

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
Approved Minutes of the Special Board of Trustees Meeting
November 26, 2019

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Clerk Lilley called the roll:

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

Also Present: Jennifer Edens, Recording Secretary

AGENDA

Clerk Lilley added an additional agenda item labeled W.O.T.A., which will be 7C.

Supervisor Kowall shared that Waterford Township recently voted to join W.O.T.A. They are now the third member of W.O.T.A. He indicated that the requirements of the organization's Interlocal Agreement is that for any other community to join, it will have to come before the governing body. This will now have to go before Highland Township for approval. Supervisor advised that Waterford Township adds funds to the program. Their contribution will come in at the \$185,000 but based on their residency they will ultimately contribute more due to the number of seniors in their community.

It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to approve the Agenda, as amended. The MOTION PASSED by voice vote (7 yes votes).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 6, 2019

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Ruggles to approve the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting on November 6, 2019. The MOTION PASSED by voice vote (7 yes votes).

PUBLIC HEARING

A. APPROVAL OF 2020 BUDGET

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, SUPPORTED by Treasurer Roman to Open Public Hearing for Approval of the 2020 Budget. The MOTION PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Lilley/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes).

No public present and therefore no comments made.

It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to Close Public Hearing. The MOTION PASSED by voice vote (7 yes votes).

RESOLUTIONS

A. RESOLUTION #19-045; 2020 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Trustee Powell regarding Page 12 of 22, questioned that the police chief is not proposing any changes in staffing in this next year. Supervisor Kowall responded that the police chief plans to make a request in January. Trustee Powell also identified that the Resolution reads 2018 to 2019, not 2019 to 2020, which was identified as a typo. He further questioned from Page 3 of 22, why equipment maintenance had increased so much. Clerk Lilley responded that each time the computers are used prior to an election, they must have a company come in and reprogram them. Trustee Powell thanked the staff and in-house administration for this very detailed budget. He is very pleased. He is excited for this budget and what it means in the next year. Lastly, he questioned whether the Township contributes to pensions as he believed they no longer did.

Treasurer Roman reminded that the Township still has pensions and that it is approximately 71% funded for its defined benefit pension plan. Additionally, he stated that every other year an actuary evaluation is done, and they are provided choices of how to make up the difference. The Township has taken an accelerated plan to make up the difference. He clarified that employees must be fully vested to get a pension and that other elective plans are available. He indicated that the police chiefs, over the years, have indicated that they are thankful for the pension plan as they are able to attract the best of the best because of it. He identified there are things that we can keep doing to lower the liability.

Clerk Lilley reminded the board of his request for a budget amendment to fulfill the vacancy in his office.

Supervisor Kowall shared a letter from Elaine to himself that indicates that the budget worksheet was updated on November 20, 2019 with actual 2019 revenue and expenditures. The letter further stated that the amended budget reflects all 2019 budget amendments to date. The 2020 budget is comparable to prior years. Budgets for state grants is \$750,000 and the expenditures for road construction that have not been spent to date is \$1,552,500.00. The road construction line includes the annual budget for tri-party and chloride and approximately \$120,000 the remainder of the cost for Grass Lake Road construction.

Trustee Powell asked regarding #10, Page 2, if the department heads could overspend line items or just not overspend their budget in this section. To which, Supervisor Kowall indicated they are not allowed to overspend at all. Trustee Powell questioned whether Supervisor Kowall as the fiscal officer, could overspend line items or department budget.

Treasurer Roman shared that he has gone over on line items and Elaine has amended the line items to ensure he doesn't overspend within his budget.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Voorheis to Adopt Resolution #19-045; 2020 General Appropriations Act. The MOTION PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Lilley/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes). (7 yes votes.)

B. RESOLUTION #19-044; 2020 TOWNSHIP BOARD SALARIES

Trustee Powell commented that a resident named Pete constantly wants this Board to adopt a recommendation board which he is not in favor of. Trustee Powell believes that would be a copout for the Board to say, "The committee suggest we get a \$10,000 a year pay raise". He likes this to be the Board's responsibility. This Resolution is a 2% pay raise which he is fine with as he would have been fine with no increase.

Trustee Ruggles agrees with the comment of Trustee Powell and thinks that the whole conversation and topic is trying to state that there is inappropriate behavior taking place and he doesn't think it is proper and that it is nonsense.

Clerk Lilley knows that Pete's argument is to have a committee, but the Board has always been compliant across the board for wage increases.

Treasurer Roman noted that compared to other townships, this Board's salaries are reasonable. He also believes it would be awkward if a committee decided to give the Board a large pay raise or if they cut salaries drastically as there are already numerous employees make more than board members. He doesn't know how you could put a fairer practice in place. He reminded that the salaries of the Board are public information and that they can be looked at and analyzed.

Supervisor Kowall believes this Board has chosen this course of action as it is the most fiscally responsible. There is a controversy to some because we decide our own pay. However, in dealing with unions, we take the best financial interest of the Township to heart. Therefore, using that as a tool and in a sense a committee (employees/unions overseen by the Board). He has reservations and concerns of setting up a compensation board. He doesn't think the Board is acting irresponsibly doing things the way it does and has historically been done.

Trustee Ruggles questioned the date on the Resolution as it reads the 17th day of December and whether it should read today's date. It was noted that it is a typo and should read today's date.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to Approve the 2020 Board Salaries by Resolution #19-044. The MOTION PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Lilley/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/nay). (6 yes votes, 1 no vote.)

**C. FIRST AMENDED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
(W.O.T.A.)**

Supervisor Kowall noted that he is very excited to see this moving forward as it is a benefit to the residents of the Township. He further noted that it has caught the attention of Oakland County and they are interested in what the Townships are doing. He is hopeful that this will put the Township in a good position when the RTA comes in. He also noted that the Township's attorney, Foster Swift will be the adopted counsel for W.O.T.A.

Treasurer Roman confirmed that each existing township board must approve another community coming in.

Trustee Powell questioned what vote needs to take place for the RTA to be able to tax the three remaining communities. To which Supervisor Kowall replied it is yet to be determined and whom will set the millage rate is also still to be determined.

Trustee Powell indicated it will costs our residents a lot less to opt out of the RTA and just fund W.O.T.A. Supervisor Kowall again indicated that details are yet to be worked out, but the general conversation/idea is that the three communities are the funding mechanism right now. There is a potential for funds to come back to the Townships, but again, nothing is set in stone there is still too much indecision.

It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Trustee Smith to Approve the First Amended Interlocal Agreement Transportation Services with the addition of Waterford Township as an additional participant and to include the Interlocal Agreement dated revised November 19, 2019, and allow the Supervisor to sign. The MOTION PASSED by voice vote (7 yes votes).

ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Voorheis to adjourn. The MOTION PASSED by voice vote (7 yes votes).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 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 November 26, 2019 special board meeting minutes.



Terry Lilley; Clerk
White Lake Township
Oakland County, Michigan