

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-TBD
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BRIGHTON
LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN
BAFA and County Communication Systems**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Brighton, Livingston County, State of Michigan, held on September 15, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m., there were:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to adopt Resolution No. 25-TBD, Requesting the Livingston County Board of Commissioners properly preform and invest in the Repair/Maintenance and the replacement needs of the County based communication system that is severely in need of attention.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees for the Charter Township of Brighton recognizes the urgency of the problem set forth by the Brighton Area Fire Authority, and echoes the concerns addressed in their recent passage of Resolution 25-03 Repair/Maintenance & Upgrade of Radio Systems at their September 11, 2025, meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Brighton Area Fire Authority is charged with the solemn duty of providing fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services to protect the lives and property of the citizens within the City of Brighton, the Charter Township of Brighton, and Genoa Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, the ability to perform these duties is critically dependent upon a reliable and fully functional emergency communications system, including the VHF paging system operated by Livingston County Central Dispatch for the primary purpose of alerting both fire and EMS personnel who are on-call and on-duty personnel of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the primary VHF paging system has experienced significant and repeated failures, which necessitated the activation of the limited backup VHF system on August 15, 2025, after several days of system issues; and

WHEREAS, the backup VHF system provides inadequate coverage and suffers from operational deficiencies, which compromise the effective alerting of personnel across the Fire Authority's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, an attempt to repair the primary system concluded on September 4, 2025, yet resulted in the identification of new and unresolved issues, indicating the system remains unstable and unreliable; and

WHEREAS, these systemic failures have directly resulted in emergency personnel not receiving critical dispatch pages, forcing a reliance on less-reliable secondary notification methods such as phone applications and direct phone calls, thereby creating unacceptable delays in emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the current state of the VHF paging system, as well as the 800 MHz daily communication system, is the result of a documented lack of consistent system maintenance, insufficient long-term strategic planning, and a failure to adequately fund timely repairs, preventative maintenance, and replacements by Livingston County; and

WHEREAS, this degradation of public safety communications infrastructure falls below acceptable operational standards and poses a direct and immediate threat to the safety of the public and our first responders; and

WHEREAS, the Brighton Area Fire Authority Board, at a meeting on September 11, 2025, has declared the current state of the Livingston County public safety communication system to be critically unreliable and a significant public safety concern requiring immediate and decisive action; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees for the Charter Township of Brighton, on April 27, 2022, responded to a request from Livingston County Commissioners on how best to utilize County ARPA Funds for their ARPA Project, Brighton Township requested, *“the County utilize those funds to address existing statutory obligations that the County has, as opposed to expanding the number of responsibilities that the County*

could have”, a request that was overlooked when the county had the funds available to make the improvements needed to the county communication systems,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Brighton Area Fire Authority Board has directed the Fire Chief to formally communicate its resolution to the governing bodies of the City of Brighton, the Charter Township of Brighton, and Genoa Charter Township, and respectfully requests that they join the Fire Authority in urging the Livingston County Board of Commissioners to take the actions outlined herein.

The Brighton Area Fire Authority strongly urges the Livingston County Board of Commissioners to immediately direct all necessary financial, personnel, and technical resources to:

1. Fully and properly repair the existing primary VHF simulcast paging system to restore immediate and complete operational reliability.
2. Conduct a comprehensive diagnostic and preventative maintenance program on all related public safety communication systems, including the VHF primary and backup systems, dispatch center radio equipment, and all portable, mobile, and base station radios used by public safety agencies within the county.

The Brighton Area Fire Authority urgently requests that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners approve and fully fund the proposed 800 MHz tower and radio system upgrade without delay, to achieve the full coverage specifications recommended by the Motorola engineering study and ensure a start to resilient day-to-day communications.

The Brighton Area Fire Authority implores the Livingston County Board of Commissioners to develop, approve, and fund a sustainable, long-term capital improvement and replacement plan for the entire public safety radio communication infrastructure (towers, radios, CAD, alerting, etc). This plan must include a dedicated and protected funding mechanism, such as a dedicated county-wide millage or an increase to the 9-1-1 surcharge, and incorporate a forward-looking strategy for next-generation alerting solutions that move beyond legacy VHF technology; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Brighton does hereby approve, by resolution, the request from its partners at Brighton Area Fire Authority, that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners properly perform and invest in the Repair/Maintenance and replacement needs of the County-based communication system that is severely in need of attention; and

LASTLY, BE IT RESOLVED THAT this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and direct the Township Manager to send a copy to the Brighton Area Fire Authority Chief and an original to the Livingston County Administrator.

The Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Brighton does hereby adopt Resolution No. 25-TBD.

A roll call vote on the foregoing resolution was taken and was as follows:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

Joseph R. Riker, Clerk

Patrick V. Michel, Supervisor

CERTIFICATE

I, Joseph R. Riker, Clerk of the Charter Township of Brighton, County of Livingston, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Resolution adopted by the Charter Township of Brighton Board of Trustees on the 15th day of September, 2025.

In witness hereof, I have hereunto affixed my official seal this 15th day of September, 2025.

Joseph R. Riker, Clerk