

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
April 14, 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:

Sean O'Neil, Community Development Director
Nick Spencer, Building Official
Aaron Potter, Director of DPS
Daniel T. Keller, Chief of Police
J. David Feichtner, Fire Chief
Lisa Hamameh, Township Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Vogel, 6220 Whispering Meadows, shared her concerns regarding Executive Order 14399 and 14395 from the President of the United States. She encouraged the Board not to comply.

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

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, 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 - REGULAR BOARD MEETING, MARCH 17, 2026
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, MARCH 25, 2026

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Clerk Noble to approve the meeting minutes of March 17, 2026, and March 25, 2026 as presented. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

PRESENTATIONS

- A. SWEARING IN OF NEW DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF - JUSTIN TEMPLETON

Chief Feichtner introduced Mr. Templeton, and he was then sworn in by Clerk Noble . Deputy Fire Chief Templeton was pinned by his wife and children.

- B. PRESENTATION OF THE MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER - HAND IN HAND PAINTING BY LINDA ZABIK & ARTIST DANIEL CASCARDO

Ms. Zabik introduced Mr. Cascardo. The Hand in Hand Painting was presented to the Township. The painting was a collaboration between Mr. Cascardo and the senior citizens who attended last year's Holiday Extravaganza event.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. RESOLUTION #26-010; CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSE WALLED LAKE NORTHERN - WL KNIGHTS

Chris Biggers, 520 Woodstone Ct, treasurer for Walled Lake Northern Knights, stated this license would help support student costs that the district doesn't cover.

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, seconded by Trustee Smith to approve Resolution #26-010; Charitable Gaming License Walled Lake Northern – WL Knights. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

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

Trustee Voorheis asked what the purpose behind rescinding the ordinance.

Supervisor Kowall recapped that it the thought at previous meetings was to rescind the Rental Ordinance in its entirety instead of modifying it.

Pete Piccinato, 8771 Townsend Dr., stated there was wrong information included in tonight's Agenda information and he feels that is a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Township Attorney Hamameh stated tonight's hearing is a first reading, and there has been no publication. The information included is the actual rental ordinance but the article number in the title is a typographical error. She confirmed this is just the first reading and the Board is not adopting. The introduction would be published as corrected prior to moving forward to adoption at the next meeting.

Trustee Anderson asked Mr. Piccinato how he discovered this information. Mr. Piccinato stated he views the Township website for the agenda every month and researched the topic on his own time.

Treasurer Roman stated it is just a typographical error; the Article number listed in the title is wrong but that the information attached is the correct Rental Property Ordinance.

Treasurer Roman moved to approve first reading to rescind Chapter 8, Article 7 of the Rental Property Ordinance, seconded by Trustee Ruggles.

Supervisor Kowall clarified that the motion was for Chapter 8, Article 7. He then stated he wanted to finish hearing from the public and allowed further comment.

Ed Wenz, 8765 Trenton, stated he agreed with Mr. Piccinato. He said he had been previously delayed by the City with a type-o in printing that went to publication.

Trustee Ruggles commented that was a different situation than this instance. Mr. Wenz replied that a type-o is a type- and told the Board to make it right. He further asserted that this was his time to speak and added that the Township is making a mistake by rescinding the rental ordinance. He is a landlord and has no problems paying rental registration fees. Paying rental registration fees ensures that his properties stay maintained.

Laura Vogel, 6220 Whispering Meadows, said she researched the ordinance after seeing it was going to be rescinded and noticed the error. She disagrees that it's a typographical error.

Treasurer Roman stated the rental ordinance has been in place for seven years now. He stated this ordinance has been a failure The Township does not know which properties are rentals because it is a moving target, so to speak. Some landlords comply, but there are hundreds that don't. The program is difficult to manage, but for renters who feel they are in a dangerous situation, the Township will do an inspection.

Clerk Noble called for a vote.

Supervisor Kowall stated that the first reading should be republished due to the public being misinformed due to the typographical error. He added that his other Board members are misleading the public and turning a blind eye to an issue. The Township is supposed to be in the prevention business, and by going forward, the Township will be in the business. He then called for a vote for the motion previously made by Treasurer Roman

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Trustee Ruggles, to approve the first reading to rescind Chapter 8, Article 7 – Rental Property The motion carried with a roll call vote: (5 yes votes). (Kowall/no, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Anderson/yes, Voorheis/no, Roman/yes).

C. REQUEST TO PURCHASE FIREARMS AND HOLSTERS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lieutenant Ivory stated that the primary issue weapons, Glock 23, Gen 4 handguns, have aged out. The Glocks are a duty weapon and have an age cycle of 10 years. The Police Department has a strict maintenance regime for the weapons, but the armorers are finding there are failure points on the current cycle of firearms.

Lieutenant Ivory stated the proposal from CMP Distributors is for fifth generation Glocks, which includes optics and holsters. The retired firearms will be purchased back by CMP and applied as a credit towards the new purchase. The Department has a long-standing relationship with CMP and is very happy with their services.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble, to approve the request to purchase firearms from CMP Distributors for \$36,759.47. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Voorheis/yes, Anderson/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes).

D. REQUEST TO APPROVE WHITE LAKE AND CRANBERRY LAKE MOBILE HOME PARK SEWER STATION REHABILITATION PROPOSAL

DPS Director Potter stated the stations have been in the Township's possession since 1998. The two stations need repairs to their electrical controls and pumps. The Cranberry Lake station is down to one pump. Both stations are due for pump replacements.

He added that he would like to work with Oakland County to manage the engineering on the rehabilitations and permitting. Oakland County is the agency that develops the specifications for these stations, and they are the operator of the Township's sanitary sewer system. Going through the County directly will streamline the normal procedures. The County also has blanket contracts with panel builders that they will then go out to bid for. Estimates were provided in tonight's proposal.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Anderson to move forward with the Cranberry Lake and White Lake MHP Pump Station Rehabilitation Projects in an amount not to exceed \$328,239 and the Township Supervisor or Director Potter be authorized to sign any procurements that are part of the project included in the estimates. The motion carried with a roll call vote :(7 yes votes) (Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Anderson/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Kowall/yes).

E. REQUEST TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Fire Chief Fiechtner stated that the gear is from Phoenix Safety Outfitters. The proposed cost reflects new firefighter's gear as well as expired gear that needs to be replaced; a total of ten sets will be

replaced. He thanked Joe Secctcori for researching and staying on top the gear inventory. The funds to purchase the gear are available in the Equipment Acquisitions 04M line item.

Supervisor Kowall asked if alternate quotes were obtained. Chief Fiechtner stated that Phoenix Safety Outfitters met the bid specifications back in 2022.

It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, seconded by Clerk Noble, to approve the purchase of Fire Department PPE gear in the amount of \$58,345. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Anderson/yes, Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes).

F. DISCUSSION REGARDING FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMERCIAL BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Chief Fiechtner stated he has been researching service delivery and tracking fire inspections. Inspections have been assigned to shift inspectors as well as the Fire Marshal. Inspections are being tracked through the IROL system. The shift inspectors receive five to eight inspections a month so far. The Fire Marshal performs follow-up inspections and completes project reviews as well. IROL tracks the basic property owner information as well as violations reported at the property.

He added that the life safety inspections sometimes require additional follow up inspections. There are over 270 inspectable commercial properties within the Township, excluding home-based businesses. The IROL program will be able to present monthly fire prevention data and updates to the Board. He added the system will be better than before with generating fire prevention data and reports.

Supervisor Kowall noted that the Board will want these reports included in their monthly Board agenda packets.

Trustee Ruggles asked how frequently commercial properties are inspected. Chief Feichtner said Fire Code stated public assemblies and high hazards should be inspected annually, and lesser uses get inspected biannually. There are standard common things to look for like fire extinguishers and exit signs and then other urgent items, such as compressed gasses, or blocked entries.

Treasurer Roman stated he loved the report presented today and asked if IROL is a cloud-based program. Fire Marshal Hanifen stated yes, and the program can be accessed in the field from a tablet, and there is a checklist that is available in the program that lists code items to look for.

Chief Fiechtner stated that code does not require an EAP to be inspected, but businesses are requested to have a "continuity of business" plan. The plan would address how the business would proceed after a fire or flood. FEMA also has related courses available for business owners to take.

Trustee Anderson asked if the follow up inspections listed were on for compliance. Fire Marshal Hanifen confirmed.

FYI - CIVIC CENTER UPDATE

Supervisor Kowall stated the roof is almost complete on Township Hall, and studs have been reset

on the lower level. The main floor is about 60% complete regarding the stud work. The masonry is continuing.

Trustee Smith stated a budgetary package for the furniture should be available to present to the Board within the next following months.

CLOSED SESSION

- A. APPROVAL TO RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MCL 15.268(1)(h)

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Treasurer Roman to Recess into Closed Session to Consider Attorney/Client Privileged Communications in Accordance with MCL 15.268(1)(h) at 7:41 P.M. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes). (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes, Anderson/yes, Voorheis/yes).

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble to return to open session at 8:32 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Clerk Noble to authorize the Township Attorneys and the Township Supervisor to proceed with the manner recommended and discussed in the attorney/client privilege communication dated 4/14/2026, and authorize the Supervisor to sign any associated document. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (7 yes votes). (Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes, Noble/yes, Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Anderson/yes, Voorheis/yes).

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Smith encouraged all to view the library's annual report.

ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Anderson to adjourn at 8:33 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