

**SPECIAL MEETING
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
April 13, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Clerk Gloria Payne called the meeting to order. In the absence of a Supervisor, she called for a motion to name a Supervisor Pro Tem. It was moved by Payne seconded by Essig, to appoint Robert Clark as the Supervisor Pro Tem. Six ayes, motion carried.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gloria A. Payne, Clerk, Robert Clark, Treasurer, Zach Carson, Trustee, John Wilk, Trustee, Mike Essig, and Trustee, Nancy Mensinger were present.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Dienes, Lake Charter Township Attorney
Richard Kubsch, Lake Charter Township Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator
Jeff Burkhard, Water Plant Superintendent
Terry Eichler, Lake Charter Township Resident
Jamie Smith, Baroda-Lake Township Police Department Bookkeeper
Carolyn Shuler, Lake Charter Township Resident
William H. Shuler, Lake Charter Township Resident
William Shuler, Lake Charter Township Resident
Richard Vonk, Lake Charter Township Resident
Jeri Essig, Lake Charter Township Resident
Brooke Essig, Lake Charter Township Resident
Jordan Klint, Lake Charter Township Resident
Harold Heyn, Lake Charter Township Fire Chief
Richard Hildebrandt, Lake Charter Township Water Meter Reader
Jim Stine, Jr. Candidate/Lake Charter Township Resident
Rick Davis, Lake Charter Township Resident
Lori Davis, Lake Charter Township Resident
Brian Thomas, Candidate/Lake Charter Township Resident

AGENDA

Resolution to Appoint New Township Supervisor to Fill Vacancy in office created by death of Incumbent

Supervisor Pro Tem Clark welcomed guests and candidates. He remarked at how difficult this decision is. He hoped he would never have to handle this issue again. John Gast's untimely death created a vacancy in the Supervisor's office and replacing him needs to be handled fairly and professionally. He indicated that he researched the success of incumbents and they typically get reelected more often than not.

Since there are two candidates that currently serve as Trustee's on the Lake Charter Township Board that are interested in the position, it would be fair to place the Interim candidate into the office of Supervisor, until the August 2, 2022 and November 8, 2022 elections.

It was moved by Clark, seconded by Payne to approve the Resolution to Appoint A New Township Supervisor to Fill Vacancy in Office Created by Death of Incumbent. Stanley Markavitch is appointed to the vacant position of Township Supervisor until the midterm election as expressly provided by MCL 168.370. Roll call vote: Payne Yes; Essig Yes; Carson Yes; Wilk Yes; Clark Yes; Mensinger Yes. Motion carried. (A copy of the Resolution is attached).

Clerk Payne commented that the public needs to be aware, that if this had been a vote of the Township Board, the potential of a tie vote could have occurred. A tie vote is a no vote. If the Lake Charter Township Board would not have been able to agree on a candidate, this process would have been given over to the Berrien County Clerk and she would have made an appointment and made all the candidates run in the August 2, 2022 election. It is common sense for this board to make the decision to make this interim appointment and have all interested candidates run in the election to be voted in by the voters of Lake Charter Township.

John Wilk commented that this process gives all the candidates a level playing field.

Mike Essig commented that this process would keep the peace and not pit one against another.

Zach Carson commented as much as I would love to be appointed as the new Supervisor of Lake Charter Township, I feel it would be more fair for the candidates that the decision be made by the voters of Lake Charter Township to decide their new Supervisor in the election.

Nancy Mensinger commented that we, as a board, currently get along and would like for that relationship to continue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Vonk asked what if, after Stan Markavitch is in office and decides he does want to run. What then?

Clerk Payne responded, he would have to file his paperwork April 19, 2022 by 4:00 p.m.

Terry Eichler asked the board if we have considered hiring a Township Manager.

The board has not considered this, however, Clerk Payne responded that while she is not against the idea, a Township Manager could bring in an applicant from the outside, and sometimes when that happens, the person isn't invested in the community like a resident of Lake Charter Township in the Supervisor's position would be.

Robert Clark indicated that would be something we could look into.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments, and no further business, it was moved by Payne, seconded by Mensinger to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. Six ayes, motion carried,

Dated: April 18, 2022

Gloria A. Payne, Clerk

Robert Clark, Supervisor Pro Tem