

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE

Approved Minutes of the Special Board of Trustees Meeting

February 24, 2011

Supervisor Baroni called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Lilley called the roll:

Present: Gregory Baroni, Supervisor
Terry Lilley, Clerk
Forrest Jay Brendel, Treasurer
Carol Burkard, Trustee
Mike Powell, Trustee
Todd Birkle, Trustee

Also Present: Amy Bertin, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Trustee Birkle stated that the Planning Commission, in going through the Master Plan process, asked the residents to complete a detailed on line survey. The number two item of concern was ordinance enforcement. He would like to see some discussion with code enforcement and public education on what is and isn't acceptable.

It was MOVED by Trustee Birkle, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell, to add to the Agenda discussion of the storm water permit. The MOTION was withdrawn.

It was discussed among the Board members the proper procedure to add an item to the Agenda during a Special Meeting.

Clerk Lilley stated that Mr. Dunn was to supply the Board with information regarding the cost of being involved in a class action lawsuit. Until this day, Mr. Dunn still has not provided in writing his charges for involving White Lake in this process. The situation is understood but he is not willing to write a blank check.

Trustee Birkle felt it was important for White Lake to get involved with the Class Action lawsuit. To go through the permit process could cost the Township between \$8,000 to \$11,000.

Trustee Burkard mentioned there is a Representative and Senator in Lansing that represents us. If we are illegally being permitted in White Lake Township, there is no reason why some Board members could not go to Lansing and meet with them. They could help us with this before we go into litigation.

Trustee Powell stated it is the interpretation of the DNRE that is actually doing this, not the legislative. The legislature would actually have to write new law in order to counter what the DNRE is doing. It is unfair to ask an attorney to put a cap on or tell us what it is going to cost to defend White Lake Township. That stipulation has not been put on any other lawsuit.

It was MOVED by Trustee Birkle, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to approve adding to the March 15, 2011 Regular Township Board Meeting Agenda an Executive Session meeting to discuss the storm water permit issue. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (6 yes votes).

Supervisor Baroni called Mr. David Lewsley forward to proceed with the interview process for the White Lake Township Trustee position. The process will be a brief introduction of the candidate followed by interview questions by each of the Board members.

Mr. David Lewsley thanked the Board for inviting him in for an interview today. He is here today because township government is faced with some real serious challenges. There is eroding revenue due to tax collections being down, property values are declining, new residences aren't being built, revenue sharing has all but been eliminated, and we've got a governor who is talking about pressuring township government and municipalities to share services. At the same time citizens expect certain core services to be provided by the township such as public safety, sewer, water, senior citizen services, parks and rec. Notwithstanding all the financial pressures the township is under, it can't permit itself to start slipping back because it doesn't want to spend money. You have to continue to modernize equipment, develop infrastructure, and keep up with technology. There are going to be difficult decisions to make.

He's been an attorney for 30 years, held a number of high level managerial positions in the auto and insurance industry, been involved in government affairs, collective bargaining, served on the Township Planning Commission for 14 years. He's decided to offer himself as a candidate because this is an opportunity to pick up the level of his public service from the Planning Commission to that of Trustee. He's participated in several cycles of master plan updates, a complete zoning ordinance revision, countless rezoning requests, dozens of residential development and commercial site plans. For further information on past jobs and accomplishments, the Board has his resume and he'd be happy to answer any questions and fill in any details.

In response to a question addressed to Mr. Lewsley regarding how he would handle favoritism and personal gain issues, he stated that township officials should never have personal gain as a result of their service. There is always a certain degree of favoritism within any organization but it is not something that should be permitted for influence of important appointments, placements or assignments. He is very willing to give up his position on the Planning Commission in lieu of Mr. Birkle. From a public citizen point of view, improvements the Board could make are focusing on improving services, technology and becoming more efficient. He considers White Lake a very special place because there are so many public lands and parks and recreation. It has a small town feel with urban esthetics. There have only been one or two commercial developments he has actually voted against. He feels his function as Trustee would be to balance the resources and allocate them to where they can best be spent. He would be willing and expect to fill the role in a secondary appointment. He does have

intentions to run again for the position at the end of this appointment.

Rick Kowall was called next to be interviewed by the Board. He has been conducting business with the Township for many years. His business has been located in the Waterford/White Lake area since 1974. He's been at the helm of that business since 1988. He's been a member of this community since probably the late '70s. He has been involved with his brother and family in trying to support the library and different functions within the Township. He has taken an interest in the community simply because he has been living here so long and it is a precious asset. There is an opportunity to grow and bring financial benefit to the community by increasing our commercial base. By having a mixed community, we can continue the quaintness that we have and preserve our history but not at the cost of our future. He'd like to try to be part of the solution to the problems besieging all governments.

In response to a question posed to him, Mr. Kowall stated he tries to resolve conflict by trying to realistically work it out, weighing the situation. You have to be a team player, although there are times you have to make a hard decision. Currently, as a resident, he thinks the Township Board is doing a great job. Each of the current Board members have brought their own unique qualities which have contributed to the Township getting where it is today. He can bring to the Board communication with the general public, getting the average citizen involved in the community and participate in its destiny. His vision of White Lake Township is to have balance. Growth is needed to increase the tax base, possibly a high tech park bringing in higher paying jobs. He feels the most important job function of a Trustee is fiduciary duty, being responsible to the citizens and accountable for your actions, making difficult decisions. He feels, given his current work situation, he could devote enough time to the Trustee position. He would be willing to serve on a subcommittee, possibly the senior area or parks and rec.

Clerk Lilley stated another candidate, Mr. Pierson, previously notified the Board of his vacation and will not be here tonight to fill the 5:00 slot. He would like to enter in the official approved Board Minutes of January 20, 2011 of Bill's previous interview before the Board which will speak for itself in his absence.

"Mr. William Pierson thanked the Board for inviting him in and selecting him as a candidate. He's been a township resident for 27 years. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Central Michigan University. He followed that up with law school and has been practicing law for 30 years. Nine of those years were with a large law firm. He then went out on his own for nine years. For the last 12 years he's been with Oakland County as corporate counsel. In his capacity there, the kind of cases he's handled that would apply to this job include such things as municipal liability and governmental immunity, police liability, drain and sewer issues, labor and employment issues. He is a member of the Oakland County Bar Association, in that capacity serving on the Municipal Law Committee and the Legislative Committee.

Some issues he thought might apply to the supervisor's job would be maintaining and balancing the residential quality of life in White Lake versus the need for incoming business and a tax base. He believes the residential quality of White Lake is the most important asset, preserving the lakes and recreational areas. Strong police, fire and emergency services are important. Expansions of water and sewer services to areas of the township

that don't currently get served are important. Keeping a strong work force of township employees is important. It will be a challenge to deal with decreased revenue and budgeting in a difficulty economy.

His style or philosophy of leadership, a good leader is only as good as the people who are under him. He is a big advocate of the team concept. It is important to meet with other elected officials, department heads, and employees regularly. He feels televising board meetings is a great idea. One of his prime goals would be to establish a good relationship between the township offices and the employees. The one disadvantage to selecting him as supervisor is that he has never held this type of job so there would be a learning curve. Also, he wouldn't be able to start the job until March 1st as he will be out of the country for most of February and he needs to wind down his job at the county. In terms of the advantages, he is willing to dedicate all his time to learning the job. He has no hidden agenda. He doesn't owe anybody anything. He is not a politician. He doesn't have a plan or intent to seek higher office. As an attorney, he has high ethical standards and would maintain those in this job.

One last statement, more as a township citizen than as an applicant for the job, he believes this job should be filled by an appointment by the board that already exists. With all due respect to Mr. Powell, he supports Mr. Baroni for the appointment. He originally expressed interest in the trustee job and still has interest in it. He would be interested in the supervisor's job if the deadlock can't be broken. He also believes this should not go to a special election. Between the two board members who have expressed interest and the outside people who will be interviewed, there are competent people to appoint. To go to a special election would be a waste of township funds. As a citizen he would rather not see that happen.

In response to questions addressed to Mr. Pierson by the Board, he feels pleased about the current growth of the community. The businesses being brought into the community are good ones. He has not had previous experience with management and budgeting nor has he chaired a board. His vision of the role of supervisor is one of an overseer and representative of the township to the public, someone that knows the current issues and is a leader of the Township Hall. He has had some experience, through his current practice of law, with grievance and union work. He would consider himself, in terms of a party affiliation, a moderate republican."

Trustee Burkard would like to speak for Mr. Pierson as he is not present due to the fact he won't be back from his vacation until February 25th. Three Board members felt strongly that Mr. Pierson, with his municipal experience and his job at the county, his expertise for White Lake Township was incredible. At one point, three Board members were strong supporters of Mr. Pierson to be Treasurer. In another vote, three were strong supporters of Mr. Pierson to be the supervisor. So three and three are six, and that means six of us at one time all felt that Mr. Pierson would be the best choice to be on our Board.

It was MOVED by Trustee Burkard, SUPPORTED by Clerk Lilley, to nominate Bill Pierson as Trustee for White Lake Township. The MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote (Burkard-yes/Birkle-no/Powell-no/Brendel-no/Lilley-yes/Baroni-yes).

It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Treasurer Brendel, to nominate David Lewsley as Trustee for White Lake Township. The MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote (Burkard-yes/Birkle-yes/Powell-yes/Brendel-yes/Lilley-yes/Baroni-yes).

Clerk Lilley would like to recognize Rick Kowall for his community involvement and expertise and consider him in the future to serve on one of our committees.

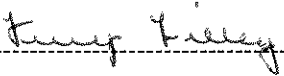
Supervisor Baroni thanked all the people that applied for the position of Trustee. The resumes on everybody's behalf were very impressive. He congratulated Mr. Lewsley on his appointment.

ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED by Trustee Brendel, SUPPORTED by Trustee Burkard to adjourn the meeting. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (6 yes votes).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 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 February 24, 2011 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