

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tammy Beal, Les Andersen, Jim Witkowski, and Sandy Donovan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bill Fenton, Scott Lloyd, and Dan Lowe

**OTHERS PRESENT:** John Gormley, Attorney

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Sandy Donovan motioned to have Tammy Beal conduct the meeting. Les Andersen seconded. **Motion carried.** The meeting is also available to attend online.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

The board members introduced themselves.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No response.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Les Andersen motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Sandy Donovan seconded. **Motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Les Andersen asked to have Complaint Reports moved to Correspondence & Updates for discussion. Les Andersen motioned to adopt a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Sandy Donovan seconded. Roll call vote: Beal, Witkowski, Andersen, Donovan—all yes. **Resolution passed 4-0.**

Tammy Beal motioned to pull the Complaint Reports out of the consent agenda and moved to Correspondence & Updates. Sandy Donovan seconded. **Motion carried.**

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Les Andersen said the ordinances have been reviewed by the township’s Planning Commission, the Livingston County Planning Department, and the attorney and feels they should be approved. Sandy Donovan said she would like Michael Homier to review first. Les Andersen motioned to approve the three renewable energy ordinances with the stipulation that they be sent to Michael Homier at Foster, Swift. Motion failed due to lack of second.

Jim Witkowski said he has questions on battery storage and the amount of megawatts. Jim Anderson, vice chairman of the Planning Commission, said the township needs to revisit the solar overlay district because it isn’t large enough. He also said the current ordinance is not a CREO ordinance.

Les Andersen motioned to allow public comment. Tammy Beal seconded. **Motion carried.**

Cathy Szabelski, 3158 Pingree, has concerns because there is a gas pipeline directly behind his house, and the west side has power lines. She's concerned about the possibility of fire and the fire department isn't equipped to extinguish that type of fire. The board member discussed including language requiring a setback from pipelines. Jim Witkowski said the wellhead protection area isn't excluded either.

Les Andersen motioned to adopt a resolution to approve the battery storage zoning ordinance as presented, amended to include item #15 under C—Site Requirements that states no facility within 100 feet of the center line of a high-pressure natural gas line. Tammy Beal seconded. **Motion carried.**

Sandy Donovan motioned to send all three of the proposed renewable energy ordinances to Michael Homier at Foster, Swift for review and to get advice on the current solar overlay district. Jim Witkowski seconded. **Motion carried.**

John Wiley, 4363 Hinchey, asked if there is federal funding tied to solar farms and might that change in the future?

### **MARION TOWNSHIP ROADS**

Tammy Beal motioned to accept the quote from Chloride Solutions for 2025 dust control, as presented. Les Andersen seconded. **Motion carried.**

The Livingston County Road Commission plans to rehabilitate Groveland Drive and Sharma Lane as part of its small sub program; both jobs will be completed with LCRC funds.

Three estimates were received for Sexton Road (County Farm to Peavy), for \$149,000; East Davis Road (D-19 to Fisk) for \$99,000; and Hinchey Road (Vines to Schafer) for \$242,000. Les Andersen motioned to table this item until the February 23 meeting so the board members can look at the roads. Sandy Donovan seconded. **Motion carried.**

### **CEMETERY TREE QUOTES**

Three quotes were received for tree removal in Lakeside and Harger cemeteries. Tammy Beal motioned to accept the quote from Duke's Tree Service for \$6,800, as presented. Les Andersen seconded. Roll call vote: Beal, Andersen, Donovan, Witkowski—all yes. **Motion carried 4-0.**

### **ZBA REPORT**

Jim Witkowski reported that a variance for a pool in the front yard (lakeside) on Ulana Drive was granted. He said he mentioned to the township supervisor that the zoning ordinance should possibly be changed for those situations.

### **CORRESPONDENCE & UPDATES**

Les Andersen said the house on Coon Lake and Pingree is accumulating more trash, and doesn't feel the supervisor should have given a 30-day extension. John Gormley said they will need to be served again and go through the show cause process. The board members discussed the High Meadows situation, but are unsure of the status.

Les Andersen said DTE is still contacting property owners about easements; he said it was his understanding that public utility companies have the right to use the road commission easements.

The board members discussed the traffic concerns at Mason and Peavy; Les Andersen said the road commission said they only look at sight distance, not traffic impact. A development can't be denied based on traffic if it's a use by right, not a special use or PUD.

A letter from the City of Howell is included in the packet; they have approved a rate increase for the wastewater treatment plant. The board will need to adopt a resolution to increase the rates at the next board meeting.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Robert Salisbury, 1021 Peavy Road, asked when the Meadows North would be on the agenda; it will be discussed at the February 27 meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Les Andersen motioned to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Sandy Donovan seconded. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by: S. Longstreet

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Tammy L. Beal, Township Clerk      Date

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William Fenton, Township Supervisor      Date