

MINUTES
LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING
Lake Township Hall
June 29, 2023
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Carson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT-LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Clerk Payne called the roll for Lake Charter Township. Board members present were: Supervisor Zach Carson; Clerk Gloria Payne; Treasurer Robert Clark; Trustees, Nancy Mensinger, Mike Essig, Amanda Drew and John Wilk.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT- LINCOLN TOWNSHIP

Clerk Stacy Loar Porter called the roll for Lincoln Charter Township. Board members present were: Richard Stauffer, Supervisor, Stacy Loar-Porter, Clerk, Terri Smith, Treasurer. Trustees, Debra Peterson and Rick Stone. Trustees absent were Marc Florian and Kevin Gillette.

OTHERS PRESENT

Members of the Lake Charter Township Fire Department
Members of the Lincoln Township Fire Department
Members of the Baroda Fire Department
Loren Berndt
Rick and Lori Davis
Larry and Vickie Ott
Angela Baggett
Chris Malik
Jeri Essig
Dennis Kroezter, Baroda Township Supervisor
Scott Patton Senior Consulting Manager - Plante Moran
Shawn Martin, Baroda-Lake Township Police Chief
Allen Weich, Chikaming Township Fire Chief

AGENDA

Explore the possible merger with Lincoln Township Fire Department

Supervisor Carson introduced Scott Patton, Senior Consulting Manager for Plante Moran who laid out the process for a possible merger with Lake Charter Township Fire Department and Lincoln Township Fire Department. Three scenarios included doing nothing, consolidating and moving to enhanced services.

This meeting was a discussion between the two municipalities and no motions were made by either Lake Charter Township or Lincoln Charter Township.

Comments from Lincoln Township board members and Lake Charter Township Board members included looking into this allows for two municipalities to explore options available to them. With the cost of everything increasing and the fact that younger individuals are not interested in becoming Firefighters, consolidating or sharing in services seems inevitable. Further, this would possibly allow for the Fire Department to be staffed
24/7.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Malik, Lincoln Township expressed his concerns regarding Plante Moran being Lincoln Township's auditor, that it would be a conflict of interest.

Vickie Ott asked if this merger would be due to Lake Charter Township Fire Department being understaffed.

Scott Davis commented that being older is not an issue.

Nancy Mensinger asked whether Lake Charter Township had a drop in volunteers.

Donnie Johnson indicated that this was the first he had heard about a merger between Lake and Lincoln.

Angela Baggett commented on why Lake Township was looking toward Lincoln Township and not Bridgman City.

Dennis Kroezer commented that all the area Fire Departments work together already through mutual aid and why couldn't this be worked out as well.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further questions, or public comment, the meeting concluded at 8:10 p.m.