

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
December 19, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Noble called the Roll:

Present:

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

Also Present:

Sean O'Neil, Community Development Director
Nick Spencer, White Lake Township Building Official
Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner
John Holland, Fire Chief
Daniel T. Keller, Chief of Police
Lisa Hamameh, Township Attorney
Stu Pettitt, Straub Pettitt Yaste
Teffera Kowalske, Redstone Architects
Hannah Kennedy-Galley, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Seeing none, Supervisor Kowall closed the public comment at 7:01 P.M.

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. APPOINTMENTS - ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, PARKS & RECREATION, AND CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

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

MINUTES

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 7, 2023
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

Trustee Powell noted on Page six, in the last line of the third paragraph of the regular minutes of November 21, 2023, it should read as concerned not concern.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Powell, seconded by Clerk Noble to approve the special board meeting minutes of November 7, 2023 and the regular board meeting minutes of November 21, 2023, as amended. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

PRESENTATIONS

- A. FIRE DEPARTMENT SWEARING IN AND AWARDS

Chief Holland recognized Joseph Doulette for completing his probation and receiving the 2023 Probation Firefighter of the year. He also presented retired Firefighter Kirk Thompson with the 2023 Firefighter of the Year award. In honor of Firefighter Thompson, the Firefighter of the Year award would now be known as the "Kirk Thompson Firefighter of the Year" award.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. REQUEST TO APPROVE CIVIC CENTER SECURITY CONSULTING SERVICES PROPSALS

Director O'Neil said when the design architects were hired for their services for the new buildings, furniture, I.T. services, and security services were not included. Summers, the firm chosen for security services, provided two proposals, one for each building. The proposals would cover the design, specifications, and bid package for security. The full security system would be able to be bid out at the end of the design. The proposal did not include construction of the systems.

Supervisor Kowall said the same consultant for both buildings would help for integration, and would make more sense. He added that the pricing proposed was well within range.

Director O'Neil added that the Township Attorney would need to review the proposal as well.

Treasurer Roman asked Mr. Pettitt if the number of meetings listed in the proposal was adequate. Mr. Pettitt confirmed. Treasurer Roman asked Mr. Pettitt if the proposals included the bid packages as well. Mr. Pettitt confirmed.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Trustee Powell, to approve Civic Center security consulting services proposals as presented, subject to attorney review. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

B. REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO PERSONNEL POLICIES & PROCEDURES -SEC. 4.1. HOURLY EMPLOYEES, 4.4. CLASSIFICATION REVIEW, 13.3. UNUSED VACATION, AND 20.1. HEALTH INSURANCE

Supervisor Kowall said the Board had seen these items before, now the items were put into the official policies and procedures. He then briefly went over the proposed amendments.

It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, seconded by Clerk Noble to approve the amendments to Personnel Policies & Procedures -Sec. 4.1. Hourly Employees, 4.4. Classification Review, 13.3. Unused Vacation, And 20.1. Health Insurance. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

C. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY TO PREPARE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR PARKS AND RECREATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL FOR YEARS 2024-2033

Staff Planner Quagliata said the Parks & Recreation Committee recommended 0.5 mils increase over a ten-year period. The millage money would help the Parks & Recreation Committee apply for more projects such as pathway projects, pickleball courts, and to supplement other projects outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Supervisor Kowall said the Township took in barely enough funds to complete a pathway project. 92% of the current millage had gone into maintaining and improving the parks. He suggested putting the issue on the August primary election.

Trustee Ruggles asked for clarification on the Headlee Amendment. Staff Planner Quagliata said every year, the millage was reduced by a small amount based on the Township's annual taxable value.

Trustee Ruggles asked Staff Planner Quagliata what the temperament was toward the recommendation. Staff Planner Quagliata said he had talked to several people who were in favor, and there would be more than one citizen's group who would lobby for the millage passing.

Treasurer Roman said he was more comfortable with a renewal and restore at 0.3 mills.

Trustee Voorheis said it was unanimous from the Parks & Recreation Committee that the millage be increased. She recommended the issue to be placed on the August ballot.

Staff Planner Quagliata said the planned expenditures for next year would leave \$400,000 in the Parks and Recreation fund. That amount did not include the annual maintenance for the parks.

Trustee Smith said this year was unusually tough and she worried about a future tax increase. She added that she knew the residents wanted pathways and sidewalks, so she was conflicted.

Trustee Ruggles agreed with Trustee Smith and added he was hesitant on a tax increase.

Treasurer Roman said General Fund monies could be used on pathways as well.

Trustee Powell shared that he was part of a survey in Commerce Township where 80% of the surveyed individuals wanted pathways, but the millage did not pass. He added that it was easy to propose an increase, but it would be a shame if an increase wasn't passed.

Steve Anderson, 8600 Newport Drive, voiced his concerns regarding the millage.

Treasurer Roman said he was open to moving General Fund monies to Parks & Recreation to not miss out on potential grant matching opportunities.

Attorney Hamameh said millage language was difficult, but there could be language drafted stipulating what the money could be used towards.

Mary Earley, 5925 Pine Ridge Court, spoke in favor of the millage. She added that she was tired hearing about Stanley Park, and wanted to see improvements and pathways added to Hidden Pines Park.

Gianna Pendley, 5335 Wayne Road, asked if the Township considered crowdfunding for Parks projects. Crowdfunding could also include incentivizing donors as well.

Supervisor Kowall said he didn't want to shackle Parks & Recreation to stipulations and wanted the public to have their chance to make a decision. The awareness and availability of pathway projects had increased since the pandemic.

Trustee Smith asked Staff Planner Quagliata what the match was for the Phase 2 of Stanley Park. Staff Planner Quagliata said that was dependent on what the Board wanted.

Treasurer Roman asked Staff Planner Quagliata when Stanley Park would be rebid. Staff Planner Quagliata said the process would begin in January, and bids would be due by the end of January.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble, to postpone the discussion of the ballot language to the next meeting. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

D. RESOLUTION #23-055 - TO APPROVE GOOSE NEST ROUND UP FOR WHITE LAKE

It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, seconded by Trustee Ruggles to approve Resolution #23-055 – to approve the Goose Nest Round Up for White Lake. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

E. REQUEST TO APPROVE FIREWORKS PERMIT FOR ALPINE VALLEY

The review was complete with no objections from the Fire Department.

It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the fireworks permit for Alpine Valley. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

F. REQUEST TO APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR CEMETERY SEXTON SERVICES FOR YEARS 2024-2026 - HURON CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Trustee Ruggles was concerned with the increase of the fees and was interested in other alternatives.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded Trustee Powell to approve the agreement for cemetery sexton services for Years 2024-2026 - Huron Cemetery Maintenance. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

OLD BUSINESS

A. SECOND READING; AMENDMENT TO FEE ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE NO. 129

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Trustee Voorheis, to adopt the second reading; amendment to Fee Ordinance, Ordinance No. 129. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

FYI

A. 9885 CEDAR ISLAND ROAD UPDATE

The order of the court was entered and if the defendant fails to comply, the Township would be allowed entry to the property to clean it at the cost of the defendant.

B. CIVIC CENTER COMMITTEE UPDATE

Treasurer Roman said tomorrow morning was a scheduled page turn for the buildings. It would be a checklist of all the design work for the buildings so far. After that, another cost estimate would be compiled, and reviewed by the Board. Once that was complete, construction drawings would be drawn up.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Voorheis thanked Kelly Lang and her support staff for the Tree Lighting Festival. Happy Holidays and don't drink and drive this holiday season.

Trustee Ruggles said there was a good crowd for the Master Plan Open House earlier this month. Residents gave their feedback for the future of the Township. A concept plan for a new carwash was also presented. He thanked everyone who participated in the Tree Lighting Festival.

Trustee Smith said the library drive thru window was now installed on the east side of the building. The Friends of the Library Booksale was successful, as was the canned food drive. She thanked the Fire and Police Departments for all their charity work this season. She thanked the Senior Center for their lovely luncheon today. She thanked her fellow Board members for a fantastic year. She wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Treasurer Roman thanked all of those in attendance this evening. This coming Saturday will be the Annual Goodfellows Donation. Tax bills are out. 2024 dog tags are on sale. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Trustee Powell said he enjoyed the luncheon at the Senior Center, it was a great time. He wished all the residents and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He reminded everyone that this was the time of year for peace and love.

Clerk Noble wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Supervisor Kowall said he had not heard back from EGLE about the ground sampling of the oil well that exploded earlier this month. The well was regulated by EGLE. He thanked everyone for all their help at the Tree Lighting Festival. The Township was still accepting canned food donations until this Thursday. There is a new internet service available called Mercury Broadband. He also added, 5.8 million dollars was allocated from the County for WOTA this year. Expanded amenities from WOTA would be available soon. He thanked everyone for their attendance this evening. He wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a great holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Smith, to adjourn at 8:34 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Charter Township of White Lake

Anthony L. Noble, Clerk
Charter Township of White Lake