



LAW OFFICES

ADKISON, NEED, ALLEN, & RENTROP

PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

KELLY A. ALLEN
CANDACE M. BECKER
JESSICA A. HALLMARK
JOHN W. KUMMER
GREGORY K. NEED
G. HANS RENTROP
CHRISTOPHER J. TOWER

39572 Woodward, Suite 222
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304
Telephone (248) 540-7400
Facsimile (248) 540-7401
www.ANAfirm.com

OF COUNSEL:
PHILLIP G. ADKISON
KEVIN M. CHUDLER
JENNIFER H. ELOWSKY
GARY R. RENTROP

May 21, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Sean Miller, Clerk
Charter Township of Springfield
12000 Davisburg Road
Davisburg, MI 48350

Re: Questions Regarding Township Superintendent and Deputy Supervisor

Dear Sean:

You have asked some questions regarding the appointment of the Township Superintendent and the interplay between the positions of the Township Superintendent and the Deputy Supervisor.

As we know, on May 18, 2026, the Township appointed Brian Piper as Superintendent, delegating to him all of the duties listed in MCL 42.10(a) – (o). The evening preceding, on Sunday, May 17th at 9:09 p.m., Supervisor Ric Davis appointed Diana Walls as Deputy Supervisor pursuant to MCL 41.61(2).

Your first question is which appointment has priority over the other.

In my opinion, the Superintendent appointment, legally and practically, trumps the appointment of a Deputy Supervisor. MCL 42.10 allows the Township Board to appoint a Superintendent by a majority vote and delegate to that Superintendent any of the duties listed in that section. The statute then also says those duties are exercised by the Supervisor “unless so delegated.” On Monday morning, the Board appointed Brian and delegated all those duties to Brian Piper. Nothing in the Charter Township Act (“CTA”) carves out an exception to the appointment of the Superintendent that the appointment of a Deputy Supervisor would somehow reverse or any way effect the delegation by the Board to the Superintendent of the powers in MCL 42.10.

Although the appointment of Deputy Supervisor is valid, that only allows the Deputy to perform the Supervisor’s duties (without a vote on the Township Board). In this case, however,

almost all of the Supervisor's duties have been assigned to the Superintendent by action of the Township Board.

There are several other reasons why the Superintendent appointment trumps the Deputy Supervisor appointment. First, the Charter Township Act governs over the provisions of MCLA 41.1a to 41.110c, the statutes dealing with general-law townships (referred to in this letter as the "General Township Act") in the event of any conflict or overlap, given the legal theory that specific statutes – here the CTA- control over general statutes, such as the General Township Act. This conclusion is supported by the language of the CTA itself, which states in MCLA 42.1(2) that "The charter township, its inhabitants, and its officers shall have, **except as otherwise provided in this act**, all the powers, privileges, immunities, and liabilities possessed by a township, its inhabitants, and its officers by law and under..." (the General Township Act) (emphasis added) This language establishes a priority rule. The CTA's own provisions govern first and the General Township Act applies to any matters not specifically covered by the CTA Finally, appointing a Superintendent was done by a majority vote of the entire Township Board, compared to the appointment of the Deputy Supervisor which, per Michigan law, is done by only one individual.

You then asked what action would be required to reinstate the Supervisor's duties and responsibilities.

As the Township Board created the Superintendent position and delegated authority, further Board action would be necessary to return those duties to Ric Davis. Ric should notify the Board that he is ready to resume office and the Board would then consider and act on that request. Nothing in the motion adopted by the Township Board indicated that Ric's return would be automatic upon his unilateral determination that he was ready to resume office.

Please call or reply if you need anything else from me on these issues.

Very truly yours,

ADKISON, NEED, ALLEN, & RENTROP, PLLC



Gregory K. Need

/mms