

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE**  
**DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**August 19, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Clerk Noble 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  
Andrea Voorheis, Trustee  
Liz Smith, Trustee

**Absent:**

Steve Anderson, Trustee

**Also Present:**

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

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, seconded by Supervisor Kowall to excuse Trustee Anderson from tonight's meeting. The motion carried with a voice vote: (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/sustained [sic]).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, seconded by Trustee Ruggles to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Piccinato, 8771 Townsend, shared information about St. Joseph Helpers, a volunteer organization that does small home repairs and jobs for those in need. He wants to spread awareness of this organization to increase its availability locally.

Dennis Letang, 8774 Townsend Dr., spoke of the additional resources through "Julie's List" in conjunction with St. Joseph Helpers.

Jim Cupps, 8985 Cooley Lake Road, shared his concerns regarding the Township's cyberattack.

Trustee Smith referred residents to the Township's Website for more information.

Reed Kluft, Red Ball Sanitation, spoke in opposition to the Township's refuse contract process.

Walter Rickens, 10205 Lakeside Dr, spoke in favor of pickleball courts in Township parks.

#### **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. RAPIDSOS UNITE
- I. UTILITIES LOCATING SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP AND DRAGON UNDERGROUND

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

#### **MINUTES**

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, JULY 10, 2025
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING, JULY 15, 2025

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Trustee Voorheis, to approve the special meeting minutes of July 10, 2025, and the regular meeting minutes of July 15, 2025, as presented. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A. TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR MANDON LAKE WEED CONTROL AND LAKE MANAGEMENT 2026-2030

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Treasurer Roman to open the public hearing to hear comment on the establishment of the Improvement project for Mandon Lake Weed Control and Lake Management 2026- 2030 at 6:47 P.M. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (6 yes votes). (Kowall/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Voorheis/yes, Noble/yes).

Seeing none, it was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Treasurer Roman to close the public hearing at 6:47 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

- B. TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR SUNSET/TAYLOR ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT - 2026-2030

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Treasurer Roman to hear public comment on the establishment of the improvement project for Sunset/Taylor Road Maintenance Special Assessment District – 2026 – 2030 at 6:48 pm. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (6 yes votes). (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes).

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

C. TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT KNOWN AS EMERGENCY SEWER CONNECTIONS 2025-01

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Voorheis to open the public hearing to hear public comment on the establishment of a Special Assessment District known as Emergency Sewer Connections 2025-01 at 6:48 P.M. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (6 yes votes) (Kowall/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes).

Seeing none, it was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Treasurer Roman to close the public hearing at 6:49 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

D. TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENT ON INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES DUE TO INCREASING PROPERTY VALUE

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble to hear public comments on increase property taxes due to increasing property values – Truth in Taxation at 6:49 P.M. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (6 yes votes) (Noble/yes, Kowall/yes, Voorheis/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes).

Jim Cupps, 8985 Cooley Lake, spoke in favor of the Township considering a tax cut for senior citizens. Eric Avedesian, 8300 Kingston, asked for clarification about the mills.

Tracy MacDonald, 9050 Pontiac Lake Road stated he is opposed to any new property taxes or increases. He just noticed the tax for Oakland Community College.

Andrea Limbright, 5347 Woodland, stated she is opposed to the proposed taxation and does not believe it is favorable to the residents.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Treasurer Roman to close the public hearing at 6:57 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. RESOLUTION #25-014; TO APPROVE OAKLAND COUNTY CLEMIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Chief Keller stated that Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System, also known as CLEMIS, uses computer technology to support law enforcement. He further explained that CLEMIS has

been around approximately 50 years and provides Law Enforcement with computer aided dispatch support, a mug shot system, geographic information system as well as the report writing and data entry systems used by police. CLEMIS is used in 242 agencies in over 11 counties statewide. One third of Michigan's population lives in an area where CLEMIS is used. CLEMIS has approximately 50-million-person records and 111 searchable addresses. He added just for context that 34 of Michigan's 50 safest cities, are members of CLEMIS.

Chief Keller stated he is the Chair of the CLEMIS Advisory Board and introduced Bo Chang to speak to the feasibility study that was performed regarding the impact CLEMIS has on local government, specifically Oakland County.

Bo Chang, CLEMIS representative, stated that CLEMIS has been around since 1968, and currently has expanded into several surrounding counties for police and fire computer systems. The challenge is the current system is dated and needs to be modernized. By moving into an authority, CLEMIS will be asking for a \$10 million dollar investment from the county in order to provide some of the updates to the system, such as moving to cloud-based software. Mr. Chang added that data sharing between agencies holds extreme value as well. The more agencies added to the platform also help reduce the costs per member. By moving to an authority, CLEMIS will help modernize and expand the system. He stated that CLEMIS is 1/3 of the cost of other systems outside the CLEMIS network in SE Michigan.

**It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, seconded by Supervisor Kowall, to approve Resolution #25-014; To Approve Oakland County CLEMIS Interlocal Agreement, pending attorney review. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**

- B. RESOLUTION #25-025; DETERMINING TO UNDERTAKE AN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TO PAY COST ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, APPROVING THE PLANS AND ESTIMATES OF COSTS THEREFORE TO BE KNOWN AS MANDON LAKE WEED CONTROL AND LAKE IMPROVEMENT 2026-2030**

**It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, seconded by Trustee Smith, to approve Resolution #25-025; Determining to Undertake an Improvement Project and To Establish and Maintain a Special Assessment District to Pay Cost Associated Therewith, Approving the Plans and Estimates of Costs Therefore to Be Known as Mandon Lake Weed Control and Lake Improvement 2026-2030. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**

- C. RESOLUTION #25-026; DETERMINING TO UNDERTAKE AN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TO PAY COSTS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, APPROVING THE PLANS AND ESTIMATES OF COSTS THEREFORE TO BE KNOWN AS SUNSET/TAYLOR ROAD MAINTENANCE 2026-2030**

**It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble to approve Resolution #25-026; Determining to Undertake an Improvement Project and To Establish and Maintain a Special Assessment District to Pay Costs Associated Therewith, Approving the Plans and Estimates of Costs**

**Therefore to Be Known as Sunset/Taylor Road Maintenance 2026-2030. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**

- D. RESOLUTION #25-027; TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TO PAY COSTS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH AND TO APPROVE THE PLANS AND ESTIMATES OF COSTS THEREFORE TO BE KNOWN AS EMERGENCY SEWER CONNECTIONS 2025-01

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Trustee Voorheis to approve Resolution #25-027; To Establish and Maintain a Special Assessment District to Pay Costs Associated Therewith and To Approve the Plans and Estimates of Costs Therefore to Be Known as Emergency Sewer Connections 2025-01. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**

- E. RESOLUTION #25-028; TRUTH IN TAXATION

Assessor Hieber stated every taxing authority in Michigan has to have a hearing to approve their tax rates. In years past, this was done during a Township budget hearing, which required specific language stating the millage would support the fiscal year budget. This year, due to the Township's switching over to BSA Cloud, there isn't a draft budget available. The public hearing notice, along with the language and font size, are all required by the state.

He added that the notice explained there is a proposed reduction in the milage, due to increase in property value. There is no increase in the tax rate this evening. An increase in the tax rate would need to be on a ballot for voters to decide; the Board cannot approve an increase in taxes.

Assessor Hieber stated that Township will realize added revenue this year due to property taxes even with a lower millage rate. New construction is added to the tax roll, along with new businesses, which generate added revenue.

Assessor Hieber clarified there isn't a specific lake tax, there are lake boards that meet to consider SADs for lake improvements. He said the biggest tax increases over the years have been millages from Oakland County Transits and Oakland County Parks. He added the Board has no authority to change tax rates for individuals based on age,

Tracey McDonald, 9050 Pontiac Lake Road, raised concerns about never ending SADs.

Andrea Limbright thanked the Board and Assessor Hieber for clarification.

Supervisor Kowall encouraged residents to stay informed on current issues and to research correct information.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Trustee Ruggles, to approve Resolution #25-028, Truth in Taxation. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**

- F. REQUEST TO APPROVE COMPUTER PURCHASE FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Keller advised he worked with Deputy Supervisor Pergament on doing computer replacement for the Police Department. He presented a request to replace fifteen of the department's computer.

**It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, seconded by Trustee Voorheis, to approve the computer purchase for the Police Department, in the amount of 13,748.85. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**

**G. FOIA APPEAL REQUEST P.D. - ERNEST G. PARKER**

Supervisor Kowall stated the cost of labor for the FOIA is \$131.63; the requester was not present.

**It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Voorheis to deny the FOIA Appeal Request made by Ernest G. Parker. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**

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

Supervisor Kowall stated the Township is bound by law to allow certain types of solicitors. Chief Keller said the roundabouts make it less safe for Knights of Columbus and similar solicitors to receive donations.

**It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble to move to second reading; an ordinance to amend Chapter 31, "Solicitation", to regulate the location and manner of soliciting in public streets. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (6 yes votes) (Kowall/yes, Voorheis/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes).**

**I. REQUEST TO APPROVE TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE PUBLIC FACILITIES NAMING RIGHTS POLICY**

Supervisor Kowall informed the Board that there is an individual who wants to donate money to the new Public Safety Building and in return, have their name on the building. The policy has undergone attorney review.

Trustee Smith stated her opposition towards the proposal and the policy and further stated the Public Safety building needed to be clearly the Township's own. She stated the Township should remain as independent as possible. She added that the Board could consider smaller donations, such as plaques or benches, but opposed names on the buildings.

Trustee Ruggles asked Attorney Hamameh if she had written similar policies. She said this was her first, but her firm has worked on several similar policies.

Trustee Ruggles asked if the selling of name rights is common. Attorney Hamameh said that it is not uncommon. She added that the purpose of these types of policies is to ensure that these types of policies are treated fairly and equally while allowing the Township Board to maintain control. She advised to it could have a questionable appearance to enter into a contract of this type without a policy.

Clerk Noble offered examples of government buildings named after individuals.

Trustee Smith clarified the difference between a building named in honor of someone as opposed to someone offering money to buy the right to put their name on a government building.

Treasurer Roman asked what if multiple people offer money to have their name on the building.

Supervisor Kowall clarified requirements in the Policy.

Trustee Smith stated she will be voting no but that if this moves forward, she is requesting the Board add that the donor never appears on any Board member's campaign finance. She stated her concerns have nothing to do with the individual who has made the offer as she does not know him.

Treasurer Roman stated he supports donations plaques or recognition walls but doesn't think a name policy is needed for the building.

Attorney Hamameh explained in detail the many of the internal Board controls built into the naming rights policy.

Trustee Voorheis asked if the matter had to be settled tonight

**It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Trustee Voorheis, to postpone the request to approve Township of White Lake Public Facilities Naming Rights Policy. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**

**J. REQUEST TO APPROVE ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR ARBITRAGE SERVICES - BAKER TILLY**

Treasurer Roman said the new bond taken out for the Civic Center is limited to the investment income that can be made on it. There is a process to audit the money to see how much it makes versus how much it is being paid to the interest on the debt itself.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Clerk Noble approve Engagement Letter for Arbitrage Services – Baker Tilly and to Authorize Supervisor Kowall to sign the document. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**

**K. RESOLUTION #25-029; ACCEPTING OPIOID LITIGATION SETTLEMENT FUNDS FROM PURDUE PHARMA L.P. & SACKLER FAMILY AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL OPIOID RELATED SETTLEMENTS AND PLANS**

Attorney Hamameh said the resolution would authorize acceptance of the opioid funds and assist treatment facilities in combating opioid addiction.

**It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, seconded by Clerk Noble to approve Resolution #25-029, Accepting Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds from Purdue Pharma L.P. & Sackler Family and Authorizing Acceptance of Additional Opioid Related Settlements and Plans. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**

**L. REQUEST TO APPROVE CIVIC CENTER BOND DEBT ALLOCATION PAYMENT PLAN**

**It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, seconded by Supervisor Kowall to approve Civic Center Bond Debt Allocation Payment Plan. The motion carried with a roll call vote: (6 yes votes). (Voorheis/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes, Ruggles/yes, Noble/yes).**

**FYI**

Supervisor Kowall said Civic Center construction is moving forward; steel is going up. Fire suppression is being installed at the lower level of Township Hall. Stanley Park construction is ongoing.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Trustee Smith stated the Commerce Township pickleball courts are packed, and hopes to see courts at Stanley Park in the future. The library's Summer Reading Program was a success. The Fire Department will be holding their open house on September 14, 2025.

Trustee Voorheis stated she attended White Lake Presbyterian's 109 Anniversary celebration. September 5, 2025, is the Walk for Red, and September 6 and 7, 2025 is the Fisk Farm Fall Festival.

Trustee Ruggles stated the Planning Commission will meet this Thursday to discuss the draft Capital Improvement Plan.

Clerk Noble welcomed Fire Chief Feichtner and Robin Myers, the Township's new H.R. Generalist.

Treasurer Roman welcomed Chief Feichtner. He stated the dog tag license procedure will shift to Oakland County in 2026 through the mail; the Township will not be processing them.

Supervisor Kowall stated he had the honor of speaking at the Youth Police Department Academy, and he enjoyed inspiring the youth. He recommends anyone interested in the program to contact the Police Department. He welcomed Chief Feichtner to the Township. He is about to become a grandfather for the third time, congratulations Erica!

**ADJOURNMENT**

**It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, seconded by Trustee Smith, to adjourn at 8:13 P.M. The motion carried with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).**