund to cover this.

Motion by Nolte to move forward with the cemetery project and authorize Daisey Tree Trimming to trim the trees in Hudson and purchase chemicals to clean the headstones. Motion seconded by Sikkenga.

Roll Call Vote: Yea – Metz, Scott, Stamboulellis, Sanders, Sikkenga, Nolte, and Ratkovich; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:**A. Dexter Senior Authority – Supervisor Diane Ratkovich**

Continued discussion regarding presentation last month. If the Authority is formed, Dexter Township will have representation on the board and be responsible for collecting any voter approved millage. The Dexter Senior Center has hired a new Director so it was suggested a meeting between the Townships, Dexter City, and the new Director. Consensus was that there were too many questions for this board to make a decision to approve the Recreation Authority for the Dexter Senior Center. This decision is tabled until the questions can be answered (funnel questions to Supervisor Ratkovich) and it was suggested that the Dexter Township Board schedule the Dexter Senior Center Director at a Board meeting.

- B. Update on General Ledger & work with Maner Costerisan – Clerk Michelle Stamboulellis
Clerk Stamboulellis stated that Heather, from Maner Costerisan, had spent five days (some were half days) working in the Clerk's office assessing the GL. Supervisor Ratkovich handed out, and read, a letter from Heather summarizing her work in the Clerk's office. Supervisor Ratkovich suggested a Budget Workshop on January 26th at 6pm.

Supervisor Ratkovich stated the motion: to move 10. A. [Special Assessment for Silver Lake Weed Removal – Resolution #23-658] to the next discussion item. Trustee Nolte so moved.
Seconded by Scott.

Roll Call Vote: Yea – Stamboulellis, Sanders, Sikkenga, Nolte, Scott, Metz, and Ratkovich; Nays – None;
Absent – None. Motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION DISCUSSION:

- A. Special Assessment for Silver Lake Weed Removal – Resolution #23-658

Discussion: This has not come from the Planning Commission. The petition is the only place

the community can approve or deny the action. There were 106 households identified and 71 signatures obtained and verified by the Clerk. The possibility of the Special Assessment District, with eight years of Silver Lake data collected, has been discussed for the last two years

by the Silver Lake Association. The residents attending tonight were concerned about the lack

of information shared with the residents although the neighborhoods were canvassed with handout materials. The Dexter Township Board is not approving the Special Assessment, they

are following procedures that assure all the boxes are checked and it can go to the County for public hearings. Attorney Dieck confirmed that this is a statutory duty under Michigan Law.

Motion by Nolte to table this topic for thirty days and readdress it at the February meeting.
Motion seconded by Sanders.

Discussion: What does the Board do if they find out this needs to get pushed forward faster than our next Board meeting? Attorney Dieck noted that the Board could hold a Special Meeting prior to the February meeting as the township's obligation is to move this forward.

Previous Motion by Nolte stricken. New motion by Nolte to table this agenda topic till next month at our February meeting, but we will have the answer for the timeframe of the petition,

to determine if we are short of the thirty days, and then we will take a vote at the 1/26 Workshop meeting. Motion seconded by Sanders.

Discussion: Trustee Scott stated that everyone deserves answers to their questions this step had to take place to get those answers. If the petition has been met statutorily, the Board needs to move this forward.

Roll Call Vote: Yea – Sanders, Stamboulellis, Metz, and Nolte; Nays – Scott, Sikkenga, and Ratkovich; Absent – None. Motion carried 4-3.

Motion by Sikkenga to defer the Update on Election Expenditures [Old business]. Not acted Upon at this time.

OLD BUSINESS continued:

- C. Update on potential new Deputy clerk applicants – Clerk Michelle Stamboulellis
Clerk Stamboulellis has three applicants she has interviewed and is seriously looking at. All will need training but she has one in mind as she is local. The Board had set 24 hours per week at \$25.00 but Clerk Stamboulellis said her top prospect needed 32 hours per week and \$29.00 per hour. Supervisor Ratkovich said the Deputy Clerk is not a full-time position as the jobs have been streamlined. Trustee Nolte noted the ramifications of full time is benefits and that has to be discussed in the Budget Workshop because you need a good Budget to make salary decisions. The Executives will meet and bring a proposal to the Board. This agenda item tabled.
- D. Update on Election Expenditures – Clerk Michelle Stamboulellis
Motion by Sikkenga to move the discussion of Election Expenditures to the Special Meeting on the General Ledger on the 26th. Motion seconded by Nolte.
Roll Call Vote: Yea – Nolte, Sikkenga, Sanders, Stamboulellis, Metz, Scott, and Ratkovich; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Meeting Calendar for 2023 – 2024 Fiscal Year – Supervisor Diane Ratkovich
Addition of Road Committee to the calendar.
Supervisor Ratkovich stated the motion: to approve the meeting calendar for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Trustee Nolte so moved. Seconded by Metz. All ayes. Motion carried.
- B. Setting dates for upcoming Budget Meetings – Supervisor Diane Ratkovich
Consensus of meeting Thursday, January 26th, 6-8 pm, and Tuesday, January 31st, 6-8 pm.
- C. Building Safety – Supervisor Diane Ratkovich
Supervisor Ratkovich reminded people: Always let coworkers know when you are leaving the building, especially if they're the last person in the building, every employee should know when they are the only person left. This will help the last person if they hear something, or reminds the coworker that they need to set the alarm when they leave. Also, if the office is closed and a coworker is still in the building working when you leave, make sure all doors are locked so they are secure in the building.
- D. ~~Closed Session to discuss a legal opinion from the Township Attorney which is exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute because the information is protected by attorney-client privilege (exemption under FOIA, MCL 15.268(1)(h)).~~

RESOLUTION DISCUSSION:

- A. Special Assessment for Silver Lake Weed Removal – Resolution #23-658
See above.
- B. Poverty Exemption and Asset Test 2023 – Resolution #23-659
The baseline is set with Federal Guidelines and municipalities can go over the guidelines but They cannot go under. Assessor Chris Renius worked out the details for Dexter Township. It was suggested that the Board invite [Assessor] Chris to educate and answer questions regarding poverty exemptions.
Motion by Sikkenga to approve the Poverty Exemption. Motion second by Metz.
Roll Call Vote: Yea – Metz, Scott, Nolte, Sikkenga, Sanders, Stamboulellis, and Ratkovich;
Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion carried 7-0.

AUTHORIZATION of PAYMENTS – Treasurer Metz

Motion by Metz to approve payments for: General Fund \$137,517.88, Fire Fund \$4,363.00, Police Fund \$370.00, Open Space and Land Preservation \$1,178.50, General Agency \$1,390.25 and Payroll \$29,438.76; for a grand total, including gross payroll, of \$174,263.39. Motion second by Scott.

Roll Call Vote: Yea – Scott, Nolte, Metz, Stamboulellis, Sanders, Sikkenga and Ratkovich;

Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion carried 7-0.

2nd CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Opened 9:26 PM

Linda Singer, 9260 Anne Street

Phosphorus in fertilizer is now illegal in the State of Michigan. It would help our lakes more if Dexter Township [Board] said it was illegal. She thanked the Board for letting us [residents] get more information as she appreciated it very much.

Tamara Smith, 9292 Anne Street

She thanked the Board for listening to us and she really appreciated it. Addressing Michelle she said she doesn't doubt about the signatures but she's had many people come up to her saying they had signed a piece of paper and were told a certain amount they were going to have to pay. That was her thing, they were not given the correct information when they signed it [petition], and they didn't really know what they were signing.

Mark Hachey, 9309 Thumm

He stated he appreciated you all [Board] taking the time to let us voice our opinion. His concern was the division between lake front owners and those with just access. He suggested the Board look into the watering[lawns] out of the lake as you don't need any other nutrients.

Tom Fitzsimmons, 9670 Fire Lake Trail

Thanked the Board for their consideration. Having been involved with the website, the petition drive, documentation, FAQ's we've put out, there are some issues about some people not having information. This is his first time through this process and he has a lot of questions that aren't going to be answered at this point. People have questions on what they are going to be taxed for this. He thanked Michelle for confirming they did have more than 2/3 of people voted yes.

Debbie Ferri, 1106 Clair Circle, Ann Arbor [lot owner for 9339 & 9388 Anne St.]

She read email from absent lake resident Terri Kleinschmidt regarding lack of notification for meetings. Terri votes no and asks why add chemicals to the lake to kill the weeds. She thanked everyone for listening and understanding and acknowledging the fact that some of us don't get emails about the regular meetings let alone not being informed about this meeting. Debbie is very much against chemicals.

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

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Nolte to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Ratkovich. All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 9:36 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 17TH DAY OF JANUARY AND THAT THE FORGOING MINUTES ARE THE APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON THE 17TH, DAY OF JANUARY 2023.

MICHELLE STAMBOULELLIS, CLERK, DEXTER TOWNSHIP