

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE**  
**Unapproved Minutes of the Special Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**July 29, 2021**

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. The meeting was via video conferencing. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Noble called the roll:

Present: Rik Kowall, Supervisor – present in Waterford Twp., MI.  
Anthony L. Noble, Clerk – present in Commerce Twp., MI.  
Mike Roman, Treasurer – present in White Lake Twp., MI.  
Scott Ruggles, Trustee – present in White Lake Twp., MI.  
Liz Smith, Trustee – present in White Lake Twp., MI.  
Andrea C. Voorheis, Trustee - present in White Lake Twp., MI  
Michael Powell, Trustee – present in White Lake Twp., MI

Also Present: Douglas Santiago, Deputy Clerk

**AGENDA**

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Powell, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Smith to approve the Agenda, as amended. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Resolution #21-026; TO CONFIRM RESOLUTION #21-025: TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO WEATHER EVENT OF JULY 24, 2021.**

Supervisor Kowall stated that this declaration has been drafted and reviewed by Counsel and is being put in place as part of our emergency process and also serves to allow us to qualify for available funding.

Trustee Powell questioned the timeframe and stated he is concerned that it is open ended without a completion date.

Supervisor Kowall responded that it was written by legal counsel according to Statute. He stated the resolution does not address an ending date in order not to jeopardize any potential funding opportunities. He stated that the Resolution will end when the Board of Trustees take action to terminate.

Trustee Smith suggested that the matter could be periodically placed on the agenda in the future to serve as a way to check in or update.

Trustee Powell asked if this declaration would give the supervisor other powers because he has seen the government trying to reach in and demand masks again. He wants to know if the supervisor would have the authority to take similar action and force people to wear masks again.

Supervisor Kowall indicated he knows of no such authority and that he has no intention of superseding State or Federal law.

Clerk Noble stated that if the Governor were to become involved, we would have to adhere to any state mandates as we do not have the authority to supersede a state action. He believes the real question is how long are we going to be under the declaration. We may be eligible for some county funding as FEMA is a long shot.

Trustee Powell asked the supervisor to agree to put this on every agenda until it needs to be removed.

Supervisor Kowall indicated it would be an item on the future Board Agenda's.

Trustee Smith stated that would be appreciated because she believes what Trustee Powell is looking for is the checks and balances of the legislative body of this Board.

**It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, SUPPORTED Trustee Smith to approve Supervisor's DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY due to the July 24, 2021 weather event. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).**

FYI

**A. CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH GFL TO ADD SPECIAL SERVICES TO CLEAN UP YARD WASTE DEBRIS FROM JULY 24, 2021 WEATHER EVENT.**

Supervisor Kowall advised that the Township has conducted logistical meetings with GFL and Oakland County Emergency Management to put together a map of the damaged areas. He thanked Clerk Noble, Treasurer Roman, Trustee Powell, Deputy Clerk Santiago and many others for participating in the damage assessment data collection. He also thanked Trustee Smith for showing up to the Command Center the day after and trying to help. He feels that everybody did something.

He stated that there is an extensive amount of debris with areas that look like a bomb went off. He said that he cannot describe it: one would have to walk it to believe it. He stated that moving forward the Township is going to use GIS calculations through Emergency Management to determine what areas have the heaviest concentration of damage so that extra pickups can be dedicated where needed. Additionally, he is searching for other help to assist those with limited resources. He stated approximately 800 homes have currently been identified in the target area but he believes that number will grow as we progress.

Supervisor Kowall acknowledged the Police, Fire, Oakland County and said, he could not thank DTE enough for the army of help. He estimated that 80% of the Township was affected by the loss of all primary electric feeds on Pontiac Lake Road as well as phone and Internet service. He added that we learned a key vulnerability in municipal services is communications. He commented that we have become way too dependent on cell phones and that he intends to address the Board in the future with a package to resurrect Township radio communications for all departments.

Trustee Smith commented that she would like that to include Board Members also having radios.

## **TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

### **Trustee Powell**

Stated that he saw things that he never thought he would see. He spoke of the damage he received to his personal vehicle after being caught in the storm. He acknowledged how proud he was at the resilience of our residents. He complimented Township employees Nick Spencer, John Holland and Ted Lilley and thanked all the volunteers. He stated there is a balance in funding for future preparedness but that we can learn a lot from this event. He asked the Supervisor to reach out to the Board in the future if there is any way they can help residents recover.

### **Treasurer Roman**

Stated he agrees with Trustee Powell. He added that he was shocked seeing first-hand how much damage an EF1 Tornado can cause. He was taken back at the amount of destruction he saw while working on the assessment team with Trustee Powell. He praised the residents for their resilience and how they handled this disaster.

### **Trustee Voorheis**

Stated Saturday was just a crazy time and she is glad she is safe. She stated that a perk of this is that no one was really hurt or injured during this crazy time.

### **Trustee Smith**

Stated she wanted to thank the County for their tremendous and outstanding leadership in bringing in services so quickly. She stated they brought in their Emergency Response Team and C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) from other communities to aid our C.E.R.T. She stated she is also a member of C.E.R.T. and is proud of her fellow C.E.R.T members. She stated she wished to also thank Kathy for manning the Dublin Senior Center. She also thanked Chief John Holland and Captain Ted Lilley. She stated they did an outstanding job.

She stated she would also like to propose consideration in the future for a Safety Task Force. She stated there were a few holes here and there and things that we can be better prepared for, so she would like to explore that in the future. She stated she agrees with Treasurer Roman and is really proud of our residents.

**Clerk Noble**

Complimented the Board on their teamwork. He thanked Chief Keller, Chief Holland and all the members of the police and fire. He also acknowledged and thanked Captain Ted Lilley for his role in the Central Command Center. He also commended and thanked Nick and Sean from Building for their high level of performance. He thanked Supervisor Kowall for his leadership.

**Trustee Ruggles**

Trustee Ruggles stated he photographed the tornado as it formed over a field near his home. He stated it was enormously scary and the damage is surreal.

He stated he has seen comments in regard to the sirens not being heard and stated no sirens were heard from his home. He stated he doesn't know if the sirens did go off but that it might be something to look in to in the future. He stated he is pleased that Building Official Nick Spencer issued a caution statement to our residents in regard to contracting professional reputable honest guys who do quality work vs. out of state storm chasers. He cautioned residents to take their time and get multiple quotes. He stated it is a miracle no one was really hurt.

**Supervisor Kowall**

Stated that there were two minor injuries of residents who are now doing fine. He stated that evening, he and Treasurer Roman did indeed hear sirens go off but that with the wind blowing so ferociously he wonders how effective some of those sirens may have been in certain areas. He stated he has been in contact with the County of this and as of last month he received a report that all of the Township sirens were working.

He stated it was a unique experience working this storm and he is amazed at the way residents responded and were working to help each other out.

He added that he has been working with the Road Commission and even assisted them blocking traffic on Porter Road so they could repair areas of the road that washed out from the rain. He expects them to be out in full force. He stated everyone did a good job. He thanked the County, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and all the staff and Public Safety of the Township. He acknowledged the work of Captain Lilley, Kathy Gordinear and the other Board Members who came out and helped with the assessment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**It was MOVED by Clerk Noble SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to adjourn. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).**

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

I, Anthony L. Noble, the duly elected and qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of White Lake, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the July 29, 2021 special board meeting minutes.

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Anthony L. Noble, Clerk  
White Lake Township  
Oakland County, Michigan