

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
May 19, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Noble called the Roll:

Present:

Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Mike Roman, Treasurer
Anthony L. Noble, Clerk
Scott Ruggles, Trustee
Steve Anderson, Trustee
Andrea Voorheis, Trustee
Liz Smith, Trustee

Also Present:

Trish Pergament, Deputy Supervisor
Robin Myers, Human Resources Generalist
Sean O'Neil, Community Development Director
Matthew Ivory, Chief of Police
J. David Feichtner, Fire Chief
Beth Saarela, Township Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Kowall called for a motion to approve agenda with the exception of items E, H, and I, to be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion after the presentations.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Vogel, 6220 Whispering Meadows, spoke in opposition to the four Federal Executive Orders related to election security

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. REVENUE AND EXPENSES
- B. CHECK DISBURSEMENTS
- C. BUDGET AMENDMENTS
- D. DEPARTMENT REPORT - POLICE
- E. DEPARTMENT REPORT - FIRE
- F. DEPARTMENT REPORT - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

G. DEPARTMENT REPORT - TREASURER

H. COMMUNICATION ANNOUNCING CONTROLLING EQUITY INTEREST IN PRIORITY WASTE WAS ACQUIRED BY TPG - A GLOBAL ASSET MANAGER

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, and seconded by Trustee Anderson, to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

MINUTES

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING, APRIL 14, 2026

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Voorheis to approve the minutes of April 14, 2026, as presented. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

PRESENTATIONS

A. SWEARING IN MATTHEW COMBS – FIRE SERGEANT

Fire Chief Feichtner presented Matthew Combs. Firefighter Combs was then sworn in as Sergeant by Clerk Noble. He was pinned by Captain Hanneman.

B. SWEARING IN MATTHEW IVORY - CHIEF OF POLICE

Supervisor Kowall appointed Lieutenant Matthew Ivory as Chief of Police. He was then sworn as Chief by Clerk Noble. He was pinned by his wife Heather.

CONSENT AGENDA DISCUSSION

E. DEPARTMENT REPORT - FIRE

Trustee Anderson commended Chief Feichtner for the updated Fire Department report. He asked for clarification regarding inspection types listed on the report. Chief Feichtner stated that a basic life safety inspection entails looking for extinguishers, suppression systems, and exits. He said it is like fire code enforcement for occupancy. An average inspection lasts 45 minutes to an hour. He clarified that plan review entails reviewing plans for new residential and commercial projects. Re-inspections are for those individual sites that may have had prior violations. The Fire Department will re-inspect to verify violations have been corrected.

H. COMMUNICATION ANNOUNCING CONTROLLING EQUITY INTEREST IN PRIORITY WASTE WAS ACQUIRED BY TPG - A GLOBAL ASSET MANAGER

Treasurer Roman stated he feels that anytime there is a change in a contract, it is a good idea to have the Board review it and allow for any questions a member might have. Deputy Supervisor Pergament stated Priority Waste has ongoing issues and is now undergoing an equity change. Ownership will be changing, but the current contract with Priority will remain unchanged.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman and seconded by Clerk Noble to approve Priority Waste contract and allow the supervisor to sign. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

I. BRYCER AGREEMENT FOR INSPECTIONREPORTSONLINE.NET

Chief Feichtner said the company that the Fire Department uses for inspections has been bought by Inspectionreportsonline.net. The agreement was sent to legal for review. There is no cost to the Township as the software remains as it was, it is now under a different name.

Supervisor Kowall stated there is no additional requirement other than that the Board being on notice.

OLD BUSINESS

A. SECOND READING; ORDINANCE TO RESCIND CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VII – RENTAL PROPERTY OF THE WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP CODE OF ORDINANCES

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Trustee Anderson to adopt the second reading; Ordinance to rescind Chapter 8 – The Rental Property of the White Lake Township Code of Ordinances. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (5 yes votes). (Voorheis/no, Noble/yes, Kowall/no, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Anderson/yes, Roman/yes).

NEW BUSINESS

A. REQUEST TO APPROVE SPENDING RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY REVENUE SHARING GRANT

Chief Ivory stated that recently the State of Michigan released revenue sharing based on violent crime data. Although the Township doesn't have much violent crime, it did receive \$21,757. Seventy-five percent of the funds are restricted for law enforcement purposes, and the remaining amount is restricted for "other- nonlaw enforcement related public safety purposes." To receive and accept the money. His request was for the Board to receive and accept the money, and a proposal for the use of the funds will be presented later.

Trustee Anderson asked if the Board could approve of receiving and accept the money without clarification on what the funds will be used for. Supervisor Kowall confirmed.

Trustee Voorheis asked for clarification on the distribution timeline. Treasurer Roman stated the money had already been distributed.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble to approve the spending recommendation of the Public Safety Revenue Grant. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

B. REQUEST TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, THE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, THE FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT POLICY, AND THE EARNED SICK TIME POLICY

Deputy Pergament stated she has reviewed the revisions with H.R. Generalist Myers and the Township's Labor Attorney. The goal is to clarify and update portions of the policies as well as increasing transparency on items such as how leave time is administered. She added that the current policies made administering certain leave types confusing. She felt it was important to have a document that any HR professional, department head, and employee can review and understand.

Deputy Pergament stated a major change regarding sick time and currently will only affect non-union employees. The proposed change will increase the number of sick hours a month from five hours to seven and a half hours. She added that it is proposed that the sick time is front loaded in January, to give more flexibility to employees.

Deputy Pergament said a lot of information in the policies were redundant as they were covered in the collective bargaining agreement. Changes were made to reduce redundancy, and language was added to explain that the collective bargaining agreement will supersede in some instances.

Trustee Voorheis stated she liked the changes but had a few remarks she wanted clarification on from 4.4 Classification Review in the Personnel Policy. Deputy Pergament stated not everyone self nominates themselves for a promotion, and this language was added for an employee or a department head to nominate an employee for a promotion.

Trustee Voorheis also asked for clarification on 23.7 – Public Criticism in the Personnel Policy. Deputy Pergament said it was added as it occurred to her that someone collecting a Township pension shouldn't be publicly ridiculing the Township too.

Trustee Voorheis asked for clarification regarding language that allows the three in-house elected officials to approve a new position classification. Deputy Pergament said this policy will be reviewed by the three in-house officials first, and if approved, then goes to the Board for final approval. The language was moved and cleaned up, but the intent remained.

Treasurer Roman thanked Deputy Pergament and H.R. Generalist Myers for their work on these policies.

H.R. Generalist Myers thanked the Board for their time this evening and stated it is a joy working for White Lake Township.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Anderson to Approve Changes to the Personnel Policies and Procedures, the Administrative Policies and Procedures, The Family Medical Leave Act Policy, and The Earned Sick Time Policy. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

Trustee Smith reminded the Board about the communications policy and how to utilize it where applicable.

C. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE FACILITIES NAMING POLICY

Supervisor Kowall stated that the naming rights policy is something other communities have put in place. The overall idea of the policy states that naming buildings in the Townships will be approved by the Board.

Trustee Ruggles asked why a policy is necessary. Supervisor Kowall stated it will be an outline for the public when they approach the Board with these requests.

Deputy Pergament stated that cases will be addresses individually, and this policy is framework. The policy established how the naming rights will be processed. Anything that comes after the policy is approved will still have to come to the Board. Without a policy, the Board won't have something to fall back on when they want to deny a naming request. The policy was recommended by the Township's legal counsel.

Trustee Ruggles stated that selling the naming rights to government facilities makes him nervous. He doesn't mind a bench or garden dedication, but he has issues with the policy.

Deputy Pergament stated the Township has the final say on what is named, and said dedicated is a more appropriate term.

Treasurer Roman stated the policy gives the Board say in what comes to the Township with these types of requests.

Trustee Smith stated government should not be for sale and should only have "White Lake Township" on them. She wouldn't mind a donation of a park bench or a flower bed, but those items are different than a building.

Clerk Noble stated that what is being proposed tonight is just a policy, and it will give the Board an opportunity to exercise approval and disapproval of named items in the Township.

Attorney Saarela stated that the whole scope of what would be approved could be put into a list, and buildings could be excluded from the list. The policy gives the Board the authority and the ability to treat everyone requesting a naming policy fairly.

Deputy Pergament stated the Board would have the ability to decide whether they will allow dedication plaques, and that the policy might need to be renamed to "Dedication Policy." The policy will protect the Township against discrimination litigation.

Deputy Pergament said a list would outline clearly what would be considered for dedication and what would not be.

Trustee Smith stated that she wants to see a prohibition in the policy that states the Board cannot accept campaign funds from the donors. She reiterated she did not believe government is for sale.

Trustee Voorheis stated she agreed with Trustee Ruggles and Trustee Smith, and said she was okay with a bench, garden, walkway.

Trustee Smith stated government buildings and facilities should be removed from the policy before the Board approves it.

Supervisor Kowall suggested changing the name of the policy to "Dedication Policy" Deputy Pergament added that a list of acceptable items should be put together and brought back to the Board for their consideration.

It was MOVED by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Ruggles to table the request to approve the naming facilities policy until the June Board of Trustees meeting. The motion carried with a voice vote. (7 yes votes) (Voorheis/yes, Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Anderson/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes).

D. REQUEST TO APPROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE OF DISPATCH CONSOLES FOR NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Chief Ivory stated the desks are niche, and there's only two different companies that produce these consoles. XYTBIX is the brand that is best suited for the Township's needs. The console is all inclusive, all the electronics are hardwired in. Chief Ivory stated he would like three of these consoles to start.

Clerk Noble asked if one of the dispatch units were to fail, would the other two be enough to hold over in the meantime. Chief Ivory confirmed.

Trustee Voorheis asked when the consoles will be available. Chief Ivory said they will be ready once the approval is given.

It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, seconded by Supervisor Kowall to approve the request of the Police Department to purchase dispatch consoles for the new Public Safety building. in the amount of \$95,169.99. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Noble/yes, Voorheis/yes, Anderson/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes).

E. REQUEST TO APPROVE LASERFICHE CONSULTING SERVICES AND CLOUD UPGRADE

Hannah Kennedy Galley, Building Specialist, stated that the Laserfiche software needs an overhaul and upgrade. Laserfiche serves as core software that many departments utilize as a digital archive and document management system. Laserfiche houses permits, contracts, historical records, and plans. MCCi is the Township's Laserfiche provider. The current system, Laserfiche 10.3, has not been supported since December 2022. Laserfiche is now on a Cloud based platform. In addition, when the software was implemented under previous administration, there wasn't a proper standard procedure for data entry. Over time, the Laserfiche system has had many users inputting files without a standard method of entry, resulting in inconsistent files and making the search function difficult to utilize.

Ms. Kennedy Galley's proposal includes two parts. The first is for consulting services, which will include system assessment, template and metadata setup, creating filing workflows with OCR and training. This initial set up will prepare the documents and unify them in a way where every department can utilize the system in an efficient manner. The files will be easily accessible and documented. The second part of the proposal is the integration to the Cloud platform, which also includes addition integration with the BS&A software the Township also uses.

Trustee Anderson asked why MCCi is the Laserfiche provider and stated most managed service providers will manage the software for their clients. Ms. Kennedy-Galley stated that to her knowledge, MCCi has been working with the Township in providing Laserfiche management and related services for some time.

Supervisor Kowall stated there would still be an additional licensing fee and the reformatting.

Trustee Smith asked if there was a timeline associated with the proposal. Ms. Kennedy-Galley stated no, but she would like to see it approved within the next couple months to coincide with the Township moving into the new building. She also stated that there is an additional matter of the files in the Annex basement that she is working on getting a proposal for digitization as well.

Trustee Anderson stated he understood the need for a Cloud-based platform.

Ms. Kennedy Galley added that VC3 would not handle the reformatting portion of the request, and MCCi has specialized staff who would work with the Township to handle the task in best practice.

Director O'Neil added that there will be eight administrative licensed users, and fifteen read-only users.

Supervisor Kowall stated that he confirmed with Deputy Pergament that VC3 does not manage Laserfiche or BS&A because they are specialized software. Ms. Kennedy-Galley added that VC3 does not get involved with BS&A issues, BS&A handles those issues directly.

Trustee Anderson asked if the quote could specify estimated hours. Ms. Kennedy Galley stated the quote for the consulting services has been revised once, and MCCi thinks they can come in under the \$36,000. She did ask for a three-year locked in price, but MCCi does not offer that.

Clerk Noble asked for elaboration on the current data entry issues. Ms. Kennedy-Galley explained that as it stands, if an address is put in the system, it can be written several ways, and this causes issues when searching for a document in the system. The entries can be different dependent on how the address is entered into the system.

Director O'Neil stated that there will be another proposal soon to digitize the street index files in the Annex basement but that this proposal needed to be presented first. The funds for that project will be coming from the Building fund.

It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, seconded by Trustee Anderson to proceed with MCCI's proposed consulting services and Laserfiche Cloud recurring annual support subscription for 2026, not to exceed \$48,055.00, subject to attorney review. (Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes, Anderson/yes, Voorheis/yes).

F. RESOLUTION #26-013; APPROVING THE SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR ROCK THE FARM

It was MOVED by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Ruggles to approve Resolution #26-013; approving the special liquor license application for Rock the Farm. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

G. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SALE OF 7525 HIGHLAND ROAD PROPERTY

Clerk Noble stated he wanted to have a discussion with the Board about getting ahead of selling the current Township Hall property and having a commercial broker help navigate the process similar to how the Township did Hitchcock Rd and Gale Island .

Trustee Voorheis asked if Hawley Park would be included? Trustee Smith responded that it would be part of the discussion.

Director O'Neil stated there are a few ways to do the sale, and the Board will have to decide how and when as well as what will be retained for future Township use. He added how important the timeline will be and that it will take some time, so it's a good idea for the Board to start considering potential sale and use of the property.

Trustee Anderson asked if it would be in the Township's best interest to have a commercial broker. Director O'Neil responded it would make sense, but the method to get to the sale will need to be decided prior. There are many options to facilitate the sale, for example being requests for proposals or sealed bids.

Supervisor Kowall stated the public should also be included in the conversation, especially regarding Hawley Park. He suggested doing a survey to get thoughts from the public.

Director O'Neil stated there is the potential for the Township to retain a good portion of the park for water retention for both the Township and the end user.

Clerk Noble stated that another consideration is how much of the Park property would be needed to allow for retention pond and engineered parking for future development.

Trustee Ruggles said it would be nice to have an expert give an idea of what the property is worth.

Director O'Neil offered that an appraisal would be an important part of the process as well.

Trustee Smith if Fire Station One would be considered in this process. Director O'Neil responded it could be. He reminded the Board that the topography there isn't great.

Clerk Noble stated interviewing a few commercial brokers would be a good idea. Director O'Neil agreed and said a sub-committee to explore this would be beneficial.

Treasurer Roman stated he thinks we should keep Station One but that the Township should defer to and expert to determine the cost effectiveness. He is not in favor of a RFP.

Trustee Smith stated she prefers no committee because it slows the process. She stated it should be brought right to the Board. She feels the Board meets often enough and supports everyone receiving information at the same time.

It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, seconded by Supervisor Kowall to proceed with exploring the sale of 7525 Highland and the three in-house officials interviewing potential commercial brokers along with an appraisal being done at the direction of the Supervisor and the Assessor to determine the value of the property. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

FYI - CIVIC CENTER UPDATE

Supervisor Kowall stated progress is moving full steam ahead. The drywall is going up at both buildings. The roof is complete at Public Safety, and about 75% complete at Township Hall. Supervisor Kowall stated move in will be this fall after the November election.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Voorheis stated Mr. Howe is retiring from Lakeland High School.

Trustee Smith thanked former Chief Keller for his service and dedication to the Township. She congratulated Chief Ivory. She encouraged the public to educate themselves about the library's millage renewal language for the August ballot. The Police Open House is on June 7, 2026.

Trustee Ruggles stated the Planning Commission will be meeting this Thursday; several items are on the agenda. He congratulated Chief Ivory.

Trustee Anderson shared that the ZBA will be meeting next Thursday to review five cases. He commended the supporters of the Police Foundation fundraiser this past May 9, 2026. He thanked former Chief Keller for his years of service and congratulated Chief Ivory. He wished everyone a safe and Happy Memorial Day.

Clerk Noble thanked the Accounting Department for their work on the audit. He thanked Chief Keller for his years of service and welcome Chief Ivory.

Treasurer Roman thanked the residents in attendance tonight and congratulated Chief Ivory.

Supervisor Kowall stated Rocki the Farm is June 26, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. Quake on the Lake is August 15 and August 16, 2026.

CLOSED SESSION

- A. MOTION TO RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(1)(e) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, MCL 15.268(1)(e), TO CONSULT WITH ITS ATTORNEY REGARDING TRIAL OR SETTLEMENT STRATEGY IN CONNECTION WITH OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, CASE NO. 25-215855-CK, AND U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, CASE NO.25-10303 (WHITE LAKE CADDIS, LLC v. CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE).

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble to recess into closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(e) Of The Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(1)(e), To Consult With Its Attorney Regarding Trial Or Settlement Strategy In Connection With Oakland County Circuit Court, Case No. 25-215855-Ck, And U.S. District Court For The Eastern District Of Michigan, Case No.25-10303 (White Lake Caddis, LLC V. Charter Township Of White Lake) at 8:30 P.M. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Kowall/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Ruggles/yes, Anderson/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes).

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble, to return to open session at 9:17 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble to allow the attorney to proceed as directed in closed session. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes) (Kowall/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Anderson/yes, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes).

ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Smith, to adjourn at 9:18 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Charter Township of White Lake

Anthony L. Noble, Clerk, MiPMC
Charter Township of White Lake