

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](http://www.dextertownship.org)

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE DEXTER TOWNSHIP BOARD TUESDAY MAY 16, 2023 6:00PM

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

**CALL to ORDER:** Clerk Stamboulellis called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:** Recited by all.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – 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:**

Acting Chair Clerk Stamboulellis read a statement regarding her belief that there was a conflict of interest on behalf of Trustee Sikkenga voting on any candidates for the Supervisor position as she was a candidate for that position and it would be a financial incentive to vote for herself as well as a conflict of interest in the Dexter Township Personal Policy. A precedent has been set as both the Treasurer and Clerk recused themselves from voting on wages for their respective Deputies. Trustee Sikkenga challenged the conflict of interest and confirmed it with Attorney Dieck. Attorney Dieck stated that we do have a statute in regards to appointment of a supervisor, there is no defined conflict of interest, and Sikkenga can vote.

No other conflicts of interest.

**1<sup>st</sup> CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** Opened 5:12 PM. No public comments.

### **APPROVAL of the AGENDA:**

Trustee Scott added to 9. New Business: *B. A Resolution Opposing Michigan House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.*

Motion by Metz to approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Scott. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL of the MINUTES:**

Agenda Item #6 should read April 18, 2023 *Regular Meeting*. Community Collaboration: A. should have the Q & A from the Board added. Budget Considerations: C. delete dollar figures and state "shared detail of the forestry funds as a "not to exceed" amount". Old Business: the resignation effective date should be May 12, 2023.

Motion by Metz to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of April 18<sup>th</sup>, as amended. Motion second by Scott. All ayes. Motion carried.

Acting Chair Stamboulellis states the motion to approve the Board of Trustees Special Meeting minutes of May 7<sup>th</sup>, as presented. Trustee Nolte so moved. Motion second by Metz. All ayes. Motion carried.

**ORAL REPORTS:**

- A. Planning & Zoning Update – Director of Planning & Zoning David Rohr  
DPZ Rohr stated that the Planning Commission has the draft Master Plan for several weeks now. They have returned comments to DPZ Rohr which he has consolidated into one document to be discussed at next week's Planning Commission meeting. The consultant will be at that meeting to answer questions and work through any issues and concerns of the PC members. Single Hauler trash update, exchanged emails with Theo Eggermont, Washtenaw County Director of Public, who is in the process of setting up a meeting between Dexter Township and a few other townships who are interested in exploring single hauler in more detail. As soon as a date is set, he will let the Board know as they would like to have a Board member at the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Acting Chair Clerk Stamboulellis thanked each candidate for their interest and applying for the appointment for the Dexter Township Supervisor position. She also stated that it is encouraging to see so many that have shown interest in serving our community at higher level and it was a pleasure meeting each of you and learning about your reasons for running for local office.

- A. Discussion to appoint Regina Hamlet as Supervisor

Acting Chair Stamboulellis called for a motion to appoint Regina Hamlet for Supervisor of Dexter Township. Due to the lack of a motion, the candidate is no longer eligible for the Supervisor position.

- B. Discussion to appoint Jeffrey Marine as Supervisor

Acting Chair Stamboulellis called for a motion to appoint Jeffrey Marine for Supervisor of Dexter Township. Due to the lack of a motion, the candidate is no longer eligible for the Supervisor position.

- C. Discussion to appoint Janis Miller as Supervisor

Treasurer Mets moved to appoint Janis Miller for the Supervisor position. Clerk Stamboulellis supported and seconded Janis Miller for Supervisor to open up for discussion. Treasurer Metz noted this was a difficult decision and shared her thoughts in supporting Janis by reading a letter she wrote. Clerk Stamboulellis also read a letter she had composed. Additionally, there was a letter from the staff in support of Janis Miller for Supervisor. Trustee Scott stated it was an incredible position for the Board to have four qualified candidates, of which two would make a great Supervisor. He said the tie breaker for him was that the township voters have elected the person, therefore he will be voting to appoint Trustee Sikkenga. Trustee Sanders also thanked everybody who applied and noted it was a strange process to sit through. She said the Janis Miller is absolutely qualified to hold down the fort here and would offer a lot of stability, and a lot of continuity being a very long time Dexter resident with a knowledge of a lot of tradition in Dexter Township, and she greatly appreciates that. The reason she gives for bending toward Trustee Sikkenga is because she has so much budget experience. She also has experience managing an office, and I'm interested in the grant writing experience she has. Trustee Sikkenga can move us in an innovative direction which will help us take some interesting risks for the Township. Trustee Nolte said thank you for applying. Clerk Stamboulellis said Janis was fantastic and qualified, she's served her residents as a life-long Dexter Township resident. She's been at the Dexter Township Hall for the past sixteen years advocating, serving, as well as learning. Janis has been involved in the

budgeting process while serving as the Recording Secretary for the BOT, she has also served as the Recording Secretary for the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Dexter Area Fire Department Board, and Land Preservation Committee as well as served under four Supervisors during her sixteen years while working for Dexter Township. Clerk Stamboulellis stated Janis Miller has true leadership skills and has earned this appointment. Treasurer Metz stated that budgetary experience is super important and Karen does bring that to the table with her finance background but how I looked at it is that Janis could be a real leader, keeping Karen in her position [as Trustee] and Karen can still offer her expertise to the Board of Trustees, through grant writing and through budget work.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Stamboulellis, Metz: Nays – Sikkenga, Nolte, Scott, Sanders.

Motion fails 2-4.

D. Discussion to appoint Karen Sikkenga as Supervisor

Acting Chair Stamboulellis asked if anyone would like to make a motion to appoint Karen Sikkenga as Supervisor of Dexter Township. Trustee Scott so moved. Trustee Sanders seconded the motion. Trustee Sanders made her point by stating she thinks Trustee Sikkenga has the Budget experience, and has had it, but it has been hard for her to help with the Budget. In a supervisory position that allows her to get in there and help, and Trustee Sanders is excited to see how she could make progress in the official position of overseeing the Budget. Trustee Sikkenga noted that one thing that wasn't talked about on Sunday, was she thinks there is a little bit of a schism between the Trustee and Executive Team and one of the things she would look forward to in the Supervisor role is healing that. She does feel she has experience working with Boards and working with, in situations that are complex and somewhat, where tension has been high, morale is low, and she has been able to increase morale, lower the tensions, and improve communications across different stakeholders. One of her concerns about Janis is that we would be continuing this pattern that we've had of the office being very separate from the Trustees and I do believe that having someone who is elected is preferable to having someone who was not elected, but she also believes she also has the trust of the Trustees and she believes she can have the trust of then Executive Team and staff. Her work style is very collaborative and very open to feedback, she has really good follow through, is a very kind person and she thinks everyone will actually enjoy working with her as the level of contention will go down almost immediately. Janis is not part of the Trustee group and she is part of the Trustee group so she can build that bridge. Trustee Nolte agreed one hundred percent. She firmly believes an elected person should fill the position and her Masters is in what we do. Karen has exhibited her leadership skills through this Board. Not only with Budget experience, which is key to our success, she would like to stay with the new view as all of us were elected new and we came in trying to change things, upgrade things, and move that along and with Karen's experience [we] can continue these new views, and continue the changes we're creating in this Township. Clerk Stamboulellis said that Trustee Sikkenga was probably one of the kindest people on this Board, and feeling confident in her office [Clerk's] she would like to not reverse that. It has been difficult at Board meetings with finger pointing at one person, and she appreciated Karen's skills, but would have appreciated those skills previously, so she's hoping to work together in the future.

Trustee Scott calls the question: [this means move to a vote]

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Sikkenga, Nolte, Sanders, Scott; Nays – Mets, Stamboulellis.  
Motion passes 4-2.

**NEW BUSINESS:****A. Farmland and Open Space Update – Barry Lonik**

Consultant Lonik summarized the progress report he had submitted in the Board packet and then answered questions from Board members. Barry noted two items that needed Township Board action. These will be on the June Board agenda with more information being supplied for the budget expenditure request.

Item added to agenda at request of Trustee Scott:

**B. A Resolution Opposing Michigan House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.**

Motion by Scott to approve the Resolution Opposing Michigan House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. Motion second by Metz. All ayes. Motion carried.

**AUTHORIZATION of PAYMENTS – Treasurer Metz**

Motion by Metz for the authorization of payments in the amounts of: General Fund \$27,387.35, Police Fund \$43,209.76, Fire Fund \$98,502.54, Open Space and Land Initiative Fund \$1,439.77, ARPA \$5,000.00, Payroll \$34,639.19, and General Agency \$100.00; for a grand total of \$210,631.61 that includes gross payroll. Motion second by Scott. All ayes. Motion carried. [This should have been a roll call vote as it involved financials].

**2nd CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Opened 7:26 PM

Jim Drolett, 9933 Algonquin

He congratulated Karen on her appointment as Supervisor. Jim's concern was the new traffic light at Dexter Pinckney and N. Territorial. He said it would be easy to run a line from the Township generator to the pole to keep the traffic light on during power outages. Jim also had a concern regarding dark intersections and offered to put together a list of the those that could use an overhead light. He also addressed the \$600,000 expense to gravel [limestone] two roads and said that the reason the previous board didn't do it was that within a few years the gravel would be off to the side of the road. He would like to see this Board spend some money on paved roads. Trustee Sikkenga invited Jim to serve on the local roads committee.

Regina Hamlett, 10722 Stinchfield Woods Rd

She thanked the Board for letting the public apply for the position. From a public perspective she questioned Karen speaking up to defend herself from the Board table and Janis not getting the opportunity to defend herself from the podium. She found it odd that Karen got to vote and agreed with the fact that getting up from the table and letting the other five Board members vote would have been a better perception for the public on the position Karen got that came with a substantial salary.

Losi, Beerbaum, 9897 Fleming Rd.

She agreed with Ms. Hamlet on her last two comments. She complimented Lonnie [Trustee Scott] for bringing those Bills [Michigan House Bills 4526, 4527, & 4528] to our attention, and writing a Resolution as this came up at the Dexter Forum with concerns from several Townships.



Jeff Marine, 11495 Castleton Ct.

He thanked the Board for the opportunity to come up [speak at the podium] and congratulated Trustee Sikkenga on her victory. He said he was incredibly disappointed he didn't get a nomination and thought the process was strange. He thought it was great that they put an elected official in that spot [Supervisor] but the township now has a Trustee position to fill and based on that logic they cannot fill the position without having an election. Based on the discussion he heard, he was surprised that they didn't have a special election to fill the Supervisor position and it would have been the most reasonable process to go through to address the concerns you all have. Acting Chair Stamboulellis answered that the same process will be used to solicit applicants from the community to fill the Trustee position.

Closed 7:33 PM

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

**Treasurer Metz** brought to everyone's attention the Direct TV franchise contract. As this was a 10-year-old contract she was asking if it should be negotiated. Attorney Dieck said that there was no option for open negotiation, but like any legal contract the Township can propose new terms. It is not known what other service providers there are.

**Trustee Scott** asked that the swearing in of the new Supervisor take place as soon as possible. Clerk Stamboulellis said the notice of the position would go online Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, and in the Sun Time Newspaper on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Discussion of dates and times of interviews with a decision to conduct the interviews

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- i) Approval to sign new IT Right contract
- ii) Dexter Historical Society Payment
- iii) Direct TV franchise contract
- iv) Single Hauler update
- v) Fire Board Representative

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Metz to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Nolte. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Stamboulellis, Clerk

Dexter Township

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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 SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY AND THAT THE FORGOING MINUTES ARE THE APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup>, DAY OF MAY 2023.

MICHELLE STAMBOULELLIS, CLERK, DEXTER TOWNSHIP