

**MARION TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2026**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Richardson, Zoning Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Bill Fenton called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. The meeting is also available to attend online.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

The board members introduced themselves.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chuck Smith, 5136 Fleming Road, said he is involved with the group working to stop data centers and solar projects, and offered the group's assistant to the board members if they're interested.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Les Andersen motioned to approve the consent agenda. Scott Lloyd seconded. **Motion carried.**

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY UPDATE

Bill Fenton said he's asked the zoning administrator to attend the first meeting of each month to update the board members on complaints, projects, meetings, etc.

The zoning administrator, Scott Richardson, said the township had six residential land use permits in December. Two of those are in Tamarack, which brings their total up to six under construction.

He's working on setting up a meeting with Jim Anderson, Jim Witkowski, Dean Blanchard and Larry Fillinger to identify planning firms for zoning ordinance update/new zoning ordinance, hopefully the week of January 19.

He said he's also working on a new way to track complaints, and to make the complaint form available on the website so it can be submitted electronically. He's also working on the ability for applicants to use fillable PDFs for land use permits.

There were no new site plans in December and no formal complaints, although he's received several inquiries from residents about data centers and solar projects.

The response from the LC Planning about the text amendment for moratorium will be reviewed at the next PC meeting

Jim Witkowski asked if he's talked with planning firms; Scott said the scope of work discussion will be part of the upcoming (week of January 19) meeting. This will be an open meeting, time to be determined.

ZBA APPOINTMENT

Tammy Beal motioned to appoint Larry Grunn to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term. Sandy Donovan seconded. Roll call vote: Lowe, Lloyd, Beal, Donovan, Witkowski, Andersen, Fenton—all yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Tammy Beal motioned to appoint Larry Fillinger to the Planning Commission for a three-year term. Sandy Donovan seconded. Roll call vote: Donovan, Witkowski, Lowe, Lloyd, Beal, Andersen, Fenton—all yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

HEALTH INSURANCE PA #152 OPT-OUT RESOLUTION

Sandy Donovan motioned to adopt a resolution to approve opting out of 2011 Public Act 152, as presented. Les Andersen seconded. Roll call vote: Beal, Andersen, Donovan, Witkowski, Lowe, Lloyd, Fenton—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

2026 POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES

Sandy Donovan motioned to adopt a resolution to adopt the Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines for 2026 Income and Asset Test, as presented. Scott Lloyd seconded. Roll call vote: Andersen, Lowe, Witkowski, Beal, Lloyd, Donovan, Fenton—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

BOARD OF REVIEW LETTER APPEALS

Tammy Beal motioned to adopt a resolution to allow residents to file letter appeals to the Board of Review for 2026, as presented. Sandy Donovan seconded. Roll call vote: Donovan, Beal, Andersen, Lowe, Witkowski, Lloyd, Fenton—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

HOWELL SCHOOLS TAX COLLECTION AGREEMENT

Tammy Beal motioned to adopt a resolution to approve the Agreement for Collection of Summer School Property Taxes, as presented. Les Andersen seconded. Roll call vote: Lowe, Witkowski, Lloyd, Donovan, Andersen, Beal, Fenton—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

MARION TOWNSHIP ROADS

Bill Fenton said that Steve Ott presented him with signatures from residents on Brighton Road requesting that some maintenance be done on the road. Dan Lowe agreed that the road (from the silo to D-19) is in bad shape. Les Andersen mentioned Francis Road from D-19 to Fisk could use some 21AA stone. The Livingston County Road Commission would like to hear from townships by February about work being requested on blacktop roads; board members suggested Norton Road, Cedar Lake Road, and Schafer Road. Bill Fenton asked the board members to look at the roads for discussion at the next meeting. Dan Lowe said that Triangle Lake Road by the lake needs to be looked at.

TOWNSHIP PURCHASING POLICY/ACH PAYMENTS

Sandy Donovan motioned to adopt a resolution to approve limited ACH payments, as presented. Tammy Beal seconded. Roll call vote: Lowe, Lloyd, Beal, Donovan, Witkowski, Andersen, Fenton—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

Dan Lowe motioned to increase the amount an officer can approve to \$5,000. Scott Lloyd seconded. Roll call vote: Donovan, Witkowski, Lowe, Lloyd, Beal, Andersen, Fenton—all yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

CORRESPONDENCE & UPDATES

The attorney will attend the next meeting with updates on pending cases.

Les Andersen asked for the attorney's direction on when a ZBA and/or PC member should recuse themselves per MTA and the Michigan Municipal League.

The 5th Annual Livingston County Rosa Parks Transit Equity Day is Wednesday, February 4 from 8-9:30 am at Cleary University.

The Parliamentary Procedure training class is scheduled for Thursday, January 15 from 4-8 pm.

The MTA Conference is scheduled for April 20-23 in Traverse City; let the clerk know ASAP attendance plans.

Dan Lowe asked about the status of the Coon Lake & Pingree complaint; Bill Fenton said the process needs to start over because of change in ownership. He mentioned a house on Vines & Pingree; Scott Richardson will take a look at it.

Dan Lowe asked where the authorization is for Bob Hanvey to still be working; he thought it was through June 2025. He was told that it was included in the budget that was approved in June.

Scott Lloyd updated the board members on CIRAB.

Jim Witkowski said he's received complaints about the audio from the public when speaking at meetings.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chuck Smith, 5136 Fleming Road, talked about Section 17.36 of the ordinance and the differences between data processing facilities, data centers and AI data centers.

Catherine Dyer (online) said she agrees that the audio from those at the podium is a problem; she also agrees with Dan Lowe about Bob Hanvey still being on the payroll.

ADJOURNMENT

Les Andersen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Sandy Donovan seconded. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by: S. Longstreet

Tammy L. Beal, Township Clerk Date

William Fenton, Township Supervisor Date