

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE

Approved Minutes of the Board of Trustees Special Meeting

May 3, 2012

Supervisor Baroni called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Lilley called the roll:

Present: Gregory Baroni, Supervisor
Terry Lilley, Clerk
Forrest J. Brendel, Treasurer
Todd Birkle, Trustee
Carol Burkard, Trustee
David Lewsley, Trustee
Mike Powell, Trustee

Also Present: Greg Need, Attorney
Amy Bertin, Recording Secretary

Supervisor Baroni added Call to the Public to the current Agenda.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tom Macinnes, 631 Ranveen, White Lake, Michigan. He introduced himself to the Board. He would like to hear the discussion involving the millage language and will make further comments later if necessary.

OLD BUSINESS

A. FIRST READING, ORDINANCE NO. 58, CLEARZONING

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Lewsley, **SUPPORTED** by Clerk Lilley to move to Second Reading, Ordinance No. 58, Clearzoning. The **MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote (7 yes votes).

NEW BUSINESS

A. POLICE AND FIRE MILLAGES

Clerk Lilley stated the Board members were provided with projections based on the elected official's best estimate of what it would take to maintain the current level of staffing and services that the citizens enjoy. For the best interests of the citizens, it is critical to pass the three millages.

Trustee Burkard has gone over the projections. It was her feeling as a citizen and a voter and person sitting on the Township Board that at this time she is not for increasing any millage in White Lake Township. She has no problem with numbers one or two as a renewal. Her problem is with number three. She received information that the Township has approximately \$6.5 million available in the O4M fund. Legal opinions were given as to what that money can be used for. At this time, unless new information is brought out, that is her opinion.

Trustee Birkle also is in favor of one and two. He can't support the increase called for in number three. The fire budget needs to be looked at, possibly restructuring it a bit. The O4M fund balance in fire is enormous. In years following, the interest earned will go into the fire fund so that will help offset any shortfall. To pull a little bit out of the fund balance won't hurt. The Board needs to be creative before they go and ask the taxpayers for more money. He also will not be supporting number three.

Clerk Lilley reminded his fellow Board members that we are facing a critical time right now. Even though they have had sufficient funds in the O4 millage, the Chief has not wanted to spend the money and it was the choice of the Board not to buy additional equipment. Now we are faced with the fact that in the next five years we are going to have to spend a sufficient amount of money to replace worn and outdated equipment.

Chief Maltese stated that it is important to recognize that the projected figures received from the accounting department took into account revenue that has been coming into the township such as state revenue sharing and personal property taxes. It is a fact that those revenues are going down. It is also important to remember that the Board made the decision for the fire department to only go for a two year millage. It is expensive to buy new equipment. Most of the money that comes in to the fund currently goes to pay for eight firefighters. There is only about \$250,000 left over to continue going into the capital equipment fund. Once you start using it for operations, it is not going to take very long for it to diminish. It is important for the voters to look at the two renewals and let the voters decide. If they don't want to vote for the millage increase, then we'll be forced to take alternate measures.

Treasurer Brendel agreed that the fire engines are going to have to be replaced soon. Three engines and two rescue trucks could cost as much as two million dollars. Out of your \$6.5 million you've already used two. The fund won't go as far as you think.

Trustee Burkard reiterated the fact that in this economy, passing the renewals is fine but don't ask for more money. Everybody in this economy has to tighten their belts.

Trustee Lewsley stated it is apparent that there is no controversy over the two renewals. The major debate is over the fire millage increase. The increase is being requested in order to maintain the level of services presently being provided. According to the data the Board has been provided, with no increases in pay, with the renewals only, without having the .5 mill

increase, and with flat budgets, you're going to run a deficit of \$177,000 in 2012; \$289,000 in 2013; and \$385,000 in 2014. The fire fund is going to be in the hole by 2013 without this increase. It should be put to the voters to give them the opportunity to make the decision.

Clerk Lilley reminded the Board that the vote tonight is not a vote of whether the Board supports the millage or doesn't. This vote is to give the residents of the community an opportunity to vote and make a choice.

Chief Harris pointed out that it is important to maintain credibility with the public. They voted for the 04 millage funds with the idea that the money would be used for equipment. It hasn't been used yet but that is what the money is in reserve for.

It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Trustee Lewsley to place all three Fire and Police Millage proposals on the ballot. The MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN.

It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Treasurer Brendel to approve the First Operating Millage Renewal with 65% of the revenue allocated to the Police Department and 35% of the revenue allocated to the Fire Department. The MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote (Lewsley-yes/Birkle-yes/Powell-yes/Burkard-yes/Brendel-yes/Lilley-yes/Baroni-yes).

It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Trustee Birkle to approve the Fire Millage Renewal. The MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote (Lewsley-yes/Birkle-yes/Powell-yes/Burkard-yes/Brendel-yes/Lilley-yes/Baroni-yes).

Trustee Powell came tonight with the intention of voting no on the question of increasing the Fire Millage. He questioned how much the shortfall would be if the millage were not increased and the projected capital outlay through 2014. If no spending proposals were changed, there would be a \$1.5 million equity in the O4M Fund. The question is whether or not to pass the decision on to the people of the township.

It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Treasurer Brendel to approve the Fire Millage Increase. The MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote (Lewsley-yes/Birkle-no/Powell-yes/Burkard-no/Brendel-yes/Lilley-yes/Baroni-yes).

B. PARKS & REC MILLAGE RENEWAL

It was MOVED by Trustee Birkle, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to add to the Agenda the Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (7 yes votes).

It was MOVED by Trustee Lewsley, SUPPORTED by Clerk Lilley to approve adding the language "Renewal" to the Parks and Recreation Millage. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (7 yes votes).

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Lilley, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Lewsley to approve placing the Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal on the ballot. The **MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote (Lewsley-yes/Birkle-yes/Powell-yes/Burkard-yes/Brendel-yes/Lilley-yes/Baroni-yes).

FYI

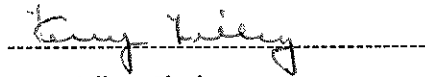
A. CELL TOWER

ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Brendel, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Birkle to adjourn the special meeting. The **MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote (7 yes votes).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 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 May 3, 2012 special board meeting minutes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terry Lilley", is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Terry Lilley, Clerk
White Lake Township
Oakland County, Michigan