

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

# DEXTER TOWNSHIP

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



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

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DEXTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2023 6:00PM**

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

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

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Sikkenga, Stamboulellis, Metz, and Sanders. Scott and Nolte absent (excused). Also present: Lois Beerbaum (trustee candidate) and Gretchen Driskell (trustee candidate)

**SUPERVISOR'S REMARK/CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Regina Hamlet and Jeffery Marine were not able to attend in person – Supervisor Sikkenga will read Hamlet's Q&A and Treasurer Metz will read Marine's Q&A. Trustee Sanders is expecting a phone call and may need to temporarily leave the meeting.

**1<sup>st</sup> CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** Opened 6:05 PM. No Public Comments.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Gretchen Driskell and Lois Beerbaum answered their Q&A in person: Jeffery Marine, Regina Hamlet, and Lois Beerbaum answered their questions on the attached documents. Gretchen Driskell answered her questions in person and are in RED below:

Gretchen:

Question #1 – Tell us a bit about yourself. What prompted you to apply for this position?

**Active in her hometown of Saline, was Mayor for 14 years and served the House of Representatives representing the 52<sup>nd</sup> district. Raised in a Military Family learning that we have an obligation to give back to our community. Wants to contribute to Dexter Township's Lakes, Trails and Land Preservation.**

Question #2 – Talk about your prior experience serving on a board of equals. What role do you typically play? Give an example of how you influenced a board decision or helped the board be more effective.

**Listen without judgement. Strive to be an independent thinker. Be prepared for meetings, ask questions and participate. Show respect with others with different points of views. There is no "I In Team".**

Question #3 – Talk about your experience with local government. What is your understanding of the role of a township?

**Didn't work in a township but was surrounded by multiple townships – Lodi Twp, SCIO Twp, Saline Twp, York Twp – which helped in learning about townships roles and responsibilities. A township consists as a 6x6 or 36 sq. mile size. Townships take care of local responsibilities while working with local county. Each Twp has different thoughts**

**with important roles. The roles are different from the City but strive for the same intent to their residents and to accomplish what is best for the community as a whole.**

Question #4 – Do you bring any special skills or expertise relevant to our work? Tell s about this and how you envision sharing or using this expertise as a Trustee?

**Worked in Non-Profit. Began the Half Moon Lake Association. 4 Years as State Representative. Worked on the Big 400 – Regional Land Development. Wants to protect the lakes and make it so all can enjoy. Has a Love of Service and would like to continue to serve by serving her local community.**

Question #5 – Are you able to serve on at least one additional board if elected as trustee?

**Yes**

Question #6 – Do you intend to run in 2024?

**Yes**

**2nd CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Opened 7:12 PM. No Public Comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Metz to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Sanders. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:12 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 SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE AND THAT THE FORGOING MINUTES ARE THE APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup>, DAY OF JUNE 2023.

MICHELLE STAMBOULELLIS, CLERK, DEXTER TOWNSHIP

# Lois Beerbaum



## Board of Trustees Interview

1. Tell us about yourself. (*Refer to Resume*) What prompted you to apply for this position.

*I have always been interested in how a government entity works. Serving on the Local Roads Committee has given me insight into that interest. As a community member, I believe that I can contribute to and enhance a well-functioning government entity.*

2. Prior experience serving on a board of equals. Role you typically play/ Example of how you influenced a board decision or helped the board be more effective.

*In my opinion, the best example of serving on a board of equals was a leadership position in my professional association, i.e., Medical Technology. It was a determination of how to be impactful in a medical world dominated by male physicians. As in any organization, group or panel, consensus had to be reached. That's not easy when two sides to an issue need to come to center to accomplish the objection. I believe evidence based on fact is the best way to achieve success in any negotiation. I can present information that separates fact from fiction and maintain the 'team' approach. There is no 'I' in team.*

3. Talk about your experience with local government. What's your understanding of the role of a township.

Refer to resume for experience with local government.

Townships have **mandated functions** to include assessment administration, election administration and tax collection. There are state requirements for twp. financial administration, e.g., budgets, accounting, investments, and deposits. They are closely regulated by the state. Meetings must comply with the Michigan Open Meetings Act with records stored and made available in conformance with specific laws, e.g., the Freedom of Information Act.

Townships also have **permissive functions** to include fire and law enforcement protection, parks and recreation programs, public water and sewer services, trash collection, recycling programs, sidewalks and trails, cemeteries, and land use control. A master plan as guide, zoning ordinances, placemaking, roads and transportation are also included.

The trustees, as legislators, have the statutory responsibility to vote on all issues, are responsible for twp. fiduciary health and other duties as assigned by the Board. There are other characteristics of twp. officials that are important to include:

- Communicate and listen effectively!
- utilize consensus building techniques and motivate others!
- manage adversity and hostility!
- Demonstrate ethical behavior
- Possess vision, especially relative to twp. need!

- Understand roles and responsibilities of other elected officials!
- Be aware of what constitutes lawful twp. expenditures!
- Utilize strategic planning to attain objectives!
- Demonstrate knowledge of how ordinances are lawfully implemented!

#### **4. Special skills you bring to the work of the township.**

My lifestyle is analytical in nature. The type of occupation I adopted was very analytical in nature. However, the application or use of that skill has benefit and welfare applications. The outcomes are applied in a social and humanistic context. But the analytical process of correctness is monumental in importance. The humanistic and social application part of the analytical process was very much in play when I volunteered at the Hope Clinic in Westland. There I assisted patients in obtaining medications they could not afford to purchase. As a volunteer in the Medicare/Medicaid program it was guiding people in selection of health and drug programs at the least cost and best overall support for the patient's need. That's the application of the analytical approach to thinking. To me that's what a trustee needs to do, i.e., sort out what's best for the twp. residents in whatever responsibility area is in process or being proposed within the mandated guidelines.

#### **5. Are you able to serve on at least one board or committee as a trustee?**

Yes.

**6. Do you plan to run for office in 2024?**

**No.**

# Jeffery Marine



Below is my response to the questions provided for the interview process for the open Board of Trustee role on the Dexter Township Board of Trustees. Following my reply to these specific question, I have provided an opening statement in case this is requested from other interviewees. Thank you for this opportunity.

**1) Tell us a little bit about yourself. What prompted you to apply for this position?**

I am a husband and father. My wife and I moved back to SE MI almost 3 years ago, having previously lived in this region for nearly 15 years. We moved to further my professional career on the East Coast.

I am athletic and enthusiastically enjoy playing ice hockey and mountain biking, as well as working out and participating in outdoor activities such as golf, hiking and kayaking.

Professionally I am a scientist, having spent well over 30 years in Biological and Clinical research. I have been long-time a member of the American Society for Clinical Oncology and spent the past over 15 years in oncology research working to develop more effective and safer treatments for various forms of cancer.

I have always had a great interest in public policy and social justice issues which has led me to not only volunteering within my community, but to elected office as a Pittsfield Township Trustee, and now to my applications for open positions on the Dexter Township Board of Trustees.

I am seeking this position on the Dexter Township Board of Trustees with the intention of serving my community in a meaningful way. I am not applying for this role based on some specific, personally driven grievance or concern, nor do I have a personal agenda in seeking this position. My interest and passion in helping my community, my propensity for independent rational and objective thinking, and my prior experience, make me a suitable candidate to fill this open position on the Dexter Township Board of Trustees.

**2) Talk about your prior experience serving on a board of equals. What role do you typically play? Give an example of how you influenced a board decision or helped the board be more effective.**

I have participated on various types of "Boards" both in my professional career and in my community activities. The manner in which I interact, and my direct role and contribution, depends on the specific issues, the responsibility of the Board, and the expected outcomes.

My experience in these settings is to define the issue at hand, clarify the goals and objectives of the Board, and to use my analytical skills to evaluate the information. Prior to articulating my position, I often prefer to listen to the thoughts and perspectives of other members to gain a thorough understanding of alternative and multiple positions regarding any issue.

My direct engagement will include questions intended to help clarify and or confirm the issues, and to help refine the expected outcomes of the group. I may take on this role to clarify the question and endpoints for myself, however this also is often intended to help ensure that all members of the group are aligned in order to hold a productive and effective discussion.

When the responsibility of the Board is focused on a matter which I am knowledgeable and comfortable, after listening to and absorbing other viewpoints, I will often help to drive the discussion and move towards a conclusion and or decision. However, for subject matter which I am less comfortable, I prefer to let others drive the discussion while I listen to gain a more thorough understanding. My input will usually be to offer rational and objective thoughts and ideas for helping to define, understand, and delineate the consequences in order to drive the decision-making process.

My academic and professional background has helped provide me with rational, objective and methodical thought process, and an ability to analytically review and analyze factual data and information. I use these skill to clarify and support potential options and consequences of actions taken by a Board. Furthermore, my analytical abilities and skill at interpreting information and asking probing questions also helps me to define unintended consequences with regard to those same potential options and decisions.

I have used the above stated skills to influence the direction and decision of numerous groups teams and boards, both professionally and within the community setting.

**3) Talk about your experience with local government. What is your understanding of the role of a township?**

I have served 4 years as a Township Trustee and interacted with multiple levels of local and regional government boards and officials as a community activist, member of the public. These experiences have been transforming, helping me to understand the value and importance of the role of local government toward with public policy, as well as learning about the administrative side of local government.

My understanding of a township is it is a government entity formed for the purposes of tax collection, property assessment and administration of elections. However, beyond these specified responsibilities, the most important responsibility of a township is to provide for the public safety of the community. Furthermore, the township government is charged with maintaining the character of the community and enhancing the quality of life for the residents.

**4) Do you bring any special skills or expertise relevant to our work? Tell us about this and how you envision sharing or using this expertise as a Trustee.**

My professional and community experience makes me uniquely qualified for this position. I believe I am the only applicant to have previously served as a Township Trustee, a role which I held during a time of extreme change and conflict within the community, and my scientific background provides me with a unique perspective.

My academic and professional careers have greatly enhanced my ability for rational, objective, and analytical thought processes. I have spent years in research evaluating factual data and objective information. I am able to separate data driven conclusions from anecdotal information, and able to recognize misinterpreted or misleading information. I research and review facts and consider multiple possible interpretations and conclusions before making a final decision. I consider both the intended and unintended consequences of multiple positions. Finally, I tend to act in an independent manner, assessing each and every issue on its merits, and I do not conform to "herd mentality" when considering issues and in my decision making. Nonetheless, I fully understand the importance of compromise and consent, when it serves the will and best interests of those affected.

As a trustee I would use these skills as well as my passion for working in the best interests of my community to help to maintain and or improve the quality of life for residents. I tend to ask deep and thoughtful questions and expect that and that my rational and objective approach will help to influence other members of the board, I will likewise be influenced by the thoughts and perspectives of my colleagues on the board,

**5) Are you able to serve on at least one additional board of committee as a trustee representative?**

Yes.

**6) Do you plan to run for this office in 2024?**

At this time I expect to run for public office in 2024.

**Opening Statement:**

I want to thank the board for this opportunity to participate on the Board of Trustees. It is unfortunate that I am unable to attend this meeting in person. I find that someone reading my answers will not provide the same sense of my being as it would coming from directly from me. Both the verbal and non-verbal impact of my responses may find a different interpretation than intended. Nonetheless, I want to thank the board for this opportunity, and encourage members to contact me directly regarding any clarification, questions or concerns.

I was informed that I would be unable to participate in this meeting remotely since remote participation is prohibited according to the Michigan Township Association's (MTA) Open Meeting Act (OMA), and that the Township lacked the technology to support remote participation.

A thorough reading of the MTA OMA does not appear to prohibit the general public from remote participation in Township meetings. The act clearly leaves the decision as an option for the Board to consider.

The lack of technology to support remote participation confirms my prior comments to the board that upgrading and updating the technology should be considered a one of the priorities of this township government.

The board explicitly stated a desire to increase public participation in township government. allowing and advocating remote attendance would potentially greatly benefit this desired outcome. Remote participation in business meetings and personal interactions is now commonplace, and the residents of this community should also have this option to participate with the Township Boards. While during the pandemic, remote participation may have been the only available option for public forums, for many residents, certain types of disability or a compromised immune system may continue to be the only limit their options to remote participation. Their risk is not limited to a global pandemic or other universally defined risk. Therefore, I encourage the board at this time to take actions to make remote access to local government meetings and forums permitted and available for all residents of the community.



# Regina Hamlet

## Clerk

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**From:** Supervisor  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 1:03 PM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Candidate Interview Packet for June 14, 2023

Karen Sikkenga, Supervisor  
Dexter Township  
(734) 972-6591

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Regina Hamlett <regilikestacos@gmail.com>  
**Date:** June 14, 2023 at 5:23:32 PM EDT  
**To:** Supervisor <supervisor@dextertownship.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Candidate Interview Packet for June 14, 2023

Finally. Here are my answers. Short and sweet, but I need to go.

Thank you for understanding and being flexible.

I hope all goes well tonight!

Candidate Questions:

1) Tell us a little bit about yourself. What prompted you to apply for this position?  
*I am very motivated in being an active member of Dexter Township. I haven't had the time in the past but now I am looking forward to volunteering and working in the township more often.*

2) Talk about your prior experience serving on a board of equals. What role do you typically play?  
*I am currently on the Michigan Agritourism Board. We are an organization that helps Michigan farms through education, ideas, promotion, and connections. I am an elected board member, but do not hold an office such as president.*

Give an example of how you influenced a board decision or helped the board be more Effective.

*We meet monthly and recently we were planning our annual Farmers Expo in partnership with MDARD and MSU. The expo is in December every year. Our organization runs some workshops and one main session for the event.*

*We wanted to talk more about how to get people excited about our farms and what services we provide, so I suggested we teach on getting connected to the community more. Such as we have with m36 Rotary, Brighton Chamber, Huron River Women in Business Group, and more.*

*That led to our current main session of "Community engagement and your farm business." We have a speaker who will be speaking on Lavender farms in France that not only have booming relationships with their Communities, but they volunteer and give back, just like we do here at our Lavender farm.*

3) Talk about your experience with local government. What is your understanding of the role of a township?

*To assist citizens in living peacefully together within the laws/ordinances of the township. Sort of a liaison between residents and the government.*

5) Do you bring any special skills or expertise relevant to our work? Tell us about this and how you envision sharing or using this expertise as a Trustee.

*I have 30 years of child development, education, and leadership experience. I love to see people grow, develop, and become their best self in every way. I believe the township could benefit from some community engagement programs and more connecting as community events. The more the township residents know the Board cares, the more they will engage in communication.*

6) Are you able to serve on at least one additional board of committee as a trustee Representative?

*Yes! I would love to do that. My goal is to help, serve, and build relationships with my fellow township residents*

7) Do you plan to run for this office in 2024?

*Yes, for sure.*

On Thu, Jun 8, 2023 at 4:32 PM Supervisor <[supervisor@dextertownship.org](mailto:supervisor@dextertownship.org)> wrote:

Greetings Dexter Township Board of Trustees:

Attached is the board packet for the candidate interviews, scheduled for **June 14, 2023 at 6 pm**. The packet includes the agenda, followed by a list of the candidates, the questions to be asked, and the process for asking the questions. The candidates are cc'ed here via bcc; staff cc'ed for informational purposes.

Note that there will be a Special Assessment District meeting in the great hall at the same time; this meeting will take place downstairs.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Best wishes,  
Karen

Karen Sikkenga, Supervisor

Dexter Township

(734) 972-6591

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Regina Hamlett  
269-365-5493