

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
Approved Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
April 21, 2020

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Clerk Lilley called the roll:

Present: Rik Kowall, Supervisor
 Terry Lilley, Clerk
 Mike Roman, Treasurer
 Michael Powell, Trustee
 Andrea C. Voorheis, Trustee
 Scott Ruggles, Trustee
 Liz Smith, Trustee

Also Present: Lisa Hamameh, Attorney
 Sean O'Neil, Planning Director
 Aaron Potter, DPS
 Nick Spencer, Building Official
 Jason Hudson, Ordinance Officer
 Jennifer Edens, Recording Secretary

AGENDA

The Agenda was amended as follows:

- Clerk Lilley eliminated item 10C – Consideration of Hydrant Well Issue at Wexford Manor Subdivision.
- Supervisor Kowall added item 10H – FYI: GFL
- Supervisor Kowall added item 10I – Inspector Fees
- Trustee Powell added item 10J – Letter to Governor

Under Consent Agenda

- Clerk Lilley added the New List of Bills dated 4/21/20

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barry Stulberg confirmed that item 10C was removed from the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. LIST OF BILLS**
- B. REVENUE AND EXPENSE**
- C. CHECK DISBURSEMENT**

D. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. POLICE
2. FIRE
3. TREASURER

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

MINUTES

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, MARCH 11, 2020

Trustee Powell noted that on Page 8, First Paragraph, Under Item 3 should read:

3. Practical Items – The construction drawings that the Building Department needs to make sure it is being properly constructed or built.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, MARCH 16, 2020

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING, MARCH 16, 2020

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, MARCH 31, 2020

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Powell to approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, March 11, 2020, as amended; and to approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, March 16, 2020, the Emergency Board Meeting, March 16, 2020 and the Special Board Meeting, March 31, 2020. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Powell/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Roman/yes, Lilley/yes, Kowall/yes).

PROCLAMATIONS

A. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH - APRIL 2020

Supervisor Kowall read the Proclamation into the record and proclaimed, that:

White Lake Township, hereby proclaims the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month, and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, organizations, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to prevent the abuse of our children, thereby strengthening and protecting the community in which we live.

B. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH – MAY 2020

Supervisor Kowal read the Proclamation into the record and proclaimed, that:

White Lake Township hereby recognizes May 2020, as Mental Health month. White Lake calls upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our

state to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illness to promote recovery.

He noted that Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) is the sponsor of the Proclamation and they can be reached at 248-858-1210.

RESOLUTIONS

A. RESOLUTION #20-007; COLONY HEIGHTS ROAD PAVING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT (SAD)

Sean O'Neil reminded of the approval of the Trailside Meadow Project and that a community benefit that was offered with that project was a contribution to the Colony Heights SAD for road paving. It was a \$20,000 deposit that was collected from the developer at the time of their preconstruction meeting. These funds are currently on deposit with the Treasurer's Office. The OCRC requires the Board to take action to acknowledge that it will be contributing these developer funds.

Clerk Lilley asked for confirmation that Colony Heights wished to go forward with this project.

Mr. O'Neil responded that previously bids came back too high and the process had to be started over again. He noted that his last information was that Colony Heights wanted to move forward with this project. He believes the roads will be paved this summer.

Both Supervisor Kowall and Trustee Voorheis confirmed that Colony Heights does wish to move forward.

Trustee Powell questioned the language that indicated the funds would be deposited with the Oakland Treasurer instead of the OCRC.

Mr. O'Neil indicated the funds are on deposit with the Township Treasurer, not the Oakland County Treasurer. He believes the funds will go from the Township Treasurer to the OCRC. He is not positive who the invoice will come from and suggested that perhaps it be made more generic.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to approve Resolution 20-007; To allow for \$20,000.00 to be paid out of the Trust and Agency Account to the Oakland County Road Commission towards SAD 25062. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Lilley/yes, Kowall/yes).

B. RESOLUTION #20-011; WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Aaron Potter indicated that the Township has been participating in the program since 2005. Due to COVID 19 things are behind schedule. This program is a 50% matching grant. White Lake Township's allocation is \$5,526.80. The total grant expenditures not to exceed \$11,053.60. The purpose of the grant is disease prevention like West Nile and Zika viruses.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, SUPPORTED by Trustee Voorheis to approve Resolution 20-011, West Nile Virus Prevention Reimbursement Program. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Ruggles/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Roman/yes, Lilley/yes, Kowall/yes).

C. RESOLUTION #20-012; TULL LAKE GOOSE ROUND UP

Trustee Powell questioned the authority to bind a future board with a five-year resolution. To which Attorney Hamameh indicated technically you cannot, but it is done from time-to-time for contracts when there is a good deal. She further noted that the Resolution number indicated on the Resolution in the Board's packet is incorrect and should read: 20-012, not 20-2012.

It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, SUPPORTED by Trustee Voorheis to approve Resolution #20-012. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Powell/yes, Ruggles/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Roman/yes, Lilley/yes, Kowall/yes).

NEW BUSINESS

A. REQUEST TO APPROVE CONSENT JUDGMENT AMENDMENT FOR 10070 ELIZABETH LAKE ROAD, SPRADER'S ON THE LAKE

Trustee Powell noted that he is impressed by how well the attorneys put the agreement together and wanted to make sure the Board gave the applicant and his counsel an opportunity to speak tonight. He questioned Paragraph 3(c)ii, that reads:

- ii. That there be no access by the public whatsoever to the additional interior second floor space.

He wants to make sure there will not be a future problem with "public access" if guests are invited to the space.

Supervisor Kowall believes it infers to the public at large and that it was drafted with that intention by counsel.

Attorney Hamameh indicated that reading Paragraph "ii" in conjunction with Paragraph "i", gives you that conclusion.

Rick Linnell, counsel for Mr. Sprader, indicated that he and his client would be amenable to any additional language if desired by the Board. He believes that his client understands its use. He furthered that quiet title action was filed with the Oakland County Circuit Court on March 26, 2020.

Attorney Hamameh pointed out a few things in the Consent Judgment:

- Paragraph 3(c)i – gives the applicant more than what he had in the original consent judgment. It expands it from just Matt Sprader to Matt Sprader, his family and any future owner or their family.
- Paragraph 8 reads that a copy of the Consent Judgment may be recorded at the Office of the Oakland County Register of Deeds. She feels it should be recorded and the Consent

Judgment language should reflect shall be recorded. She furthered that the Township would do the recording.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Ruggles to approve the Consent Judgment Amendment for 10070 Elizabeth Lake Road, as amended. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Lilley/yes, Kowall/yes).

B. REQUEST TO APPROVE DEFERRAL OF SANITARY ORDINANCE 38-514 FOR PACEL ID #12-26-476-015 SE CORNER OF FARNSWORTH AND LITTLE FARM

Aaron Potter indicated that this is currently vacant land that is for sale. The property is adjacent to the Phase I sewer main on Farnsworth. There is a lead to supply this property with service coming from Farnsworth. However pursuant to Ordinance 38-514, future owners would have to extend the sewer main across the frontage. He has spoken with several potential purchases regarding this property and what it would entail. This property under the Ordinance would be required to extend 174 feet of 10" main. DPS is requesting a deferral of this Ordinance as to this particular property. He feels it would cause an undue hardship for the owners.

He is asking the Board to agree to a deferral with the current or future owner. He is asking the Board to authorize himself to work directly with the Township attorney to create a deferral.

Trustee Powell noted that while Mr. Potter is looking to create the agreement, it still needs to be signed by the Supervisor. He further pointed out that the applicant or person tying into the sanitary sewer will be tying in with a lateral benefit charge. That person will end up paying twice for the new sanitary sewer in the SAD and the lateral benefit charge to tie into the existing sewer. Mr. Powell would like it added that the homeowner that pays that additional \$2,100 additional lateral benefit fee will have that credited back to them when the SAD is established.

It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to support Aaron Potter's request for deferment and to be recorded against the property, as amended to include language that the homeowner that pays that additional \$2,100 additional lateral benefit fee will have that credited back to them when the SAD is established. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Lilley/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes).

C. CONSIDERATION OF HYDRANT WELL ISSUE AT WEXFORD MANOR SUBDIVISION

Removed from Agenda.

D. REQUEST FOR 1ST QUARTER 2020 WATER BILLING DUE DATE EXTENSION

Aaron Potter indicated that he attempted to have this added to the Special Board Meeting on March 31st. DPS has moved forward and done this, but then realized that the billing due date was an ordinance. Therefore, he is requesting a 30-day extension to assist people laid-off because of COVID 19. He noted that the fees cannot be waived but can be delayed.

Trustee Powell asked if the extension should be extended longer, 60 or 90 days.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, SUPPORTED by Treasurer Roman to approve a one-time extension of the 1st Quarterly Billing under item for request as a one-time event for 30 days. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Lilley/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Kowall/yes).

E. REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENT 1 TO AGREEMENT FOR I.T. SERVICES WITH OAKLAND COUNTY FOR ONLINE PAYMENTS

Treasurer Roman indicated that this is an amendment to our Information Technology Agreement with Oakland County. The amendment will allow White Lake Township to partner with Oakland County through their G2G Cloud Solutions for the purpose of accepting over the counter and online credit card payments and electronic checks.

The Oakland County G2G implementation team typically needs between 4-8 weeks to complete installations. However, with the COVID 19 issues he was advised it could take longer than 8 weeks to implement.

He has provided the Board with the fees as well as Oakland County's revenue sharing model.

He furthered that due to an existing relationship with Oakland County, it made sense to use them for electronic payments as well.

Attorney Hamameh noted that this contract was not reviewed by her and that it is very voluminous. The Township has a standard contract with the County. The Township then chooses the options that the Township wants. What is before the Board tonight is an amendment to that agreement which brings in two more exhibits or options that the Township is selecting. In the future when you must renew a new contract from the County, these will already be in it as an existing service that the Township has opted into.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Clerk Lilley to approve the amendment with the I.T. Agreement with Oakland County and to allow the Supervisor to sign it. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Lilley/yes).

F. TREASURERS ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR END 2019

Treasurer Roman indicated that Townships must invest in accordance with Michigan Public Act 20. It really limits where the Township can put its money. Safety of capital is first object followed by liquidity and yield. He noted that the Township had a good year, earning around \$443,000 in interest between general police and fire. It is the best year the Township has had since he came on board in 2012. He highlighted the following:

Legacy Costs - The Township is funding the OPEB Account, which is for retiree health care. At the end of 2019, the value of this asset was \$4,065,552.

Taxable Value Within the Township - The taxable value is increasing in the Township. The increase in taxable value in 2019 versus 2018 generated an additional \$46,000 in additional General Fund tax revenue.

Asset Protection – the Township implemented positive pay on all the Township checking accounts. Every check written is uploaded into the fraud prevention services that is used by our financial institutions.

Fund Balances – All of the operating balances went up. He thanked the Board and Department Heads for that.

Trustee Powell thanked Treasurer Roman for the clear and concise way he presented this report.

It was MOVED by Trustee Powell, SUPPORTED by Supervisor Kowall to receive, and file the Treasurers Annual Report – Year End 2019 (no vote necessary).

G. DISCUSSION REGARDING MOWING DURING THE STAY HOME EXECUTIVE ORDER

Supervisor Kowal indicated that it is the opinion of the Governor and the Attorney General that cutting your lawn is nonessential but being able to get paint from Sherman Williams is. He noted there are several supervisors in Oakland County that have a difference of opinion with the Governor. He believes that the grass cutting is an essential service to our community and that it could be done safely by a single and sole operator. He thinks that it is a little bit of extremism. He questioned what the difference is of you cutting your grass or hiring someone to do it. He further noted that the Attorney General has challenged communities in the courts.

Clerk Lilley believes that there are certain circumstances where some of these individuals needs to get back to work. He is not just speaking of grass cutting, but fertilization and lawn maintenance. He believes it is time to get back with legitimate reasons.

Treasurer Roman knows that the Governor means well and is trying to do what is best for the state. However, he believes she missed the boat on this one. Landscapers in it of themselves are already socially distant. Looking at the economic impact it will have on them and the prepayments that they will now have to refund. However, an order is an order and the Governor's order is clear. He does not see a choice but to obey the order.

Trustee Powell agrees with Treasurer Roman to a point. The country is founded on several things. He sees no reason why the Township should act on an order that they do not believe to be correct. He would be disappointed if the police arrested someone for cutting somebody's lawn. He supports letting landscapers, tree trimmers, and lawn keepers do their thing.

Trustee Smith noted that safety and health of the residents is of utmost importance to her. As long as it is safe, she believes we can come to common sense and reasonable solutions here. She believes local control is best. She suggested temporarily amending the ordinance or give direction to the ordinance officers. She noted that her grass is still dormant, and she further believes that the legislature will act before the next board meeting. She would like to see further discussion.

Trustee Voorheis agrees with Trustee Powell and Smith. An order is an order. She believes the Governor's concern is that the health system is already overloaded and that it is what happens when a socially distant landscaper gets injured on the job. She feels this will be one of the first adjusted restrictions from the Governor. She too has dormant grass and has parents who rely on a service. She thinks we need to leave it where it is at the local level.

Trustee Ruggles thinks the Governor has gone a little too far. He believes it is an activity that is safe and as for social distancing, people can prepay so there is no contact. He would hate to see someone in White Lake Township get in trouble for this when there is no requirement for interaction. He would be in support of this being addressed at the local level. It is over the top as far as extremism in the order. He doesn't disagree with the requirement of safety but believes this could be safely done.

Attorney Hamameh indicated she is not in politics but understands common sense. The Governor's decisions are her decisions that bind the Township. The Township does not have the authority to override the Governor's order. She noted there is a case where a landscape contractor sued the Governor and the judge ruled in favor of the Governor and agreed that they are not essential workers and they should therefore not be working.

Supervisor Kowall personally believes, just cut the damn grass. He furthered that we have an ordinance that we must maintain our grass. He indicated that his personal opinion does not matter because we do have an Executive Order from the Governor. He feels this Board tries to instill common sense in government. He would like to keep an eye on the situation and potentially revisit this in no more than 10-days even if by special meeting. He asked of Mr. Hudson if he sees a problem in the near future.

Mr. Hudson does not think it is a huge issue at this time, but it will be. He indicated that he would work with every homeowner and complainant.

Trustee Powell noted that if you let it go too long the process in cutting the lawn snowballs.

Trustee Ruggles noted that at some point everyone will just do it anyways.

Supervisor Kowall stated that what he can tell the residents is that he believes you know how your Board feels about this, but the Board also does have to respect for the Governor's order. He furthered that the Board cannot protect you if you decide to have this done and the state police or sheriff's department get involved. You would have to proceed at your own peril.

Attorney Hamameh reminded that the Board can direct the Ordinance Officer to not enforce that provision of property maintenance regarding the height of grass.

Trustee Smith is hoping for the Board to give Mr. Hudson some direction. She asked for close communication and believes special board meetings may become the new norm and that staying in constant communication is best right now.

Supervisor Kowall wanted to bring it to the Board's attention due to the numerous calls being received regarding the issue. He noted that it is the number one concern of the seniors in the community.

H. LETTER FROM GFL

Supervisor Kowall indicated that the trash contract will expire at the end of the year. He believes that GFL has given good rates. Currently the rate is \$14.18 per household and they are offering an extension for up to 3 years at \$15.26. He believes this to be reasonable. He would like the Board to think about this and the option regarding a 65 gallon recycle cart and whether it should be included. He plans to do homework on this and survey the community regarding the recycle carts. He further noted that Republic, Waste Management, and BFI do not want to be in the residential business any longer.

Trustee Powell corrected that their rate proposal is \$15.26 per month which is a 7.62% increase over this year and there is 2.5% increase each year for three years.

Clerk Lilley reminded the board members there were only four companies that bid, and he thinks GFL should be given serious consideration.

Treasurer Roman is in total agreement with Supervisor Kowall and Clerk Lilley. He believes the Township was lucky to get two competitive bids. To get a 3-year deal for \$15 per home per month sounds like a bargain to him. The entire world is losing places to dump garbage. He thinks a three-year deal would help everyone sleep better at night.

Trustee Voorheis noted that the west side of the state only picks up recycling every two weeks and wondered if it might be an option here.

I. INSPECTOR FEES

Nicholas Spencer is looking for approval for an inspector wage scale for nonstandard inspections. This would be for inspections or other paid time for doing a plan review, and court dates. He noted that they are rare occurrences, but that there are no mechanisms in place to pay the inspectors.

Supervisor Kowall thinks it is very reasonable and noted that this was discovered when recently dealing with businesses that needed major correction.

Trustee Voorheis asked how the rates compared to neighboring communities

Mr. Spencer indicated that he has worked in eight different communities in the past few years and these rates are an average of what all those communities were.

Treasurer Roman confirmed that these hourly wage rates are paid out as independent contractors. They are not on payroll. He thinks they are reasonable.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell, to approve the inspector hourly rates. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Lilley/yes, Kowall/yes).

J. LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

Trustee Powell shared that they are all concerned about people's safety, but he does not believe that the Governor's order was predicated by the fact that staying home was going to keep people from getting the virus. It was strictly to keep the curve down and spread it out so the that the health systems could deal with the sicknesses that are coming. The same number of people projected to get sick, under the original design, will get sick, it will just take a longer period of time. Therefore, the safety concern is not valid in his opinion. He opined that the hospitals are shutting down wings because of lost revenue caused by the voluntary services being cancelled. He believes every hospital in this state now has more than enough room to deal with the traumatic injuries/accidents that may happen. He feels the reason for it being installed is no longer valid and that the Governor does not give any data to back her position. He would like to send something from the Board stating that we are not in favor of her extending it unless she can provide data to support it.

Supervisor Kowall believes there will be further conversation and that a draft a letter can be produced and provided to the Board members for review.

Trustee Powell would like a letter from the Board that states that Board is not in favor of extension of the stay at home order as it is currently presented.

Supervisor Kowall believes it should be called a memo to the Governor.

Trustee Smith is not clear of Trustee Powell's objective. The Executive Order does not state you cannot go outside. She cannot agree to a letter at this time without knowing its content.

Trustee Powell suggest a simple motion to say we agree with the President's presentation and not the Governor's presentation.

Trustee Voorheis would personally prefer to go with the Governor as she knows what is best for our state. Trustee Voorheis would rather get this done now and not have to do this again. She would like this to be one and done.

Trustee Smith thinks that this full republican board probably disagrees with the Governor, but that this Board's job is local governing. The Board needs to do what it can to protect our local residents. She thinks voicing an opinion is great but noted you must be factual in doing it.

Treasurer Roman suggest waiting until May 1st to see if anything changes.

Attorney Hamameh indicated then whatever letter is drafted can be presented to the Board at a special board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

A. REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Trustee Smith reminded residents that this issue was already addressed at a special boarding meeting.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Smith, **SUPPORTED** by Treasurer Roman, to approve the Amendments of Administrative Policies and Procedures. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Ruggles/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Roman/yes, Lilley/yes, Kowall/yes).

B. SECOND READING, FEE ORDINACNE AMENDMENTS

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Powell, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Voorheis, to adopt the fee ordinance amendments as presented. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Lilley/yes, Kowall/yes).

Supervisor Kowal stated that in the 48383-zip code there are currently 19 cases with one fatality and in the 48386-zip code there are 31 cases with no fatalities. This is a serious problem and we need to be vigilant with it. He reminded that we must wash our hands. He thinks face masks will become more of the normal as will socially distancing. He stated that our community is doing a good job. Please be mindful and respectful.

He shared of a Supervisor challenge he put out on Facebook to raise money for Open Door Food Pantry. He thanked the Board for their participation. He has received checks from residents and is close to raising \$5,000. He challenged David Scott of Commerce Township and Gary Wall of Waterford. This is a local charity and it is important to help them as they lost two of their fundraisers due to COVID 19. He reminded that this is a local, does it for us, charity.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Smith thanked the Board for their unanimous support of the Mental Health and Child Abuse Proclamations. They are both important issues right now and near and dear to her heart. She asked that we all keep an eye out for our neighbors.

She thanked Recording Secretary, Jeni, for handling the challenges of the new annex, temperature controls and now Zoom.

Trustee Smith has been honored to be part of the Michigan Police Week Committee. There was a statewide event on May 16th that unfortunately, due to the current pandemic has been cancelled. She is hopeful that it will be rescheduled when safe to do so. She reminded of the Proclamation of May 15 as Police Officer Memorial Day in White Lake Township. She would like to encourage residents to honor our police officers by lighting our town blue that weekend in show of support.

In closing, she thanked all the first responders, critical infrastructure, nurses, and doctors. Be safe, be healthy, and help your neighbor. She is praying for our community and reminded that the Board is here to help you.

Trustee Voorheis thanked the Board for supporting Mental Health Awareness Month.

She mentioned that about six weeks ago she ran into Officer Grant who was 17 days from retirement. She again ran into him a month later and due to staffing challenges within the police department he stayed on longer. She offered an applause to him.

In this crazy world we live in now, the soon to be new normal is strive to survive.

Clerk Lilley reminded everyone that received an absentee ballot application for the May election that it has been cancelled until August. What does that mean for our voters? You will be receiving another application for the August and November elections and you will need to again fill out the application. He noted that he is still awaiting word from the Election Bureau as to what the August primary will consist of. He is hopeful that they will learn soon.

He further shared that he received an application for a firework permit today. He recommends that they not accept any applications for fireworks at this time.

Treasurer Roman has a concern about dog licenses that are due by June 1st. He noted the penalties are hefty after the due date. He reached out to Oakland County Animal Control who indicated that they have requested the due date be delayed but are awaiting response of the County Executive. He also reached out to a few Board of Commissioners who indicated they too would investigate it.

Regarding COVID 19, he noted the country is facing some great challenges. He encouraged all to stay positive, use common sense, and stay safe. He is confident we will get through this.

Trustee Powell supports all of what has been said so far. He wants to assure all the residents that we as adults evaluate the risk of everything we do. He furthered that out of 30,000 residents in the Township, we have 50 residents that have tested positive and one fatality. The odds of you meeting someone out doing something is very remote. We should not bury ourselves and ignore the fact that life is a risk. He advised to be careful, practice social distancing, remember that life is precious. He believes we need to get back to as normal as we can.

As for the fireworks application, he does not believe that something that will come up in July should be necessarily not held unless we can make sure we can respond in time for the applicants to be able to order the fireworks. His experience with fireworks is that they are shot over a lake and people are spread out. He feels that people going around and soliciting sales at people's homes is different than firework applications.

Trustee Ruggles concurs with what the rest of the Board has said.

Supervisor Kowall thanked Huron Valley Schools for serving over 50,000 meals since the school have been out. They will continue to provide meals until the end of the school year. He has been in contact with Congresswoman Haley Stevens and made her aware of the issue. He would like to see an extension of the feeding program. He noted that the Saturday before Easter, they served 4,200 meals, which was a record. He thanked the staff, Chief Keller, the Board, John Holland, and local businesses for providing and seeking plastic bags that were needed for the distribution.

He further noted that Huron Valley Schools may need to close the pools as they have reached a point where they are requiring a lot of maintenance. They would like to hear from the public regarding this.

Regarding the Census 2020 he reminded residents to get online and complete the Census at www.2020census.gov . He furthered that Michigan is tied with Iowa and Nebraska with a 56.9% self-response rate versus a 50.7% national response rate. White Lake Township is number 9 in the state as far as Townships. He declared that Lake Orion is kicking our butt. Macomb Township is number one in the state. Census workers are expected to be back out around the first week of June. He noted if you do not want them knocking on your door you should fill out the online census.

Lastly, if you are senior in our community and you need assistance please reach out to the White Lake Dublin Community Senior Center at 248-698-2394. He feels that not only are seniors' great people, but they are living history that he himself has learned from. Be neighborly.


Good night and God Bless White Lake

ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED by Trustee Smith, SUPPORTED by Clerk Lilley to adjourn. The MOTION PASSED by voice vote (7 yes votes).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

I, Terry Lilley, 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 April 21, 2020 regular board meeting minutes.



Terry Lilley, Clerk
White Lake Township
Oakland County, Michigan