

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
Approved Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
March 16, 2021

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Noble called the roll:

Present: Rik Kowall, Supervisor – present in White Lake, MI
Anthony L. Noble, Clerk – present in White Lake, MI
Mike Roman, Treasurer – present in White Lake, MI
Liz Smith, Trustee – present in White Lake, MI
Andrea C. Voorheis, present – located in White Lake, MI
Michael Powell, Trustee – present in White Lake, MI

Absent: Scott Ruggles

Also Present: Aaron Potter, DPS Director
Sean O'Neil, Planning Director
Trish Pergament, Administrative Assistant
Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner
Lisa Hamameh, Attorney
Jennifer Edens, Recording Secretary

AGENDA

Supervisor Kowall added item 9H to the Agenda.

- Request to Approve Third Year Salary for Deputy Treasurer Position

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessica Salden, 10701 Oxbow Heights Drive. She is new to the area as of September 2020. She moved from the Grosse Pointe area, which had sidewalks and a downtown walkable shopping area. She loves White Lake, but it is different. She is seeking sidewalk improvements from her neighborhood. She is calling tonight as she recently listened to the Parks & Rec video on YouTube and she wants to share her support of Stanley Park and Triangle Trail. She is looking forward to it and believes it is so valuable to be able to bike ride. She understands the limited real estate, but she supports sidewalks in the community and a walkable retail development.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. REVENUE AND EXPENSE
- B. CHECK DISBURSEMENTS
- C. BUDGET AMENDMENT
- D. DEPARTMENT REPORTS
 - 1. POLICE
 - 2. FIRE
 - 3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
 - 4. TREASURER
- E. APPOINTMENTS
 - 1. SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL
 - 2. PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENT AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – ALTERNATE

Treasurer Roman noted that there has been some confusion regarding protocol and what can or cannot be discussed and timing of discussion on consent items. He knows that Trustee Smith wishes to discuss opportunities for the public to get involved.

It was MOVED by Trustee Smith, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to pull out of the Consent Agenda Item E2. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/no, Noble/no, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Supervisor Kowall to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

Supervisor Kowall indicated that the Parks & Rec Committee reappointment and Zoning Board of Appeals are positions that are authorized by the Supervisor's Office through the MTA guidelines and operations throughout the Township. He further indicated that they are generally available to persons who have an interest and can add benefit to the community. It is generally members who have lived in the community for some period of time and individuals who are new to the community that may have an area of expertise that can add to the benefit of the community. Those decisions are solely the decisions of the Supervisor, the Supervisor's Office and are put forward by recommendations through a variety of departments. The individuals that are responsible for the direction of those committees and the assembly of those committees will make recommendations to the Supervisor's Office if indeed the Supervisor is not familiar with those individuals and then it is brought forward to the Board either under discussion, like tonight, or under Consent Agenda.

Trustee Smith indicated for correction purposes that per MTA the only appointment that the Supervisor's Office has sole discretion or authority over is the Planning Commission and not Parks & Rec or Zoned ZBA. Trustee Smith continued that she is approached all the time by residents who express a desire to get

involved with the community, but not in an elected capacity. She would like to discuss policy and noted that according to the MTA, this is the appropriate time to do so. She hopes that moving forward more opportunities are opened up to the public and that more residents can get involved. She is thankful for those that have served on other committees but feels that the same people are reappointed over and over. Trustee Smith clarified that she is not in any way objecting to these appointments but would like to take the opportunity because there is not necessarily a need to appoint a ZBA alternate as there is a current active alternate. Her goal is to have it opened up to the public, get candidates, and give more residents an opportunity to apply and get involved. She would like to see a selection of residents to plug in and serve in the community. She would also like if moving forward a policy where the public is made more aware of opportunities where they can get involved.

Supervisor Kowall interjected that the Township does put it out there on a variety of different medias when things are available and base it on applicants.

Trustee Smith again, reiterated that the Township does not have a policy on it. She would like it on a future agenda to discuss a policy of opening up these positions to a broader scope of residents as there are several people serving on multiple boards. She noted that the Parks & Rec Bylaws indicate that there can be nine members and currently there are only six serving. She would love to see three more people added to this.

Clerk Noble indicated that Human Resources Manager Cathy Derocher's position, is outlined to be a policy maker and that this is something she could investigate.

Trustee Powell supported the motions for a couple of reasons. He indicated that Supervisor Kowall has reminded the Board a number of times that consent agenda items cannot be discussed unless the item is pulled-off. He specifically wanted it removed to discuss this topic and appointments. He asked Supervisor Kowall to identify what advertisements are put out to select members.

Supervisor Kowall responded that it is put out through the committees that exist and on the website. He noted that a cross-section of persons in the committee have always been welcomed. He reminded that there have been committee members that are new to the area. He indicated that the Township tries to make it known and that it will try and broadcast as necessary utilizing the Township's social media platforms. He will review the policy, but it is still his understanding as it has been throughout the entire history of the Township, that these appointments are reviewed and approved by the Supervisor's Office from recommendations received by the various departments. He stands on that as precedent. He confirmed that he will have Human Resources Manager Cathy Derocher who is approved by this Board to approve policy to investigate this matter.

Trustee Smith thanked Supervisor Kowall for another chance to get the residents involved. She would like Supervisor Kowall to double check his facts with MTA.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowal, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Voorheis to approve the appointment of Merrie Carlock to the Parks & Recreation Committee and Kathleen Aseltyne to the Board of Appeals Alternate Committee. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

MINUTES

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JOINT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING WITH PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 10, 2021**
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 16, 2021**
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JOINT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING WITH CIVIC CENTER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 22, 2021**
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JOINT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING WITH CIVIC CENTER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

Trustee Smith confirmed with Clerk Noble that the corrections submitted were made and that the versions here are as of 5:30 p.m. this date.

Clerk Noble confirmed with Trustee Powell that the corrections were made to his standards. He also indicated that Deputy Clerk Santiago is working on Trustee Smith's corrections as they speak.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by Treasurer Roman to approve the Minutes of the Joint Special Board Meeting with Parks & Recreation Committee, February 10, 2021, to approve the Regular Board Meeting, February 16, 2021, to approve the Minutes of the Joint Special Board Meeting with the Civic Center Development Committee, February 22, 2021, and to approve the Minutes of the Joint Special Board Meeting with Civic Center Development Committee, February 23, 2021. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Trustee Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Trustee Powell/yes).

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. HEARING TO CONFIRM THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE TWIN LAKES VILLAGE ROAD PAVING IMPROVEMENTS SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by Treasurer Roman to open the Public Hearing to Confirm the Assessment Roll for the Twin Lakes Village Road Paving Improvements Special Assessment District. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

Natalie Deleo, 9150 Huron Bluffs Drive. She thanked the Board for doing this for the community and the subdivision. She is in the business of finance and she understands that this is somewhat unusual to do something like this. She thanked everyone for their time to accommodate the Twin Lakes Village Subdivision.

Mathew Kobliska, 280 View Drive. He thanked the Board for putting in the hard work that was necessary to get this to this point. He believes the roads are at the point of coming due and knows it will only get more expensive with time. He is very much in support of this and notes that it will only increase the home values and general living conditions of the neighborhood.

Amy Turunen, 9020 Huron Bluffs Drive. She appreciates all the work that the committee has done. She noted that it is a sizable amount that is being assessed at almost \$2 million. She is unclear if three bids were provided or if it was just one company that the Twin Lakes Board approved.

Supervisor Kowall reminded that this is public comment. However, he noted that generally there are multiple bids done, but that the company selected is one of the best.

Amy Turunen continued that the other half of the subdivision was repaved, and her opinion is that the roads aren't all that great after approximately five years. She wants to make sure that in spending this money it will look just as good five years down the road.

Attorney Hamameh reminded that this is the public hearing to confirm the special assessment roll and that anyone who wishes to object to the assessment, this is where they do that, or they will lose their opportunity to appeal it in the future.

Denise Debenedetti 9060 Huron Bluffs Drive. While she appreciates the efforts in putting together the home improvement program, from a homeowner's perspective, she has lived in White Lake for less than two years and her property taxes are over \$12,000 a year. She doesn't see that the roads are in that bad of a condition nor does she want to add another \$1,000 a year to her property taxes. She doesn't see the value of it and feels that the taxes are already very high and certainly opposes them increasing anymore.

Amy Turunen, 9020 Huron Bluffs Drive. She agrees with her neighbor that just spoke and encouraged her to file an objection with the Board as the taxes are outrageous and she doesn't know that this is the year; after coming off a pandemic, to do it.

Jim Smith, 9681 Steep Hollow Drive. He agrees with the last two callers. He believes the way this was pushed through his neighborhood, and that with COVID there was no ability to get everybody together to discuss this in a public forum, that it was pushed through in a strange way. He does not see a big problem with the roads and notes that most of the people he knows are saying the same thing, yet it has somehow it has gone through.

Clerk Noble acknowledged and read into the record a letter received from parcel #Y-12-23-427-001.

To whom it may concern:

As the owner of parcel ID noted above, this letter is to inform you that I object to the special assessment roll for all the costs for said road improvements filed in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Sincerely, Dina Gustafson

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Smith to close the Public Hearing to Confirm the Assessment Roll for the Twin Lakes Village Road Paving Improvements Special Assessment District. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

Trustee Powell indicated that by Supervisor Kowall making the motions it does not give anyone else an opportunity.

Supervisor Kowall indicated he is moving the public hearings along, and in other motions he has had to prompt Board members to move for matters.

B. HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT ON A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT TO DEVELOP STANLEY PARK; ADDRESS 10785 ELIZABETH LAKE ROAD – PARCEL #12-27-100-14

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Smith to open the Public Hearing to receive input on a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to Develop Stanley Park; Address 10785 Elizabeth Lake Road – Parcel #12-27-100-14 (formerly known as Brendel Campground). The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Powell/yes, Noble/yes, Voorheis/yes).

Steve Woodard, 953 Schulyer – Lakewood Village. He voiced his support for the grant application and commended the Parks & Rec Committee for doing a robust job presenting the options and gathering input. He feels that via Trustee Powell and Trustee Smith that the voices of Lakewood Village have been heard. He feels that the plan is solid, and he looks forward to the plan going forward on the map. He noted that at the last meeting it was stated that the paving goes all the way down to the wetland area near the beach. He has concern about the amount of runoff into the lake. He believes Kathleen Aseltyne has been vocal on that and he would ask that the Board listen to her as she is an expert in the area. He noted that the comment will come back when there is public hearing on the Civic Center Development as that area effects Brendel Lake.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Smith to close the Public Hearing to receive input on a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to Develop Stanley Park; Address 10785 Elizabeth Lake Road – Parcel #12-27-100-14 (formerly known as Brendel Campground). The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Powell/yes, Noble/yes, Voorheis/yes).

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION #21-012; TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO APPROVE BID FROM I.T. RIGHT FOR NEW SERVERS

Trish Pergament indicated that not too long ago I.T. RIGHT identified that the servers are aging out and that they would like to pull the Township's email into the cloud, which would help in protecting against

cyberattacks. She invited I.T. RIGHT to speak on the servers as the technical experts and why they think it needs to be done now along with the costs. Present from I.T. RIGHT are Ken Young and Tom Conway.

Tom Conway indicated that the average life expectancy of hardware is four to five years, and that they like to budget around four years so that between five and six years there aren't a lot of failures. He shared that in the last six months the Chinese Government has been very active, as seen in the news; and it included the on-premise email server hack that happened a few weeks ago. The hack did not affect the cloud, it only affected on premise servers. It was zero-day threat that was determined to not do anything out of the gate but did affect all the servers on premise. He continued that within two days I.T. RIGHT had everything patched and monitored.

He shared is screen the Board to assist in what the quote plans for. Currently there are seven servers with individual large programs running on each one. I.T. RIGHT proposes rather than buying seven individual servers and replicate what the Township has now, to buy two individual servers that would host all the applications that currently are running six servers (mail removed to the cloud). It would be less expensive and gives redundancy. For example, if one server goes down a program can be run on another server. All the servers would be backed up to the cloud as it is now. In short, they are proposing replacing six physical servers with two physical host and creating virtual servers within those and to upgrade the database software to the 2019 version for BSNA.

Supervisor Kowall confirmed that this would put the Township in a better protected state and allow the Township to function at a higher speed.

Ken Young shared that it provides more security as the Township has server 2012 and server 2012 part two on its operating system, which are starting to age out. He indicated that the way this project is quoted provides some flexibility. He reminded of the ability to bring programs from one host server to another, which will limit the downtime. He stated that is not automatic redundancy, but back up redundancy.

Treasurer Roman reminded of the problems his department had with computers locking up and asked on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest amount of RAM available, where these new servers fall. To which Mr. Young responded a 7 or 8. Treasurer Roman followed up asking if it would make any sense to get more RAM.

Mr. Young clarified that the problems the Treasurer's Department was experiencing is software that is run on county equipment through the internet on county servers.

Tom Conway indicated that there are 196 GB of RAM in the quote and that it would not increase it that much to increase it to 256 GB.

Trustee Smith indicated that she does not have issue with the equipment, or the plan proposed to upgrade the server. However, she would like to talk about the quote as she rough estimates that it is approximately \$8,000 too high. She believes two servers should cost approximately \$5,500 based on the serial numbers and a google search. She feels that I.T. RIGHT has increased the cost by 35% to 40% and that they are gouging the Township on the costs of the certificates and licenses. She declared that because the

Township must use I.T. RIGHT, that they have the Township over a barrel right now. She is in favor of upgrading the system as she is familiar with the equipment, the server, and what they are talking about, but she is not comfortable with this quote. She thinks \$20,000 sounds much more reasonable. She encouraged her colleagues to google the equipment in the quote and see the price difference for themselves. She wants to continue to make this work but feels that the costs need to be in a normal range. She is familiar with this technology and feels this bid is too high.

Tom Conway responded that they purchase through distributors that only sell new equipment and Ken Young indicated that the cheaper googled priced server comes bareboned. Mr. Conway indicated that they could go back and look at the cost but noted that they must make something on the hardware. He also indicated they can change processors and internal parts to reduce costs, but Microsoft holds them over a barrel as well. He indicated that I.T. RIGHT would not force the Township to buy from them. If the Township bought from another company, they simply ask that they be able to review the quotes to make sure the parts that are being used will support BSNA six virtual servers and provide the Township with the efficiency that it is looking for. They are okay with the Township buying from someone else.

Trustee Smith clarified that no one is unhappy with I.T. RIGHT, but she hopes that negotiations could happen to get this number down.

Supervisor Kowall indicated that he does not feel that the I.T. RIGHT is holding the Township hostage. In fact, there has been an increase in service. He continued that the Board is just trying to keep the cost down as much as possible. He understands it is not cheap and there are operational costs and he appreciates Trustee Smith being mindful as to what the numbers are as this Board takes that very seriously. He would like I.T. RIGHT to look at this, but he would also like to move forward with it as the Township is literally sitting on a ticking timebomb. He would like to see this move forward with a not to exceed \$25,000.

Clerk Noble shared that since he has been with the Township there have been email issues with the server being overloaded. A friend of his, who is an expert in the field indicated it would cost \$75,000 to replace it. He wants to be fiscally responsible but believes this needs to be addressed. He personally has experienced lost emails. He does not personally find the bid to be excessive.

Tom Conway indicated that the number one issue their helpdesk deals with daily is on premise exchange servers. They have a lot of issues and are known for it. He further stated that they would review the quote tomorrow morning and get back to Administrative Assistant Trish Pergament so that they can move forward.

Supervisor Kowall interjected that he wants to move forward with a not to exceed. He does not want to delay this. He wants the quote revisited, but he would like to entertain a motion from the Board.

Trustee Smith asked if the quote includes a warranty. To which, Mr. Conway indicated it includes a three-year warranty on all servers. He further reminded that his technicians carry parts on their trucks and/or could get them next day if a need to order arises.

Clerk Noble shared that Nick from the Building Department has tablets that they use in the field. That it was an innovative way to get away from the antiquated pen and paper, but they are not able to use it without a new server. He thinks it is important that we get this fixed. He commends Nick for coming up with solutions, but with the building season coming up, this needs to be expedited.

Trustee Smith does not disagree that the Township needs this equipment and she is happy with the level of service that I.T. RIGHT will give, but she doesn't believe the Township needs to pay top dollar. She further stated that she wouldn't be doing her job as a trustee, especially during COVID times, if she didn't advocate for less expense.

Supervisor Kowall opined that unfortunately Trustee Smith doesn't use the technology on a regular basis, but he does appreciate her concern.

He declared Trustee Smith out of order for speaking out of turn.

Trustee Smith indicated she was speaking and was interrupted. She further stated that she wants to be clear that nobody is objecting to moving forward tonight, but she does not believe the Township needs to pay top dollar. She is confident that Mr. Conway can work on the numbers and come back to the Board.

Treasurer Roman indicated that I.T. RIGHT has really been trying to help the Treasurer's Department and figure out why their computers are freezing up. He thanked them for trying to figure it out and shared that they provided two top of the line desktops and he doesn't believe the Township was charged for them. There is value in that, and he doesn't believe that I.T. RIGHT has ever overcharged the Township.

Administrative Assistant Trish Pergament asked of Mr. Conway if the life of the server quoted was any lengthier. To which he responded no. However, with Microsoft or the cloud, it may result in not needing to replace servers but rather move a lot of the load to the cloud. He indicated that there it would become an operating expense instead of a capital expenditure.

Administrative Assistant Trish Pergament further asked if anything else could be moved to the cloud to reduce expense. Mr. Conway responded not at this time. It is a viable option in a few years as BSA is beta testing cloud hosting. Right now, the cloud cannot host due to video capabilities.

Director Aaron Potter commented that the Water Department has been housing GIS since 2017 in the cloud. His operators can access information from their cellphone equipped laptops on the site. He declared that it works great for them and that I.T. RIGHT did a very nice job moving his department over to the annex.

Treasurer Roman would like to see more RAM thrown in.

Trustee Powell asked how long until I.T. RIGHT presents that the police and fire department need something like this. To which Ken Young indicated that the police department had a recent server project about a year or two ago and the fire department runs all their apps through the county and uses file shares

on the Township's domain. Lastly, he shared that the police department was updated on September 26, 2019.

It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to approve the bid from I.T. RIGHT for new servers, not to exceed the quote amount \$27,191.23, to be reviewed and to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract through Resolution #21-012. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

B. REQUEST TO APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWIN LAKES VILLAGE AND THE TOWNSHIP FOR TWIN LAKES VILLAGE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ROAD PAVING IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Treasurer Roman shared that this S.A.D. is a bit of an unusual situation as the Homeowners Association wanted to pay for thirteen lots, to kick in money for their shares of the improvements. The president of the association received power to sign the agreement on behalf of the Association, which promises to pay \$114,122.19 to the Township for its contribution to the S.A.D. He further indicated that the Township has already received that money. He made a correction to the agreement that corrects the spelling of the presidents last name to read Kushnereit.

Trustee Powell clarified that the Township's role is strictly fiscal. He further indicated that the Township's engineer did not design the improvements and that the Township did not go out for bids for this project. He confirmed his understanding that this is solely the decision of the Association and the Township is not responsible for any production, construction, inspection or any guarantees.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to approve the Agreement between Twin Lakes Village and the Township for Twin lakes Village Contribution to the Road Paving Improvement Special Assessment District, and to authorize the Supervisor to sign. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

C. RESOLUTION #21-009; CONFIRMING TWIN LAKES VILLAGE ROAD PAVING IMPROVEMENTS SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL

Treasurer Roman stated that the total assessment roll comes to \$1,150,000.53 against 131 parcels. The Association contributed \$114,122.19. The Resolution at hand today would confirm the roll of the 131 parcels.

Trustee Powell, directed to Attorney Hamameh, stated that there were objections made tonight to the project itself, but not to the assessments.

Attorney Hamameh indicated that individuals objected to their personal assessment. She also indicated that generally the individuals that oppose it are listed in the Resolution. Those individuals that objected to the S.A.D. should be tracked for the record. She confirmed with Eric McGlothlin that it was sufficient for

individuals who object to the amount of the assessment in public comment being record in the meeting minutes.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Clerk Noble to approve Resolution 21-009; Confirming Twin Lakes Village Road Paving Improvements Special Assessment Roll. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

D. RESOLUTION #21-008; TO APPROVE THE STANLEY PARK LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION AND MATCHING FUNDS COMMITMENT

It was MOVED by Trustee Smith, SUPPORTED by Trustee Voorheis to approve Resolution #21-008; to approve the Stanley Park Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application and Matching Funds Commitment. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Smith/yes).

E. RESOLUTION #21-007 TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM LAKEWOOD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION FOR GOOSE NEST/EGG ROUND UP FOR LAKE NEVA – 2021-2026

It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, SUPPORTED by Trustee Voorheis to approve Resolution #21-007; request from Lakewood Village Association for Goose Nest/Egg Round Up for Lake Neva – 2021-2026. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

F. RESOLUTION #21-010; DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE (COVID-19)

Supervisor Kowall indicated this allows the Township and the Board to conduct remote meetings through August 31, 2021 due to COVID. He further stated that certain actions by the state, COVID, and limited capacity restrictions would put in person meetings in jeopardy of violation of the Open Meetings Act. He stated it is with some reluctance that he requests this be approved to conduct Township business as it has been for the last year. He opined that this is not how the Township wants to do things, but it is a necessary tool.

Trustee Powell stated that the Board is caught between an Open Meetings Act and this declaration of emergency and the Township can't win. This is the only solution short of cancelling meetings last minute. He is in full support of this. He asked of Attorney Hamameh if it would be possible to have a face-to-face meeting, and if a 26th person (over capacity) could be directed to another room that was online and the Township held a combination online/in-person meeting.

Attorney Hamameh indicated it would be a logistical nightmare. However, there is discussion amongst municipal attorneys regarding this and they are referring to such a meeting as hybrid meeting. There are communities that wish to have their boards physically present and require the public to participate remotely. The Open Meetings Act clearly prohibits it if a portion of the board is present. She doesn't see a hinderance if the public appears in person and remotely, as long as there is an ability for all of the public to

attend in person. She thinks, as a direct answer to Trustee Powell's question that it would be a problem because you would be excluding someone from a public meeting. The key is a quorum of the Board.

Trustee Smith commented and complimented her colleagues as they have been virtual for nearly a year and she believes they are all doing a great job and that they have come a long way.

It was MOVED by Trustee Powell, SUPPORTED by Trustee Smith to approve Resolution #21-010; Declaring a Local State of Emergency to Protect the Public Peace, Health, Safety, and General Welfare (COVID-19). The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

G. RESOLUTION #21-011; TO APPROVE 2021 DUST CONTROL PROGRAM WITH OAKLAND COUNTY

Clerk Noble indicated there will be five application at a cost of \$16,917.41.

It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, SUPPORTED by Trustee Voorheis to approve Resolution #21-011; to approve 2021 Dust Control Program with Oakland County. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Smith/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

H. Request to Approve Third Year Salary for Deputy Treasurer Position

Treasurer Roman shared that Deputy Treasurer Lisa Reaser announced her retirement after twenty years of service. He opined that she is one of the most well-respected tax persons in Oakland County. He gave his best wishes and thanks to her for everything she has done for the Treasurer's Office and the residents of the White Lake Township.

In a search for her replacement, he sought a candidate with a very specific skillset, who has extensive experience with spreadsheets, general ledger, tax, and assessment software. All of which are used to balance and keep the tax roll in place. The lead candidate has the skillset and is interested in joining White Lake Township. This person has ten-years' experience in another treasurer's office within Oakland County. The position was designed with a step-up scale, one through four, but he doesn't think that applies unless you are hiring an entry level person. He would like to offer the position to this candidate at the current third-year base wage figure of \$66,469, which is comparable to their current salary.

Trustee Powell confirmed that after one year, the candidate would jump to the fourth-year level. He further asked what the proposed vacation quantity would be for this candidate.

Treasurer Roman indicated that new employees get 2-3 days for the first six months and thereafter it jumps to 10 days.

Trustee Powell would like the Board to consider changing that, as 2-3 days for a family person doesn't make sense to him, especially these days. He believes there should be at least three weeks of vacation time after six months.

Treasurer Roman agrees and thinks it is time to sit down a review the salary structure for the Township.

Supervisor Kowall stated that these issues will be addressed in the future. He continued that a deputy position is essentially an appointed position that could be either career with longevity or a career that is only four years. He does not like the way it is set up at the Township and knows that it needs to be looked at in its entirety. He has had conversations with Cathy Derocher regarding the same.

Trustee Powell indicated that private time or family time means more to him than money and he wants Township staff to be able to experience that same thing, as much as possible.

Clerk Noble thanked Deputy Treasurer Lisa Reaser for being such a hard worker and noted how hard she will be to replace. He continued that statutorily under MCL 41.77 indicates shall. He shared that it is a very difficult task to replace people like Lisa and Bill Bullard, and he concurs on the salary so that Treasurer Roman can obtain the candidate. He too reminded that the position can be over in four years, if the Clerk or Treasurer are not re-elected. He would like the deputies brought up to par and shared that his deputy comes with thirty-two years of experience. He observed during tax season how hard Treasurer Roman and his staff worked.

Trustee Smith indicated that she is happy that Treasurer Roman found a quality person to depend on.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Clerk Noble to approve the Deputy Treasurer Position at a third year starting salary of \$66,469. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Voorheis/yes, Roman/yes, Powell/yes, Noble/yes, Smith/yes).

OLD BUSINESS

A. SECOND READING; FEE ORDINANCE – WATER & SEWER SYSTEM (REVISED LAYOUT)

Attorney Hamameh clarified for the record that the Board considered this at first reading, a notice of consideration was published in accordance with the statute. The Board considered this at second reading already, but the one they considered at second reading and approved needed to be cleaned up due to a change made at the meeting. Therefore, the Township did not publish the notice of adoption and considered it not adopted, which is why the Board is looking at the second reading again. The redlines are not changing substance, merely cleaning it up so that it is clear. If this is approved, then a notice of adoption will be published and then it will be effective.

It was MOVED by Trustee Powell, SUPPORTED by Treasurer Roman to approve the White Lake Township Ordinance #129 Fee Ordinance – Water & Sewer System revised layout update as presented. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Smith/yes, Roman/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

Supervisor Kowall shared as an FYI that as the Board knows, the Dublin Community Center has been closed due to the pandemic. He is working with Director Kathy Gordinear and Program Developer Carol

Kehoe to come up with a soft start, safe start program. They feel that the socialization of the seniors is very important and that there is a need for hope and a sense of normalcy to the seniors. The Senior Advisory Council met on March 1, 2021. There is concern about moving things forward and for the safety of the seniors. He assured that the Township will do whatever it can to move forward as soon as and as safely as possible in accordance with the law.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Voorheis thanked the Board for all its support regarding Stanley Park. She congratulated Merrie Carlock as she has achieved 15 years as a Parks & Rec liaison. She closed with be safe and be happy!

Trustee Smith shared that the Library is still in Phase III per the Executive Order, which includes light browsing, in person reference assistance, computer availability by appointment, 24-hour Wi-Fi in the parking lot, curbside service continues, virtual and take-home programs and drive-up returns. The Board is still meeting virtually, and all information can be found on the library's website.

The VFW Post 4156 is hosting a St. Patrick's Day dinner from 4- 7 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day. The price is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for children. She encouraged people to support them and noted that St. Pat's fish fry is back as well.

It is Women's History month and she enjoys making history with Trustee Voorheis. She hopes that they make predecessors and successor proud and she is pleased to have the opportunity to work here.

She seconded Trustee Powell's comments and would very much like for other Board members to make motions as it is appropriate for the Board to make motions. She noted that it is sometimes appropriate for the Supervisor to make motions, but it is a great flow if the Board can have an opportunity to have discussion and make motions when ready rather than moving so quickly with the Supervisor making motions.

She celebrated hats off to everyone for their hard work! She complimented committee members and Parks & Rec on getting the grant process going. She congratulates and thanks everyone and wishes safety to everyone on St. Patty's Day.

Trustee Powell thanked his colleagues for their professionalism and insight. He was impressed with Trustee Smith with her expertise in computers and appreciated her bringing it up tonight. He suggested that when there are professional recommendations and they are supplying the recommendation, hardware, and production, perhaps administration could get an independent professional review of that to bring to the Board to ensure there isn't any additional items to be added to the quote.

He thanked Mr. Steve Woodard from Lakewood Village for his hard work. He did a lot to smooth out the relationship between the Lakewood Village residents and the Parks & Rec Committee. He thanked the fulltime staff and noted without them this Board would be in a world of hurt.

Treasurer Roman thanked Jeanine Smith for her hard work on the Twin Lakes Road S.A.D. He thanked all the residents for tuning in and staying in touch with the Township. He thanked Lisa Reaser again for twenty years of great service and wished her a happy retirement.

Clerk Noble thanked Lisa Reaser for twenty-years of dedicated service to White Lake Township. He thanked the Board for all their hard work and for working together to tackle the issues before them. He wished safety to everyone.

Supervisor Kowall thanked everyone for their passion and commitment for the community. He noted that we may have our difference, but we have a common goal – One team, one fight. Thank you for your passion, service, and commitment. He thanked the residents of White lake Township and wished a good night and God bless.

It was MOVED by Trustee Voorheis, SUPPORTED by Trustee Smith to adjourn. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Powell/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Noble/yes).

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

I, Anthony L. Noble, 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 March 16, 2021 regular board meeting minutes.



Anthony L. Noble, Clerk
White Lake Township
Oakland County, Michigan