

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
September 16, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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:

Sean O'Neil, Community Development Director
David Hieber, Township Assessor
Aaron Potter, Director of DPS
Daniel T. Keller, Chief of Police
J. David Feitchner, Fire Chief
Lisa Hamameh, Township Attorney
Hannah Kennedy-Galley, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, seconded by Treasurer Roman to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. REVENUE AND EXPENSES**
- B. CHECK DISBURSEMENTS**
- C. DEPARTMENT REPORT - POLICE**
- D. DEPARTMENT REPORT - FIRE**
- E. DEPARTMENT REPORT - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
- F. DEPARTMENT REPORT - TREASURER**
- G. MLCC LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER - SHKRELI ENTERPRISES, LCC - 9595 HIGHLAND RD (#25-034)**
- H. APPOINTMENT OF MAGGIE STEPHENSON TO THE SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL - JUNE 2025 - JUNE 2027**
- I. SENIOR CENTER PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY POLICY UPDATE TO PROCEDURE #2**

J. APPOINTMENT OF PETER PICCINATO TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

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

MINUTES

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 19, 2025

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Clerk Noble to approve the regular Board minutes of August 19, 2025, as presented. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

PRESENTATION

A. FRAN ANDERSON "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION OPPORTUNITY - LINDA ZABIK

Ms. Zabik presented a video regarding the "Making a Difference" Scholarship and explained changes to the program.

B. PARKS AND RECREATION

Supervisor Kowall welcomed Pete Piccinato to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. TO HEAR COMMENTS ON THE CONFIRMATION OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE MANDON LAKE WEED CONTROL AND LAKE IMPROVEMENT 2026-2030 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Smith to open the public hearing to hear comments on the confirmation of the Special Assessment Roll for the Mandon Lake Weed Control and Lake Improvement 2026-2030 Special Assessment District at 6:46 P.M. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Smith/yes, Roman/yes, Voorheis/yes, Anderson/yes, Kowall/yes, Ruggles/yes, Noble/yes).

Seeing none, it was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Smith to close the public hearing at 6:48 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

B. TO HEAR COMMENTS ON CONFIRMATION OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED SUNSET/TAYLOR ROAD MAINTENANCE 2026-2030

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Ruggles to open the public hearing to hear comments on the confirmation of the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District designated Sunset/Taylor Road Maintenance 2026-2030 at 6:48 P.M. The motion carried with a roll

vote: (7 yes votes). (Smith/yes, Anderson/yes, Voorheis/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes).

Supervisor Kowall read one letter of protest into the record from Kevin Kerwin and Rebecca Hogarth.

Mary Clank, 7108 Sunset, questioned what the SAD increase is used for.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Treasurer Roman, to close the public hearing at 6:50 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes)

C. TO HEAR COMMENTS ON THE CONFIRMATION OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED EMERGENCY SEWER CONNECTIONS 2025-01

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Treasurer Roman to open the public hearing to hear comments on the confirmation of the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District designated Emergency Sewer Connections 2025-01 at 6:51 P.M. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Kowall/yes, Anderson/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes, Voorheis/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes).

Seeing none, it was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble to close the public hearing at 6:52 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION #25-031; TO CONFIRM THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED MANDON LAKE WEED CONTROL AND LAKE IMPROVEMENT 2026-2030

It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, seconded by Trustee Smith to approve Resolution #25-031; to confirm the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District designated Mandon Lake Weed Control and Lake Improvement 2026-2030. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Anderson/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes).

B. RESOLUTION #25-032; TO CONFIRM THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED SUNSET/TAYLOR ROAD MAINTENANCE 2026-2030

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve Resolution #25-032; to confirm the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District designated Sunset/Taylor Road Maintenance 2026-2030 with the following change: Parcel# 12-21-376-001 SAD amount from \$500 to \$0 due to the parcel not receiving benefit from the SAD. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Anderson/yes, Voorheis/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes).

C. RESOLUTION #25-033; TO CONFIRM THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED EMERGENCY SEWER CONNECTIONS 2025-01

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Ruggles, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve Resolution #25-033; to confirm the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District designated Emergency Sewer Connection 2025-01. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Anderson/yes, Ruggles/yes).

D. CONCEPTUAL PRESENTATION FOR FISK ROAD PROPERTY - PIPER FOUNDATION

Director O'Neil reviewed the presentation for the Board. He stated the property is zoned PB-Planned Business District, and the concept could potentially be a good fit for the zoning district and area.

Brian Ede, property owner, and founder of the Piper Foundation, presented his dog rescue concept. He is a business owner actively involved in animal rescue philanthropy and has worked with multiple animal rescue organizations over the last four years. His concept includes a three-to-four-acre dog park and a dog rescue-boarding facility that will include a no-cost vet clinic in the future phase of the project. He is working with a no kill shelter out of Detroit that needs a new facility.

Trustee Smith said she is excited about the concept and supports getting a dog park. She wants this recreation for White Lake residents but wants to ensure it will be properly secured.

Trustee Ruggles said it looks like the noise level would be acceptable based on the location of the property. It would fit into the zoning, so he is fine with it.

Clerk Noble requested a clarification on cost. Mr. Ede indicated that this would not be done for profit and the monies generated would go back into the program.

Treasurer Roman said he is a huge dog fan. He offered to help anyway he could.

Trustee Anderson said it was a great idea. He confirmed there would be some separation of dogs based on size and age.

Trustee Voorheis stated she is the reason there hasn't been a dog park. She expressed the past concern of kennel cough by members of the Parks committee.

Treasurer Roman said he didn't understand the big deal; if someone is worried about their dog getting kennel cough, they don't have to bring their dog to a dog park.

Brian Ede stated that he has not experienced kennel cough concerns with past dog parks.

Trustee Smith added that this has been a past issue between the Board and the Parks and Recreation Department

Supervisor Kowall stated this is a great location and the concept will fulfill a need the Township residents have been requesting. The project will also bring economic growth to the Township.

E. REQUEST TO CONSIDER PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN EXTENSION – AVALON

Director O'Neil said the project is moving through the final site plan phase and is looking for a seven-month extension to their existing approval. The applicant is actively moving ahead with their site plan.

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, seconded by Supervisor Kowall to approve the request for a seven month preliminary site plan extension for the Avalon project. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Anderson/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes).

F. REQUEST TO APPROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE OF TURNOUT GEAR

Chief Feichtner thanked everyone who attended the Open House this weekend. Tonight's request was a part of the current plan established by the Fire Department. Gear specifications specs for firefighters are updated every five years; the gear that will be replaced tonight is in the third year of the five year cycle. Firefighter gear has an expiration date of ten years. He added that tonight's purchase will replace expired gear as well as outfit new fire fighters with gear. Eleven sets of gear will be replaced with this purchase.

Supervisor Kowall stated that the Township replaces public safety gear frequently to advancement of technology and manufacturer's lifetime on the gear.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble, to approve the purchase of the turnout gear requested by the Fire Department for the sum of \$59,908.00 The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Noble/yes, Kowall/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Roman/yes, Anderson/yes, Voorheis/yes).

G. REQUEST TO APPROVE SCADA MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT - CEC CONTROLS

Director Potter stated DPS is in need of new SCADA programmers who are familiar with the system the Department uses. CEC Controls is a nationwide company and has local branches to service the system. CEC also has contracts with surrounding municipalities, such as Rochester, Holly, and West Bloomfield.

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, supported by Treasurer Roman, to approve the SCADA Maintenance Agreement – CEC Controls in the amount of \$11,400 per year and to be executed by the Supervisor, and subject to attorney review. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Anderson/yes, Voorheis/yes).

H. REQUEST TO APPROVE SENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES 2015 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT VAN TO AUCTION

Clerk Noble said the DPS Transit Van has aged out of service and should be disposed of as per Township policy.

Trustee Voorheis asked Director Potter if the van has any current repairs needed to be roadworthy. Director Potter said not to make it roadworthy but there are several repairs needed to make it useable for DPS. In the past it has been used by the hydrant painting crew The vehicle has 70,000 miles on it.

It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, seconded by Treasurer Roman to approve the request to send the Department of Public Services 2015 Ford Transit Connection Van to auction. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

I. REQUEST TO APPROVE LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL FIREWORKS APPLICATION

Chief Feichtner said moving forward, the Fire Department will be meeting with the school district to streamline the fireworks application process.

It was MOVED by Trustee Smith, seconded by Treasurer Roman to approve Lakeland Highland School Fireworks Application for October 3, 2025. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

J. BAKER TILLY ENGAGEMENT LETTER - ROUND LAKE SEWER

Treasurer Roman stated Baker Tilly provides an engagement letter every time the Township goes to bond out a SAD or project.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Supervisor Kowall, to approve the Baker Tilly Engagement Letter – Round Lake Sewer, subject to attorney review. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes) (Kowall/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes, Anderson/yes, Voorheis/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes).

OLD BUSINESS

A. SECOND READING; AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 32, "SOLICITATION", TO REGULATE THE LOCATION AND MANNER OF SOLICITING IN PUBLIC STREETS

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Treasurer Roman, to adopt the ordinance to amend Chapter 32, "Solicitation", to regulate the location and manner of soliciting in public streets. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes. Anderson/yes)

FYI - CIVIC CENTER

Supervisor Kowall updated the Civic Center progress. He said concrete has been poured at Township Hall, and asphalt has been put in for the roads. He hopes it will be weathered in by December.

Director O'Neil said the completion of the first phase of construction at Stanley Park is on track to be

completed by October 15, 2025. Benches have been ordered and will be delivered on site shortly. He hopes to have drone footage in the future.

Trustee Ruggles clarified when the wood would arrive.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Voorheis welcomed Pete Pinnicato to the Parks and Recreation Committee. She said the Fisk Farm Festival was a success. She commended the Fire Department for their Open House.

Trustee Anderson said he attended the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He added that the ZBA met last month; three cases were approved. He also gave kudos to the Fire Department for the Open House. He reminded that there will be a vigil held in Hawley Park this Thursday, September 18th, 2025.

Treasurer Roman thanked everyone at home and in the audience for their attendance, and his staff for handling the tax payments.

Trustee Smith said the library's strategic plan is still available for input on their website; a survey is available to share thoughts. She said the Fire Department Open House was successful. The Walk for Red was this past week. September is Suicide Awareness Month for Firefighters.

Trustee Ruggles said the Planning Commission will be meeting on Thursday, there are three scheduled public hearings. He encouraged all to partake in shopping at the businesses along M-59 who are affected by the MDOT construction.

Clerk Noble commended Chef Feichtner and his staff for the Open House, and for their response at the fire that occurred in the northern part of the Township last week.

Supervisor Kowall said he has been recognizing local businesses along M-59 on Facebook. He encourages individuals to stop in. He thanked the library for their participation in this year's "Can the Halls".

ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Treasurer Roman to adjourn at 7:45 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

