

**MARION TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Lloyd, Dan Lowe, Les Andersen, Tammy Beal, Jim Witkowski, Sandy Donovan, and Bill Fenton

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: John Gormley, Attorney; Scott Richardson, Marion Township Zoning Administrator; Matt Dedes, Marion Township Assessor

CALL TO ORDER

Bill Fenton called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. 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. Scott Lloyd seconded. **Motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Tammy Beal motioned to approve the consent agenda. Les Andersen seconded. **Motion carried.**

SAFETY GRANT RESOLUTION

Tammy Beal asked for the board's permission to apply for a \$5,000 safety grant to install electricity and lighting at the new pickle ball courts.

Les Andersen motioned to adopt a resolution to authorize the clerk to apply for a Risk Reduction Grant through the Michigan Township Participating Plan (PAR Plan) to assist in purchasing/funding electrical service and safety lighting for the Fred Brown (Triangle Lake) park. Sandy Donovan seconded. Roll call vote: Lowe, Lloyd, Beal, Donovan, Witkowski, Andersen, Fenton—all yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

PFEFFER, HANNIFORD, PALKA ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Sandy Donovan motioned to accept and sign the letter of engagement from Pfeffer, Hanniford & Palka, as presented. Bill Fenton seconded. Roll call vote: Donovan, Witkowski, Lowe, Lloyd, Beal, Andersen, Fenton—all yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

DARAKJIAN PURCHASE AGREEMENT

The township attorney has reviewed and revised the purchase agreement. Jim Witkowski said the agreement states “no leases” and there are a number of leases on the property. John Gormley suggested adding “except road and oil/gas leases related to Eastern Panhandle pipeline”. Scott Lloyd questioned the timing of the deposit (down payment); it should be within ten days of signing the agreement. He also feels the township should work with the city regarding the REUs before the property is sold. Jim Witkowski feels the township’s counter offer should include the other parcel (005) at an additional per acre price.

John Gormley said he will incorporate what the board has discussed and bring it back.

RICHARDSON SHOW CAUSE HEARING

The hearing was scheduled for 7:30 pm. The board delayed discussion to see if the property owner showed up; they did not. The zoning administrator, Scott Richardson (no relation), updated the board members on the actions taken for this case. The first violation notice was sent in December 2024, and they were given an extension to remedy the situation by the township supervisor, Bill Fenton. The next violation was sent in June 2025, which also includes the issue of a home occupation. Scott has talked with the property owner and asked her to have her son, who admittedly runs a scraping business, contact him and there was no response. The June violation was sent via certified mail and was accepted.

Bill Fenton, township supervisor, said he is the one who took the photos attached to the complaint. He has visited the property several times.

Tammy Beal motioned to admit the zoning administrator’s report and the notices from Bill Fenton into the official record. Sandy Donovan seconded. Discussion: Jim Witkowski questioned the home occupation portion of the complaint. **Motion carried.**

John Gormley said he will prepare a written findings draft for the next meeting.

GALL SHOW CAUSE HEARING

This hearing began later than scheduled to allow the property owner to appear; she did not. Scott Richardson said he has received several complaints about the large piles of pallets and non-operable vehicles. He is not the one who took the photos and he has not talked personally with the home owner. They were notified of the show cause hearing via certified mail, which was accepted. Bill Fenton said that he has visited the property multiple times and he took the photos attached to the complaint. The property owner came in to the office once to discuss the situation. The property owner has indicated an unwillingness to cooperate.

Tammy Beal motioned to admit this information in to the official record. Les Andersen seconded. **Motion carried.**

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No response.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS SAVAGE PROPERTY INVESTMENTS

Sandy Donovan motion to go into a closed session to discuss settlement with attorney, per MCL 15.268(h) on SG Savage Property Investments, LLC vs. Marion Township because discussion during an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the settlement position of the township, and to invite the assessor to join the closed session. Les Andersen seconded. Roll call vote: Beal, Andersen, Donovan, Witkowski, Lowe, Lloyd, Fenton. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Bill Fenton made a motion at 8:12 p.m. to come out of closed session, seconded by Sandy Donovan. Roll call vote: Donovan, Witkowski, Lloyd, Beal, Andersen, Lowe, Fenton—yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion by Sandy Donovan to authorize the attorney to proceed with making a settlement offer on all four appeals as presented in closed session, seconded by Tammy Beal. Roll call vote: Andersen, Lowe, Witkowski, Beal, Lloyd, Donovan, Fenton--yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATES

Les Andersen asked if there was anything new on the Smith Case and wondered if there was any information on the Cohoctah/Conway solar fields.

ADJOURNMENT

Les Andersen motioned to adjourn at 8:25 pm., Sandy Donovan seconded. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by: S. Longstreet

Tammy L. Beal, Township Clerk Date

William Fenton, Township Supervisor Date