

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
DRAFT Minutes of the Special Board of Trustees Meeting
March 09, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others: Daniel T. Keller, Chief of Police
 Dwayne Warner, Waterford Police Department
 Matt Wayne, Flock Safety
 Hannah Micallef, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, **SUPPORTED** by Treasurer Roman to approve the agenda as presented. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public present.

PRESENTATION

A. FLOCK CAMERA PRESENTATION

Supervisor Kowall said he was able to approve the purchase of the camera equipment on his own with his financial jurisdiction as Supervisor, but he wanted the rest of the Township Board involved in the decision.

Chief Keller said the Flock cameras would add additional safety to the citizens of White Lake, and the cameras would make for an added benefit.

Matt Wayne, of Flock Safety, gave a presentation regarding the Flock Safety Company and equipment. He said the camera technology can work as a police multiplier for the force, and the equipment would also engage the community as well.

The Flock Falcon cameras had the ability to detect license plates, and pick up other features of the vehicle like color, make, bumper stickers, etc. The cameras would be placed at fixed locations within the

Township, and the Township would be paying for a subscription service for the camera use, and Flock Safety would be maintaining the equipment.

The technology did not have facial recognition, and was not to be used for traffic enforcement. The Police department would be able to get real time alerts on wanted vehicles entering the Township.

The technology would gather information about vehicles, not the people in the vehicles. It was not tied to registration information, or personal identification information. Information on captured vehicles would remain accessible in a secure encrypted Cloud based storage site for up to 30 days. The Police department would be maintaining and accessing the information sent to the Cloud.

Mr. Wayne gave several examples of how law enforcement was able to use the data from the Flock system to pursue and arrest criminal suspects. The equipment was used nationwide, and local examples were Dearborn, Van Buren, and River Rouge.

Sargent Warner, Waterford Police Department, was a White Lake resident as well as a user of the Flock Safety system in Waterford. The Flock was a great tool to use. He said there was an instance where a vehicle was stolen during a home invasion, and there wasn't a license plate but two unique stickers on the vehicle. He said within hours, he was able to use the Flock system and search the criteria with the stickers, and were able to find the vehicle eventually. The system would be able to interface with other municipalities nationwide with the Flock cameras as well.

Chief Keller reiterated that the technology did not have facial recognition, or would stop speeding vehicles. It would be able to identify stolen vehicles, or important vehicles to other municipalities. It would be another tool for the Police Department to deal with the incoming and outgoing vehicles on M-59.

Sergeant Warner said all the officers at the Waterford Police department had access to the Flock system, and additionally, their dispatch department did as well. He added that West Bloomfield would be coming online with the Flock system as well, and the cameras bordering the Waterford/White Lake border would be strategically placed to cover the largest amount of area.

Chief Keller added Novi would be getting the system as well, and the Great Lakes Crossing Mall had it's own system as well, and the Michigan State Police was putting them throughout the interstate. There were several other communities outside of Oakland County that had the system too.

Trustee Voorhies asked Mr. Wayne what the lead time was on installation. Mr. Wayne said the system could be in service once the MDOT permits were approved, and it would be somewhere around 3-6 months for final installation. Chief Keller would be deciding on the locations, and Flock would help assist Chief in securing the best locations.

Trustee Smith reiterated that the Flock system was not a "Big Brother" system, and the system was used for safety purposes only. She added that White Lake Township was a safe community, but M-59 was a state trunkline and heavily traveled. She asked Mr. Wayne how training the system was implemented. Mr. Wayne said there would be a customer success manager who would train the officers, and that

training was included with the subscription service. The search features within the system were intuitive, and the system would produce results for proactive alerts based on specific search perimeters. Officers could also go back and manually search for information on suspect vehicles as well.

Trustee Ruggles asked Mr. Wayne if the system would keep all the information for 30 days for search purposes or hot list reports. Mr. Wayne confirmed, and after 30 days, the information was deleted. The cloud system had data storage, and was included with the subscription service.

Clerk Noble asked Mr. Wayne if Flock technology would help with homicide cases. Mr. Wayne said he had personally seen examples of the system aiding in homicide cases.

Treasurer Roman asked Mr. Wayne what the subscription fee was based on. Mr. Wayne said it was based off each camera per year. Chief Keller said as of now, he was only requesting two to see how successful the system was. The cost would be \$2500 per camera, per year, and each camera would have a \$350 set up fee. Mr. Wayne said there would be a cost increase on the system on April 1st, and some agencies he had worked with had paid for the systems with grant money.

Sargent Warner said there were 8 cameras in Waterford Township.

Trustee Powell asked Mr. Wayne if the technology system was patented. Mr. Wayne said he wasn't certain, but there were competing LPR camera systems, however; the vehicle "fingerprint" technology was unique to Flock. He confirmed the data storage was unlimited. The cameras were solar powered, and would have external battery packs to aid in the months without much sunlight. Research would be done to determine the best cell tower service for the system.

Trustee Powell asked Mr. Wayne how the cameras would be a deterrent to vehicular crime. Mr. Wayne said communities in the past had press releases to announce that the system was in place. Trustee Powell asked Mr. Wayne how the community could be ensured that the cameras were not used for traffic enforcement. Mr. Wayne said the placement of the camera would only be focused on the vehicles that were passing by in the specific camera locations. The cameras were able to catch two lanes in one direction per camera, capturing rear shots of vehicles. The cameras were mounted 12'-15' high and mounted downward. Chief Keller said the cameras in surrounding municipalities were unnoticeable while an individual was traveling down M-59.

Trustee Powell asked if the officers would be collecting overtime for training on the new system. Chief Keller said training would more than likely be during regularly scheduled shifts.

Trustee Smith asked Mr. Wayne what the price increase would be. Mr. Wayne said after April 1st, 2023, the implementation fee per camera would be dependent on variable one-time fees: \$350 for poles and \$350 for permits. The camera fee would increase from \$2500 per camera to \$3000 per camera.

Clerk Noble asked Chief Keller where he would implement more cameras at. Chief Keller said he would coordinate between Waterford and West Bloomfield, but he would like to see a third camera on White Lake Road. Chief Keller said his ultimate need was six cameras at three locations.

Treasurer Roman said the greatest benefit of the system wasn't just the Township's cameras, but the ability to interface with all the cameras within the Flock system.

Trustee Ruggles asked Mr. Wayne about liability for the cameras. Mr. Wayne said if the cameras were damaged due to vandalism or theft, there was an additional fee the Township would be responsible for. Any failure of the camera of its own was covered under the subscription service, and he was only aware of one vandalism case to the system himself.

Trustee Powell asked Mr. Wayne about subscription increases in the future. Mr. Wayne said the current pricing was good for two years, and if the Township did not agree with future increases, Flock would remove the cameras. There was a fee to remove the cameras before the term, and no fee to remove them once the two-year term was over.

NEW BUSINESS

A. REQUEST TO PURCHASE FLOCK CAMERA EQUIPMENT

MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by Treasurer Roman to approve the purchase of six Flock cameras in the amount of \$15,000, and the purchase of installation and related system implementation in the amount of \$2,100; for a total amount not to exceed \$17,100. The motion **CARRIED** with a voice vote: (7 yes votes).

ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Smith, to adjourn at 7:03 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