

BERLIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING 01/12/2026

The Regular Meeting of the Berlin Charter Township Board was held at 8000 Swan View, Newport, Michigan called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Mary Jo Gedelian, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL: Supervisor Mary Jo Gedelian, Clerk Gina Swiercz, Treasurer Debbie Masserant, Trustees Kellie Long, Neil Masserant, John Sorovetz.
Excused: Trustee Kyle Long

A quorum was present, the meeting proceeded. Also, in attendance eight (8) residents, Township Assessor and Kerry Bondy (Township attorney)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #1: by Sorovetz seconded by D. Masserant to approve the agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL

No: NONE

Excused: Kyle Long

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #2: by Kellie Long seconded by Sorovetz to approve the Berlin Charter Township regular meeting minutes (12/08/25).

ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL

No: NONE

Excused: Kyle Long

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS

1. BERLIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES (11/17/25)

MOTION #3: by Sorovetz seconded by Swiercz to receive and file the Berlin Charter Township Planning Commission meeting minutes (11/17/25).

ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL

No: NONE

Excused: Kyle Long

MOTION CARRIED

2. DTE CASE NO. U-21772

MOTION #4: by D. Masserant seconded by Kellie Long to receive and file the DTE Case No. U-21772.

ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL

No: NONE

Excused: Kyle Long

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

MOTION #5: by Sorovetz seconded by D. Masserant to approve the 2026 Boards & Commissions with the change of Hillary Haywood to Zoning Administrator.

ROLL CALL: Yes: Swiercz, Kellie Long, D. Masserant, Gedelian, N. Masserant, Sorovetz

Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

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2. 3239 NEWPORT RD ZONING ORDINANCE MAP AMENDMENT – FIRST READING

MOTION #6: by Kellie Long seconded by N. Masserant to approve the 3239 Newport Rd Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment first reading.

ROLL CALL: Yes: Sorovetz, N. Masserant, Swiercz, Gedelian, D. Masserant, Kellie Long
Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

3. 3590 LAW ST ZONING ORDINANCE MAP AMENDMENT- FIRST READING

MOTION #7: by N. Masserant seconded by D. Masserant to approve the 3590 Law St Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment first reading.

ROLL CALL: Yes: D. Masserant, Sorovetz, Kellie Long, Swiercz, Gedelian, N. Masserant
Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

4. 2026 POVERTY EXEMPTION RESOLUTION

MOTION #8: by D. Masserant seconded by Kellie Long to approve the 2026 Poverty Exemption Resolution.

ROLL CALL: Yes: Gedelian, Swiercz, D. Masserant, Kellie Long, Sorovetz, N. Masserant
Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

5. SUGGESTION TO REPEAL BERLIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP JUNKYARDS ORDINANCE

MOTION #9: by Kellie Long seconded by N. Masserant to postpone until next township meeting 01/26/26.

ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL

Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

6. ROCKWOOD AUTO PARTS LICENSE RENEWAL

MOTION #10: by Swiercz seconded by Kellie Long to postpone until next township meeting 01/26/26.

ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL

Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

7. ASSESSOR SALARY INCREASE REQUEST

MOTION #11: by Swiercz seconded by Kellie Long to deny this request and revisit this request after assessor's probationary period of 180 days and to establish a job description with detailed roles and responsibilities of a full-time assessor.

ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL

Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

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8. BS&A PAYMENT OPTIONS VS. INVOICE CLOUD

MOTION #12: by Sorovetz seconded by N. Masserant to approve BS&A payment options with the one time \$350 card reader payment.

ROLL CALL: Yes: Kellie Long, N. Masserant, Swiercz, D. Masserant, Gedelian, Sorovetz

Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

9. NORTH PARK WATER PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT EXTENSION

MOTION #13: by D. Masserant seconded by Sorovetz to approve the North Park water payment arrangement extension of \$2,000 a month until paid off.

ROLL CALL: Yes: N. Masserant, Swiercz, Sorovetz, Kellie Long, Gedelian, D. Masserant

Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. NEW TOWNSHIP VEHICLE QUOTES

MOTION #14: by Kellie Long seconded by Sorovetz to approve the purchase of a new township vehicle not to exceed \$31,321 (Ford Maverik) and to trade in current township van.

ROLL CALL: Yes: Gedelian, N. Masserant, D. Masserant, Swiercz, Sorovetz, Kellie Long

Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

COMMISSION AND REPORT

1. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Microphone & speaker system for the township board room.
- Conflicts of interests on different boards. Have another law office draft a conflict of interest. This request was denied by the board. They agreed to have Kerry Bondy, township attorney, draft this for us.
- Planner thinks it's a good idea to have a sub committee (3 members) to draft a data center ordinance.

2. 2025 BERLIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

MOTION #15: by D. Masserant seconded by Sorovetz to receive and file the 2025 Berlin Charter Township Planning Commission annual report.

ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL

Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

3. CLERK'S PREPAID BILLS THROUGH 1/8/26

MOTION #16: by D. Masserant seconded by Kellie Long to receive and file the Clerk's prepaid bills through 1/8/26 written on checks 62162-62215, 62232-62254, 62259-62290 and 4 EFT totaling \$315,525.60.

ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL

Excused: Kyle Long

No: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

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4. NEW BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Bids for new building extended until January 20, 2025.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Trustee N. Masserant asked if we could get a summary of the BOR from December.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- One resident spoke related to a few specific concerns around data centers.
- One resident provided appreciation of transparency and commented on wage increase decisions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the township office will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #17 by N. Masserant seconded by Sorovetz to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 PM.

ROLL CALL: Yes: ALL

No: NONE

Excused: Kyle Long

MOTION CARRIED

These minutes are a synopsis of the comments made at a regular meeting and are not intended to represent a verbatim transcript.

Gina Swiercz, Clerk

Mary Jo Gedelian, Supervisor