

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
Approved Minutes of the Special Board of Trustees Meeting
April 15, 2021

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Oscoda, MI
Anthony L. Noble, Clerk – present in White Lake, MI
Mike Roman, Treasurer – present in White Lake, MI
Andrea C. Voorheis, present in White Lake, MI
Michael Powell, Trustee – present in White Lake, MI
Liz Smith, Trustee – connected late

Absent: Scott Ruggles

Also Present: Sean O'Neil, Planning Director
Jennifer Edens, Recording Secretary

AGENDA

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, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

DISCUSSION REGARDING FEDERAL GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Supervisor Kowall informed the Board that the government is handing out money for a variety of different things and it is his ongoing quest to pursue grants as he has in the past and will continue to do so. He further shared that right now the Township has an opportunity to work with Congresswoman Haley Stevens who will in turn provide the Township with the opportunity to communicate with Washington directly. He referred to Director Sean O'Neil to discuss the grant opportunity that is before the Board tonight that would grant approximately \$1.6 million if the Township comes up with \$400,000 for infrastructure, sidewalks, improvement to the civic center downtown area.

Sean O'Neil indicated that before the Board is an opportunity to apply for a Service Transportation Block Grant. The Township provided three different project options to Congresswoman Stevens and the project before the Board is the one selected by her office to move forward for funding through the Appropriations Committee. The Township learned of this selection on Monday at about 4:00 p.m.

Tonight, the Board will consider a resolution that supports this request and commits the Township to the 20% match. The maximum to be awarded for a project is \$2 million with a \$400,000 - 20% match.

It would be \$400,000 of Township funds and \$1.6 million federal government funds for all the road work and pathway work needed on Elizabeth Lake Road for the conceptual plan that has been discussed for the future civic center area. Director O'Neil opined that this has been a long term need for property that is not owned by the Township and that had no funding source. He thanked and acknowledge those that worked on pulling the necessary documents together.

In addition to the Resolution #21-016, which was drafted in very limited time with very little information, he will be providing letters of support from elected officials, the publisher of the spinal column, the conceptual layout that shows the road improvements in concept, and a construction cost estimate from the engineer. He noted that this is due tomorrow by 4:00 p.m.

Trustee Powell questioned how far up and down Elizabeth Lake Road this would go or be used.

Supervisor Kowall replied that it would be used in the civic center area. He further stated that there is a little bit of lateral movement in this and that it could not have come at a better time, noting there are no guarantees that the Township will get it.

Trustee Powell asked of Treasurer Roman if a budget amendment would be necessary to pull the \$400,000.

Treasurer Roman replied that this will need to be figured out and that the Improvement Revolving Fund has over \$3 million in it. He thinks that this will be a learn as we go process and that if there is money out there, why not White Lake.

Sean O'Neil identified for the Board's knowledge the three projects requested were this project, triangle trail, and construction of municipal buildings. The grant applications were filled out approximately four weeks again and the response was received late in the day on Monday.

Trustee Powell reminded that Supervisor Kowall has been criticized in the past by members of the public for doing exactly this and he thinks that this Board has totally supported him. He agrees if there is money there to get, it belongs in White Lake rather than somewhere else.

Sean O'Neil requested that the motion include language that allows flexibility in the even that further information becomes available that is not included in the Resolution. If further information is ascertained that would help support the application, it would be beneficial to include in the Resolution. He suggests a subject to Supervisor's approval and the Clerk signing a timeframe to allow to submit additional information. He clarified that the funding wouldn't change in the modification of the Resolution.

It was MOVED by Trustee Powell, SUPPORTED by Trustee Smith to approve Resolution #21-016, to support the funding of White Lake Township Civic Center, otherwise known as Main Street Road, sidewalk construction project, authorizing the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer to make modifications as necessary to meet the requirements of the application. Further to grant the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer to sign necessary documents. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

Supervisor Kowall indicated that there may be other opportunities that they are watching out for as he will continue to seek funds that may be available. He indicated there are projects on the books and that it was a plus that this project was labeled a shovel ready project.

Clerk Noble thanked Sean and Justin (Staff Planner Justin Quagliata) for taking the bull by the horns. They were under the gun to get the documents out and he wanted to acknowledge their hard work.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 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 April 15, 2021 special board meeting minutes.



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