

Hello Lyon Township Residents. My name is Doug Schnell, your Clerk in Lyon Township and I am running for re-election. I have other letters and videos of my accomplishments while serving as your Clerk, but I'd like to address a few things that are being said by the candidates that are opposing me and the rest of the Lyon Township Board. I feel it is important that the voters understand exactly what they are voting for.

First of all - what are some of the statutory roles of the Clerk?

- Maintains custody of all township records
- Maintains general ledger, including accounts payable, payroll, and filing monthly, quarterly and yearly State Federal and Unemployment reports
- Prepares warrants for township checks
- Records and maintains township meeting minutes
- Keeps the township book of oaths
- Responsible for special meeting notices
- Publishes board meeting minutes
- Keeps voter registration file and conducts elections
- Keeps township ordinance book
- Prepares financial statements
- Must appoint a deputy

While these are the statutory duties my office must perform, it is important to remember that the Clerk is one of five board members (Trustees). No decision is ever made by any one elected official. All township business is conducted by the entire board and everything requires a majority vote of the board in order for something to be approved and happen.

So what does this mean to the voter's of Lyon Township? I have read and heard many promises from the candidates running against your current board. Let's cover a few:

- **They are going to lower your taxes.** How? The current Lyon Millage is the same as when it was passed approximately in 1978. There has been NO request for an increase in that millage from the voters.
- **They are going to institute programs to use Township funds to pay for Veteran's needs.** As a Naval Reserve Veteran, I assure you no one has more respect or wishes

to help vets wherever possible. But a Township cannot legally use or donate funds to an individual or group, regardless of how good the cause.

- **They will listen to the residents and let them vote on those issues.** I listen to all resident's input and try to make decisions that I feel are in the best interest of the Township. Unfortunately those decisions are always going to make those on one side of the decision not happy. Also, there are VERY few things that the State Legislature gives a Township the right to place on a ballot. We are a representative government body.
- **They will immediately pull out from the proposed "costly" sewer project.** The current board can pull out of the proposal also, but I take my sworn oath seriously which includes " providing for the health, safety and welfare of the community". Various "huge" assessment amounts are being bandied around in letters and social media. The truth is they are all FALSE. The process of determining what the real and true assessment will be is probably at least a year and half or more away from being known. I feel it is in the best interest for our residents to follow through and determine what that cost is, and then make the decision to go forward or not. And it definitely makes no sense to not be seeking State and Federal Grant money to help reduce those possible costs. I find it deplorable that those opposing the system are writing to our officials and demanding no assistance be considered for this project.
- **They are going to repeal the Septic Ordinance that the current board rushed in and is too expensive to homeowners.** First off, the board worked on this ordinance for nearly 2 1/2 years, hand-in-hand with the Central Michigan Health Department looking at comparable ordinances and taking input on what the ordinance needed to include and why. As for the requirements of a septic system needing to be ANSI 245 approved if the system is in District A, that was recommended by CMDHD. They even stated it really needs to be in all areas of lot density, but the board chose to start with District A. The board took into consideration the possibility of having the sewer move forward by granting a variance for people in District A. The variance will allow for the installation of a compatible tank with the proposed sewer system and will not require the installation of an ANSI 245 component at this time. By doing this, the homeowner will not incur additional costs.
- **The current board wants to remove the Lyon Township branch of the Roscommon County Library from the town hall.** This is ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE! After inviting Sheriff Stern in for Township-wide assessment, one of the things brought up was lack of an egress from the offices in the basement. Two board members did meet with the head of the County Library and discussed options for

more office space in our township building. There was never a motion to remove the Library from the Township. I would never vote for that! Having said that, however, I would like to see the Roscommon Area District Library make a monetary contribution to improve the Lyon Branch. As it stands right now, the library does not pay rent, nor contribute to the utilities for use of this space.

As I have outlined here, there are many more things an elected official is tasked with than one or two issues. I am asking for your vote to keep experienced leadership in the office of the Clerk. I hope to earn your support to continue to make Lyon Township a better place for everyone... full-time and part-time residents, and all visitors!

Thank You,

Doug Schnell - Lyon Township Clerk