

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ORION BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
LONG LAKE WATER QUALITY CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT #1 –  
PUBLIC HEARING ON COST ESTIMATE MINUTES,  
MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019**

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**CALL TO ORDER.** The Charter Township of Orion Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing on Monday, July 1, 2019, at the Orion Township Hall, 2525 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion, Michigan. The Long Lake Water Quality Control Special Assessment District #1 –Public Hearing on Cost Estimate was held to provide an opportunity for members of the public to offer comments related to this.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Penny Shults, Donni Steele, Brian Birney, Julia Dalrymple, Mike Flood, John Steimel

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chris Barnett (*absent with notice*)

Moved by Clerk Shults, seconded by Trustee Flood to appoint Trustee John Steimel as chair of the Board of Trustees meeting, in the absence of Supervisor Barnett.

AYES: Shults, Steele, Birney, Dalrymple, Flood, Steimel                      ABSENT: Barnett

NAYS: None                      MOTION CARRIED

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

|                    |                |               |                    |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Paul Demeritt      | Ken Svoboda    | Dan Dewey     | Dennis Maraone     |
| Steve Patterson    | Steve Deutsch  | Brian Cowell  | Lawrence Sak       |
| Larry Byle         | Nancy Petoskey | E. Petoskey   | Larry Gavin        |
| Lesle Cole         | David Brennan  | Gary Roberts  | Ted & Susan Kasper |
| Constance Phillips | Chris Krystek  | Phil Christi  | Debbie Hudson      |
| John Canine        | Sandra Kiesol  | Brian Bischer |                    |

Trustee Steimel convened the Public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Clerk Shults gave a description of the preliminary cost estimates and work plan regarding this Special Assessment District.

James Scherer, from PLM Lakeland Management, gave a presentation regarding the lake management plan.

Eugene Petoskey, 522 Indian Lake Rd., stated that he has lived on the lake for seventy-four years, and he stated that it has changed drastically, particularly in the last ten to fifteen years. Mr. Petoskey stated that with increased fertilization he agrees that nice looking lawns are great, but increased boat traffic cuts up the weeds, and then they float around and repopulate creating more weeds. Mr. Petoskey stated that he is against any chemical treating, but obviously we have to do something. Mr. Petoskey stated that he is into big boating up on Lake St. Clair, Lake Huron, and Lake Michigan and all of the marinas up there do not chemically treat anything. Instead, they cut and pile the weeds, and then cart them off and they are good to go for most of the seasons, and that is what he is voting for.

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Clerk Shults stated that a letter was received from Susan Iles, 963 Beaver Ct., who stated that she is not happy that the canals were not included in the treatment plan, and stated that the lakefront owners treat with fertilizer and it comes down into the canals and chokes them with growth.

Clerk Shults stated that this is not a SAD to treat the canals, but it is a SAD to treat the lakefront property and the owners are part of the Special Assessment District. Clerk Shults stated that the canal owners would have to start their own Special Assessment District if they chose to treat the canals with the same type of treatment.

Clerk Shults stated the Supervisor's office received a letter from Glen Bartoni, 800 N. Lapeer Rd., who is opposed to this Special Assessment District. Mr. Bartoni also stated in his letter that he has been on the lake since 1976, before the subs in the south and north sides were there and things were fine until this was developed, and he feels they should also be responsible for clean-up of the lakefront properties.

Leslie Cole, 360 Gan Eden, and Mr. Cole, owns property at 978 N. Long Lake, stated that she and her husband are for the treatment of the water systems. Mrs. Cole state that they would like it to be allotted to the homeowners so that something can be done to clean up the waters because algae is getting out of control, which is causing super heating of the water. Mrs. Cole stated that it is difficult to live with when you go down to the lakefront and it stinks, because a lot of vegetation is dying and left there to mold.

Ken Svoboda, 1147 Clute Ct., stated that he was the acting President of Bunny Run Country Club for a number of years and he is now an active board member, and over the years they have seen weed growth grow exponentially. Mr. Svoboda stated that this has created a fairly unsafe environment for our swim area, and they have been treating with DEQ permit for several years to try to keep it at bay. The lake has a lot of milfoil and one of the problems with that is that as it gets cut by boat props, it lands on that side because we are on the prevailing wind side of the lake, and it grows and proliferates quite rapidly down there. They have been attempting to treat with chemistry through the DEQ, along with weed mats, but haven't been able to keep it at bay, and that is why they have been pushing strongly for this SAD.

David Jay Brennan, 978 N. Long Lake Blvd., stated that he has a piece of property that is on the lake and then the canal runs down, and if the treating is allowed, and the people down the canal aren't going to treat, will this Board provide something for those that are on the canal to go ahead and treat it with the same applications as the lake owners.

Clerk Shults stated that we did receive notice from the Supervisor's office regarding who the Special Assessment District is designed for and it is for lakefront property owners on Long Lake. Clerk Shults stated that if the canal property owners wanted to start a Special Assessment District to treat their area as well, they would need to go through the same process, but this specific SAD is not designed to treat the canals.

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Larry Gavin, 393 Franklin Wright, stated he has been on the lake for 20 years, and he has been part of the group that has been measuring the lake for the state volunteer program for a number of years and they have watched the weeds get worse and worse. Mr. Gavin stated they invited Lake Orion to come and tell what they were doing, because they have a successful program running, and that is what he believes they have modeled this program after. Mr. Gavin stated that they really do need to take action and they believe this is a smart way of doing it. Mr. Gavin stated that they have been treating the lake manually for the last 3-4 years with mixed success because it depends on the person who applies it. Mr. Gavin stated that they asked for the SAD to help make a more it more systemic so that it covers the whole lake and takes care of the issues we are dealing with.

James Scherer, PLM Lake & Land Management, spoke regarding harvesting, and he stated that it is the absolute worse thing you can do. Mr. Scherer stated that milfoil is caused by fragmentation and the analogy used regarding the harbors in Northern Michigan is different from the lakes here in Southern Michigan, because there are different levels of nutrients and different dynamics you are dealing with. Additionally, harvesting a lake of this size, especially for the invasive plants will probably make matters worse in the long run. Mr. Scherer stated that there is a reason PLM was the number one harvesting company in the state, with twenty harvesters and now we have one, because the issue only gets worse by harvesting.

Seeing and hearing no other citizens were interested in providing comments or any other written comments were received related to the Long Lake Water Quality Control Special Assessment District #1 –Public Hearing on Cost Estimate, Trustee Steimel adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

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Penny S. Shults, Clerk

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Chris Barnett, Supervisor  
Charter Township of Orion

Transcription: K. Comeau