

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE**  
**Approved Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**September 21, 2021**

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 – White Lake, MI  
                 Mike Roman, Treasurer – White Lake, MI  
                 Anthony L. Noble, Clerk – White Lake, MI  
                 Scott Ruggles, Trustee, White Lake, MI  
                 Liz Smith, Trustee – White Lake, MI  
                 Andrea C. Voorheis, Trustee – White Lake, MI  
                 Michael Powell, Trustee – White Lake, MI

Also Present:  Daniel T. Keller, Police Chief  
                 Catherine Derocher, Human Resource Manager  
                 Sean O'Neil, Director (Planning)  
                 Nick Spencer, Building Official  
                 Patricia Pergament, Administrative Assistant  
                 Jeanine Smith, Assessor  
                 Lisa Hamameh, Attorney  
                 Jennifer Edens, Recording Secretary

Trustee Smith asked for a moment of silence in honor of former Oakland County Clerk William Caddell who passed away in August.

Moment of silence observed.

#### **AGENDA**

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. REVENUE AND EXPENSES**
- B. CHECK DISBURSEMENTS**
- C. LIST OF BILLS**
- D. DEPARTMENT REPORT – POLICE**

- E. DEPARTMENT REPORT – FIRE**
- F. DEPARTMENT REPORT – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
- G. DEPARTMENT REPORT – TREASURER**

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

#### **MINUTES**

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR BOARD MEETING, JULY 20, 2021**
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, JULY 29, 2021**

Trustee Powell suggested in the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2021 that on Page 23 at the end of the first line, that it should end in a question mark rather than a period.

Both Clerk Noble and Supervisor Kowall view that line as a statement, not a question.

Trustee Powell corrected that on Page 24, second to last paragraph from the bottom, the word should be epithetic, not emphatic.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by, Trustee Powell to approve both sets of minutes with the changes identified by Trustee Powell. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. DANGEROUS BUILDING SHOW CAUSE HEARING – 9910 HIGHLAND ROAD**

Supervisor Kowall noted the Board is in possession of a Memorandum from Building Official Nick Spencer regarding this. Supervisor Kowall further indicated that he would like to confirm that the resurrection of this building can be done and that it will meet the approval of the Building Official.

Official Nick Spencer reminded that Mr. Steven Hutch was given three months to put together a proposal including building plans in hopes of not going forward with the Hearing Officer's Dangerous Building Recommendation which was demolition. He has received a full set of professionally prepared building plans and he is very pleased with what he has received. He shared that it contains a very comprehensive proposal of all the trades and work to be completed. It also included the recommendation of the structural engineer. He believes it is enough to move this project forward. He pointed out that this matter has been before the Township before and if approved, he wants to make sure this project moves forward timely. He further noted that a project that does not commence within six months, by Michigan Building Code, the building permit is null and void. He believes the property owner's intention is to move forward with this as they have now put a lot of work into it. Official Spencer now leaves it up to the Board to determine if they wish to change the decision of the Hearing Officer.



Trustee Voorheis asked of Official Spencer if he will follow up with this project. To which he noted he passes by this property if not daily, every other day, and he will see if progress is being made.

Treasurer Roman asked of Official Spencer how the exterior of the house is now. To which he noted there is a brick facade that is in very good shape and that the roof structure will be removed and replaced as part of the proposal as it looks horrible.

Treasurer Roman further asked if there is a timeline for the roof.

Official Spencer defers to Mr. Hutch or his brother Michael Hutch, who has taken on the general contractor role. He further noted they will need to order trusses, which could take six weeks minimum to arrive.

Michael Hutch indicated the goal is to have the home tightened up before the bad weather hits, understanding the possible delay with the trusses. He further shared that there is plenty of work that needs to be done prior to the trusses. He also indicated that they may order materials and place them in storage in anticipation of shortages. Their goal is to complete the trusses, sheathing, shingles, windows and doors before November's bad weather. He hopes that the Board will be understanding in their efforts working with contractors. He will stay in communication with Official Spencer and keep him apprised of their work and efforts.

Mr. Hutch further shared that his brother, Steven is currently maintaining two households at this time. Completing the project sooner rather than later only helps his situation. He further shared that there are enough funds available that he does not have to seek fulltime employment during the time the home is being built and that he will oversee the process.

Treasurer Roman asked if a roofing contractor has been chosen. To which, Mr. Hutch indicated that they have carpenters lined up and that they intend to do the shingles themselves to save approximately \$10,000 towards other items.

Supervisor Kowall indicated that since Official Spencer feels relatively comfortable with this and the fact that Mr. Hutch has agreed in front of the Board and on the record to keep in tight contact with Mr. Spencer, he recommends that the Board accept Official Spencer's recommendation and consider the issuance of a permit for them to begin work expeditiously.

**It was MOVED by Trustee Powell, SUPPORTED by, Trustee Ruggles that the Township Board modify the Dangerous Building Hearing Officer's Decision and allow the home to be repaired as long as the homeowner shows progress towards the end result being completed within eight months and that the Board receive a report from Building Official Spencer as he sees necessary to keep the Board informed. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes, Ruggles/yes, Noble/yes, Smith/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes).**

Mr. Hutch asked of the Board regarding delays in obtaining materials that are out of their control and the necessity to ask for an extension as to how he would go about that process. To which, Supervisor Kowall



indicated he would need to reach out to Official Spencer in a timely fashion, not the eleventh hour, for Official Spencer to bring it to the Board's attention.

**B. RESOLUTION #21-031; TENTATIVELY DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS COLEDALE BAY AQUATIC WEED CONTROL AND LAKE IMPROVEMENT**

Assessor Jeanine Smith indicated that this is a five-year renewal for an ongoing assessment for weed control in Coledale Bay.

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** by, Clerk Noble to approve Resolution #21-031; for the Intention to Establish the Renewal for the Coledale Bay S.A.D. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes).

**C. PUBLIC HEARING – TO DETERMINE TO UNDERTAKE AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TO PAY COSTS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, APPROVING THE PLANS AND ESTIMATES OF COST THEREFOR- COLEDALE BAY AQUATIC WEED CONTROL AND LAKE IMPROVEMENT**

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by, Trustee Ruggles to open the Public Hearing regarding Resolution #21-032 to undertake an improvement project and to establish and maintain a special assessment district for Coledale aquatic weed control. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

Brandon Moore, 747 Ramsey. He shared that he assisted in getting the signatures for the Assessment.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by, Treasurer Roman to close the Public Hearing regarding Resolution #21-032 to undertake an improvement project and to establish and maintain a special assessment district for Coledale aquatic weed control. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Kowall/yes, Powell/yes, Ruggles/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes).

**D. RESOLUTION #21-032; DETERMINING TO UNDERTAKE AN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TO PAY COSTS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, APPROVING THE PLANS AND ESTIMATES OF COST THEREFOR – COLEDALE BAY AQUATIC WEED CONTROL AND LAKE IMPROVEMENT**

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** by, Trustee Ruggles to approve Resolution #21-032 to establish the district for the Coledale Bay Special Assessment District. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Powell/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Kowall/yes, Noble/yes).

Trustee Powell as a point of interest stated that the public hearing for the assessment role will be set for next month and he invites all the residents to attend said meeting.



**E. RESOLUTION #21-030; TO REFUND THE BALANCE OF FUNDS COLLECTED ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT KNOWN AS COOLEY LAKE IMPROVEMENT**

Assessor Jeanine Smith indicated that the residents in this are also in Commerce Township and that a five-year assessment was done. In early summer she had residents identify that they wanted to continue this, but that she never heard back from them. She was contacted by the individual who originally created this, and he felt that the balance of funds should be refunded as they only originally planned on this for the five years and did not intend to continue it after that. She noted that she was told five years ago that it was their intention. She further stated that there is quite a bit of money that was never spent by the people for this S.A.D. and it needs to be refunded.

**It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, SUPPORTED by, Trustee Voorheis to approve Resolution #21-030; to refund the balance of funds collected on Special Assessment District known as Cooley Lake Improvement. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).**

**F. RESOLUTION #21-034; EXTENSION TO COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE #C2016-015(A) – 4 CORNERS SQUARE FLATS**

Supervisor Kowall noted before the Board is Mr. Alkhafaji's massive development to the south end of the Township. It has been moving forward and has been successful with the Taco Bell and tenant building. This exemption requested is only for an extension of the seven-year exemption he was granted by this Board and the taxing authorities, for the apartment building and vacant parcel on the corner. He gives Mr. Alkhafaji credit for his resilience. He believes that the Board should take into consideration the exorbitant costs and what he has gone through as a result of this delay. He believes this development is a huge improvement.

Clerk Noble indicated that with COVID, construction supply chain is experiencing delays. He noted he and Trustee Ruggles have personally experienced delays in materials. He believes that Shakir Alkhafaji took a chance with White Lake Township on a development that others would not touch with a ten-foot pole. He understands that with apartment financing you must have to have 60% or more to get the refinancing. He would guess that Mr. Alkhafaji is in the millions with overages. He reminds the Board to consider the 16-17 months of delays that have set Mr. Alkhafaji behind. He encouraged the Board to help this business owner who took a change on White Lake Township when nobody else would.

Trustee Powell questioned and would like discussion on the following:

1. Why now? Since there is over two-years left in the current agreement.
2. Why three years instead of one or two additional years?

Supervisor Kowall noted that it takes them to the maximum ten-year under the legislation of PA 210.

Paul Bohn, attorney for Mr. Alkhafaji, agrees with the comments made regarding what COVID did to the construction industry. He reminded that these abatements are based on a level of investment and that there is no question that the level of investment has been made and exceeded. The jobs to be created are



tracking appropriately, but COVID has set everything back. He continued that it unlike the relief you might get from rent or PPE loans, none of that was available for someone with a construction mortgage loan. This project kicked off in 2016 and this Board generously approved in December of 2016 an abatement that would begin the following year. He explained that commercial construction is not like a home, which might have a twenty-year mortgage that is amortized over twenty-years. Commercial notes are amortized differently in duration and in this instance four to five years. They are up against a refinancing clock and this additional abatement will allow them to demonstrate to a lender that they can more than likely meet their debt service coverage, which is the amount of money they need to generate from the property in order to cover those debts, to pay the mortgage and to pay vendors. He declared that the good news is that Tim Horton's and Taco Bell are no longer struggling.

Mr. Bohn indicated they are asking for the necessary amount to convince a lender to stay with them as Mr. Alkhafaji has stayed with the Township.

Trustee Smith recalls that the abatement was approved in 2016 based on the plume. She believes the abatement then was requested because of the plume, not building cost or an investment into the Township. She has concerns about the precedent this will set with other businesses in the community.

Trustee Powell would be disappointed in this applicant if he didn't come back and ask for more even if it wasn't needed, because from a business standpoint it only makes sense. He is concerned that there is no proof, that the accountant/Treasurer has not looked at it, and that words are very easy to say and documentation to prove it means more. He notes that he doesn't want this applicant to go under, but at the same time if he is making money then the Township should not be giving up the taxes on it. He personally would like this tabled until some verification of the request is presented.

Trustee Powell further asked of the in-house officials what the costs are to White Lake Township if this is extended. He further questions if abated are the taxes for the fire department, police department, library, schools, county, and OCC abated or is just for the Township.

Treasurer Roman indicated that the taxes paid on the apartment right now are approximately \$53,000 per year, which is made up of the State Education Tax and School Operating Tax. He furthered that what is abated in the summer is the county operated; ISD, OCC, and Walled Lake School debt. The value of this abatement per year is saving Four Corners approximately \$34,000 per year. The winter tax, which is paid to White Lake Township is for its own millages, the general millage, police, fire, and library which adds up to approximately \$25,000 per year.

Treasurer Roman thanked Mr. Alkhafaji for doing this, for this beautiful project, and for taking on all that he did. However, he was apprehensive to give seven years in the beginning. He sees builders and businesses struggling now with the economy and he is on the fence right now as there are two and half years of abatement left on the project.

Paul Bohn responded that the difference is being an operating business and that many of them successfully obtained PPE loans to gap the pain, or homeowners who were able to obtain mortgage forbearance, and renters who were able to seek relief. There was no such relief available here. He shared



that in March of 2020 they were shut down by an indefinite cause that the government said cease work, or it would be criminal, yet there was still debt service. He believes this is the exception to the rule. This additional grace will help them achieve refinancing and allow for them to achieve the envision they had hoped for. Their concern is that the apartment absorption won't be met and possibly another owner won't be the same kind of owner as Mr. Alkhafaji, and maybe the next owner won't have the same passion for getting the corner lot moved forward. He does not believe this would be a precedent of favoring one business over another.

Supervisor Kowall noted that the PA 210 is a process in itself which is for rehabilitation. It is not available to every business in the community. There must be an extenuating circumstance, which is why this was granted to begin with due to the ground contamination and the building on the corner. He further noted that the ground contamination ended up being far more than originally thought.

Trustee Ruggles asked Mr. Bohn if he was indicating that if the Board didn't pass this that the property would be sold and there would soon be another owner. To which Mr. Bohn responded that he is indicating that is one of the outcomes that sometimes occurs when financing can't be restructured. He believes what they are asking for will help. It is the first part of a building block for restructuring. He is not presenting ultimatums, but he notes that he is involved with other cities/townships where they are turning back projects. He doesn't want to come back to White Lake to have that argument.

Trustee Ruggles is conflicted, yet sympathetic to what they have gone through, as he too has experienced delays, cost overruns with a project he has going on. However, he and every other business owner in the Township would not be able to request a three-year extension. He stated that everyone went through COVID, but no one else can request a three-year abatement. He is very conflicted on how to decide on this issue.

Assessor Jeanine Smith commented and reminded that they did not ask for an extension on all the buildings. She furthered that the state has a deadline at the end of October and if the Township does not get it to the state by then, it will not be heard for year as they only do these once a year.

Trustee Ruggles commented that they would still have two and half years left. To which Mr. Bohn indicated they do not have two and half years to refinance. They are packaging to a lender saying here is what we think we can generate in revenue, here is what the operating costs will be, and here is what we think we will do in debt service. All of that will factor into forming an increase in a tax burden which would happen in a five-year cycle that would happen if this were to uncap and effect the proforma. He also noted that rents are still uncertain. He declared that they are staying in this with the understanding that the virus will roll back, and business will continue to function. It would be meaningful to go to the lender and say that the Township believes this will be successful.

Shakir Alkhafaji thanked the Board and noted that no one could have foreseen what was coming with COVID. Many of his friends have left big projects because of cost overrun. He declared that they took a risk here as big as he could take at that time. He stated that they were betting on White Lake that this project will be a catalyst for others to come into White Lake and invest. They did not want to abandon this project. He stated that COVID has hit them in so many ways. He has here tonight Leslie, who can speak



to leasing of the apartments with hesitation due to interior corridors. He also indicated that the cost overrun has forced them to charge more money per unit. He has Bernie Ronnisch here tonight to speak of where they were and where they ended up.

Bernie Ronnisch stated that COVID shut down the project for a month. When momentum stops, it is disastrous to a project to try and get back inline again. On top of COVID there has been a 20% - 40% material costs increase, which could be blamed on several things. Additionally, they have experienced labor shortages. He has been on this project since late 2016 and noted that there was a good budget set for this project, around \$16,000,000. He and Mr. Alkhafaji just went through the current numbers and it adds up to \$20,000,000. He further shared that they had subcontractors willing to risk lawsuit and walk. He shared that Mr. Alkhafaji took funds out of his pocket to keep them working and motivated. There were forty trades involved in this project and not one of them stayed the same as they did in 2018.

Clerk Noble clarified with Assessor Smith that they were able to obtain the original abatement because of the hazardous waste soil that had to be hauled out of the site.

Assessor Smith responded that Clerk Noble is correct to a certain degree. She further stated that a district had to be created, which is bigger than the actual project. It stated that the Township said there was mitigating circumstances why it wanted the project. It wasn't just the contamination; it was also that the buildings needed to be replaced that allowed the Township to create a district for rehabilitation.

Clerk Noble asked of the applicant what the number of apartments they must rent to get to the 60% and get refinanced. He further asked if the abatement is granted will they be able to lower the rent on said apartments to achieve the needed rentals.

Leslie Etterbeek stated that they are trying their best to rent the apartments. They are currently at 38% leased. They have kept their rent at the high number as the bank demanded. Their goal was to be at 80%, but with everything that has happened that was not achieved. They are trying everything possible to get there.

Trustee Powell stated he would be more inclined to give a one-year extension tonight or to table it all together. He further stated that normally it is the government that says something and asks it be believed. Here, he would much prefer a financing proforma as not a shred of documentation has been submitted to allow for verification. He would feel better for the full three-year extension if a refinancing proforma was produced, so that the Board knows what they are asking for and that the requested refinancing needs this requested three years. He is a no right now, as he is not convinced.

Trustee Smith cannot consciously support this in fairness to the other businesses in the Township. She declared that this project was slow moving even before COVID hit. She agrees with Trustees Powell and Ruggles, that they are sympathetic as many of the Board members are business owners. She recalls in 2016 it was a stretch for the Board to go seven years then. She hears now that they are asking for a three-year abatement for a one-month shut down during COVID. She is uncomfortable with mixing the reasons. She reminds that this was requested due to the contamination in the plume and now it is being morphed



into being requested due to COVID. She would support tabling this tonight and to receiving more information otherwise she will be a no vote tonight.

Treasurer Roman stated that it has been heard that due to cost overruns they are charging more rent. He shared that the smartest guy he ever met was a tool and dye owner, who when the recession hit and his competitors increased prices, he reduced prices, which in turn filled his shop with work and he survived. Treasurer Roman's advise would be to lower the rent and fill up the units. Further, he believes when the original abatement was granted that there was specific language that stated no extension of this abatement would be given.

Attorney Hamameh confirmed that was an actual statement added to the draft resolution when it was approved. It specifically says that no extensions shall be granted. She thinks it was added because at the time the request was being made, the applicant was asking for ten years. The recommendation of staff before the Township Board was five years. She believes at that time during discussion at the Township meeting the Board agreed to move it up to seven but added the sentence to the Resolution that stated no extension shall be granted. She is not saying that the Board can't reconsider based on changed circumstance. However, she would want information included in the Resolution that clearly outlines why the Board is reversing its decision.

Treasurer Roman agrees that it would be best to table this matter until absolute proof is received that in order to improve Mr. Alkhafaji's financial situation he needs the abatement.

Trustee Voorheis thanked Leslie for the information. She does question why now when they have two and half years. She agrees with her fellow Board members to table the matter.

Clerk Noble agrees with Trustee Powell in that he doesn't see a downside of extending it for one year with the financials coming back. At this point, the Resolution is drafted, it would give flexibility to come back. He confirmed with Mr. Alkhafaji that he could provide documentation within the year. Clerk Noble has spoken to an apartment complex that is in seventeen states, and he believes if he can secure the financing and come back and provide the numbers, he believes that makes the most logical sense. He doesn't want to hurt him as a business owner. He would like to caution on the conservative side and sees no harm in giving him one year.

Shakir Alkhafaji asked if he could submit his financials under seal. To which Attorney Hamameh indicated that anything submitted to the Township is public information. Mr. Alkhafaji indicates he is fine with submitting financials to the Board but is hesitant to have it available for the whole world to see. He believes it could negatively affect the project.

Trustee Hamameh suggested, if the Board would be satisfied, that a summary could be provided. She believes what is lacking is the real substance, the financial strain and the circumstance why Mr. Alkhafaji is asking for it.

Supervisor Kowall noted that anything submitted is available to the public by way of a F.O.I.A. request.

Trustee Powell is not worried about their cost overrun as this occurs all the time. He furthered that they made a representation that they need this for refinancing, and he needs to know that it is the truth. He further shared that everyone of his clients would love to have this. He noted that he needs documentation.

Mr. Alkhafaji asked if he could provide a letter from the Fifth Third Bank who have financed the project indicating what the debt service ratio is and how they can help him with the abatement.

Trustee Powell followed up that for him, the letter would need to say on their letterhead that they will not refinance this project unless the Township does this.

Clerk Noble asked if it is possible to get such a letter. To which Mr. Alkhafaji responded that he believes so as that is what they told him.

Trustee Smith indicated that the hesitation to provide documentation to the Township, makes her leery. She clarified that the Board is now taking on two issues. She agrees with Treasurer Roman that the Board voted in 2016 to not extend this and therefore she is not in favor of the extension. Separately it is being discussed that they need this for refinancing, and the Board would like documentation for that.

Treasurer Roman asked Mr. Alkhafaji is he would have an objection to him speaking with his bankers. To which he does not. Treasurer Roman asked that he be put in contact with the banker in hopes that he can obtain what the Board is looking for. He would be in favor of tabling this for now.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to table this issue, 8F – Resolution #21-034 and 8G – Resolution #21-035, until the next meeting in October. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).**

**G. RESOLUTION #21-035; EXTENSION TO PART OF A COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE #C2016-015 – 4 CORNERS SQUARE LLC**

Tabled.

**H. REQUEST FOR PAY INCREASE FOR CROSSING GUARDS**

Chief Keller noted that currently crossing guards are making \$13.50 an hour. He would like to increase it to \$14.00 immediately, \$14.50 in school year 2022, and \$15.00 in school year 2023.

Trustee Powell is curious how Chief Keller came to these dollar amounts. He questioned why they couldn't start at \$15 an hour and go up from there.

Chief Keller is good with that, he just didn't want to over ask.

Supervisor Kowall is glad Trustee Powell brought that up as he agrees, with the labor market the way it is. He thinks the Board should give consideration for starting at \$15 with incremental increases.



Trustee Smith agrees this is an important job and shared that Walled Lake had a student hit while crossing in recent weeks. She feels it is very important to have quality people in these positions and that they are paid well. She clarified with Trustee Powell what increases he proposes moving forward. To which he stated \$15 an hour with \$0.50 increases each year.

Chief Keller clarified he would like to start the \$15 immediately and increases at the school year, not yearend.

**It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, SUPPORTED by, Trustee Smith to approve the request for pay increase for crossing guards, starting this school year at \$15.00 per hour, \$15.50 for school year 2022, and \$16.00 per hour for school year 2023. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).**

#### **I. REQUEST TO PURCHASE TASERS**

Chief Keller indicated the current tasers were purchased in 2014 which a five-year shelf life. He noted they are starting to breakdown with more frequency. He would like to purchase Taser 7's. He noted there are two cost comparisons in the proposal; one for certification bundle and the other for a basic plan. He is requesting the certification bundle as it adds taser cartridges, training suit, hook and loop training cartridges, and in the end, it saves approximately \$800 each year. This is a five-year plan that would cost yearly \$5,500.01 for a total of \$27,500.04.

Treasurer Roman asked out of curiosity how many times the current tasers have been used in seven years. To which Chief Keller indicated they have had seven deployments in the last four years. He reminded it is not the deployments that are important, rather the understanding of what they are capable of.

Chief Keller in response to Treasurer Roman, indicated they will turn in the old tasers for a credit.

Trustee Powell asked if this would come out of budgeted funds. To which Chief Keller indicated the first year will come out of their training fund as there has not been much training due to COVID. Thereafter it will come out of the equipment acquisition.

Trustee Powell further confirmed that officer training is within this budget. To which Chief Keller indicated they have inhouse training, which results in the need for additional cartridges.

Trustee Powell questioned if training would now be overtime hours. To which Chief Keller indicated they have set time for training during regular working hours and without overtime.

**It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, SUPPORTED by, Treasurer Roman to approve the Police Department's request to purchase the Taser 7 Certification Bundle in an amount of \$27,500.04. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Noble/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes, Roman/yes Kowall/yes, Ruggles/yes).**



**J. PLANNED DEVELOPMENT WAIVER REQUEST FOR MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE, VACANT  
PARCEL #12-36-176-002**

Director O'Neil indicated that Douglas Boehm has applied to develop the property on Union Lake Road across from the Lakepoint Project. He shared his screen to reference its location. He noted it is a difficult size to develop not only because of its size of 8.37 acres, but it is very rectangular. Currently it is zoned local business. He believes that everyone can agree that the use is more appropriate for the traffic in this area. He further noted it is consistent with the Master Plan and the request if for use for an assisted living facility with approximately sixty beds. He shared his screen displaying the Planned Development. He thinks the use is appropriate for this parcel as did the Planning Commission on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The Planning Commission made a recommendation to this Board that the waiver of request be approved for planned development on this parcel. It is 8.37 acres in size and the Master Plan designation is planned neighborhood which yields a density of eight to ten units per acre.

He encouraged the applicant to have a traffic study done to show the reduction that this type of use would allow for compared to it being zoned local business. Again, this is for waiver of minimum parcel size which is Article 3.11.X. He reminded that by approving a waiver request is in no way approving a site plan.

Trustee Powell is a major fan of PD's regardless of size if in fact the Board agrees there is a reason for it. He believes they are a win, win for the owner and Township because it gives flexibility in design of the site. He noted as currently zoned he could put it in there but would have to appear before the ZBA, as it would break every requirement in the Zoning Ordinance for that size building on that site. He questions what public benefit the applicant represents for this to be a PD.

Director O'Neil does not believe local business allows for an assisted living facility. He reminded that this only allows the applicant to move forward and make the site plan that will have to be submitted. If this moves ahead tonight, they will submit a site plan and, in a few months, it will appear before the Board to identify the recognizable public benefit that will offset the impact to the community.

Trustee Powell asks that the applicant to consider, as so far on many developments, he is not convinced that the public benefit is a Township benefit, but more of a developer benefit; and he doesn't see in the preliminary plan any tie to surrounding developments that need this site for fire protection, emergency egress, passing lanes that was put off on the adjacent parcels as the Township still had this one to rely on. He opined that this is a massive building fronted on Union Lake Road and that there will need to be creative architectural features in order to not look institutional. He will vote for this, but the next step will be a hard sell to him.

Director O'Neil shared that the applicant has been in contact with Mr. Finary of the two adjacent properties as he has been advised that the Township is going to be fairly direct in its demand for traffic improvements that may involve the future right of way of his property. The applicant has also been advised of the desire for utility connections, looping, and reciprocal access. He believes these to projects could mutually benefit by work together.



Douglas Boehm noted that he shared a PowerPoint with the Planning Commission in August and offered to share it with the Board tonight.

Director O'Neil suggested that Mr. Boehm email the PowerPoint to him and he will in turn will share it with the Board.

**It was MOVED by Trustee Powell, SUPPORTED by, Clerk Noble to grant the Planned Development Waiver as requested to a minimum parcel size for parcel 12-36-176-002, to allow for a development on this site to meet the needs of a normal planned development zoning district. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes)**

#### **K. RESOLUTION #21-029; 2022-2027 – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Director O'Neil noted that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on September 2, 2021 at which time they unanimously adopted the 2022-2027 CIP. The plan is now before the Board now for consideration of its acceptance. A draft resolution, #21-029, as well as the draft Planning Commission Minutes have been presented to the Board.

He further noted that the CIP is a six-year schedule of public physical improvements which identifies the need of major public infrastructure improvements and the sources of funding to make said improvements. It provides a scheduled expenditure for constructing, maintaining, upgrading and/or replacing the communities physical inventory. The CIP is a tool for assessing the long-term capital improvements for the Township. It is required by the Michigan Planning and Enabling Act of 2008. He noted that the Township uses a \$25,000 threshold for projects found within this plan. He thanked everyone for their hard work on this and especially Justin Quagliata for his work.

Supervisor Kowall summarized that this is the community wish list.

Trustee Powell complimented Director O'Neil and his staff. He noted that prior to Director O'Neil taking this over he was hired out. He believes the Planning staff has done a remarkable job.

**It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, SUPPORTED by, Trustee Powell to approve Resolution #21-029; 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Plan. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).**

#### **L. REQUEST TO APPROVE AGREEMENT FROM WALLED LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR SUMMER TAX COLLECTION – 2022-2026**

Treasurer Roman noted that the summer tax bill is school related and that the Township does not get to keep any of those monies. The Township does bill the school districts for mailing out the tax bill, assessing work, collecting money and disbursing. The last negotiation took place five years ago with Commerce Township, Highland, and Milford school districts. He stated that each treasurer would put together an analysis of their cost structures. They would begin with Huron Valley schools and then move to the other



districts. In the last five years there has been a large change in personnel. After speaking with the Commerce Township Treasurer, they went to the schools in hopes of extending at the current rate for another five years and avoid the negotiations. He is asking tonight to extend the contracts for five more years at the same rate per parcel at \$5.40 and allow the supervisor to sign those agreements.

He noted a change in the Agreement in paragraph three to read \$5.40 per parcel, not for all parcels.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by, Clerk Noble to approve the Agreement provided with the correction of per parcel instead of all parcels, and to allow the Supervisor to sign the amended Agreement and to allow the Supervisor to sign contracts with the identical rate with the other four local school districts.. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes).**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. SECOND READING; OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY – TRESPASSING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 26-88**

Chief Keller noted this is simply to updating to be consistent with state law.

Attorney Hamameh noted this went to first reading last month and is up for adoption tonight.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by, Trustee Powell to approve Second Reading of the change to Trespassing Ordinance. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Kowall/yes).**

##### **B. REQUEST TO APPROVE DLZ ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSALS FOR DRINKING WATER REVOLVING FUND – ASPEN MEADOWS IRON FILTRATION PLANT AND HURON VALLEY SCHOOLS BOGIE LAKE WATER MAIN EXTENSION**

Supervisor Kowall reminded that the Township was successful in acquiring its DWRP funding and he thanked Director Potter and Mike Leuffgen for their contribution in this project.

Director Potter noted for the record that in March of 2020 two proposals were brought before the Board; one for design engineering services and construction engineering services for each portion of the DWRP project which includes Aspen Meadows Wellhouse improvements and the Bogie Lake Watermain to serve Lakeland High School. At that time because the Township had not yet been approved by DWRP and the engineering services was not approved for construction and documentation management. He brings to the Board both for approval and noted these will be the last step and the notice to proceed from the state is expected in October.

He noted this is old business and that this is the second half of proposals submitted a year and a half ago. They were noted in the project plan from 2019 and continued through Exhibit A submitted to DWRP. These are budgeted funds and are not new. He did note that the project costs have increased due to bids received for Aspen Meadows and that these proposals did not increase.



He is asking the Board to approve the construction engineering sections of both DLZ proposals; the Drinking Water Revolving Fund, Aspen Meadows Iron Filtration Plant and Huron Valley Schools Bogie Lake Watermain extension not to exceed \$478,428.88, which is \$451,348.00 from the budget plus the 6% contingency as required. He would also like the Board to approve the Supervisor to execute these agreements.

Trustee Powell pointed out that this is an hourly contract, not a lump sum. He hopes it is a great deal less and stated that just because the cost of piping goes up doesn't mean the engineering does. He looks forward to them billing this hourly and coming in less than these numbers. He questioned the numbers in the 2020 proposal at \$439,590 and now it is up to \$478,000.

Director Potter reiterated that the 6% contingency is required on all DWRF projects.

**It was MOVED by Trustee Powell, SUPPORTED by, Treasurer Roman to approve the DLZ Engineering proposal for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund Aspen Meadows Iron Filtration Plant and Huron Valley Schools Bogie Lake watermain extension at an hourly rate for the total amount not to exceed \$478,428.88, and to allow the Supervisor to execute the agreements. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).**

#### **C. DISCUSSION REGARDING REMOTE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS VS IN PERSON MEETINGS**

Supervisor Kowall noted a change in the COVID market. He thinks the Township needs to get back to as normal as possible. There are meetings that are scheduled remotely through the end of this month that would proceed as planned, but he proposes a motion to lift the state of emergency due to COVID and resume in person meetings October 1, 2021.

Trish Pergament interjected that the ordered equipment as come in and installation will begin next week.

Trustee Voorheis confirmed this is not a hybrid option and that it is all in person.

Supervisor Kowall noted that a hybrid option is not allowed per counsel.

Clerk Noble thanked counsel for the well written memo. He is looking forward to going back in person.

Treasurer Roman is looking forward to getting back to in person meetings and welcomes residents who feel more comfortable to wear masks.

Trustee Smith thanked Lisa Hamameh for the productive conversations and thanked her fellow Board members for considering this. Her stance on this is government overreach, which she is not in favor of. She looks forward to seeing everyone in October and welcomes those that are more comfortable to wear a mask.



It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by, Clerk Noble to lift the state of emergency due to COVID and resume in person meetings October 1, 2021. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Ruggles/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes).

**D. DISCUSSION REGARDING TOWNSHIP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK  
AMENDMENT SUGGESTION "COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES"**

Supervisor Kowall stated the interesting thing about communication is that depending on where you were in a point in time, you would find out this Board and his office have been the master of communication versus the silent realm. He noted the digital sign to allow for communication with the public regarding meetings and events. Additionally, they have created a Facebook presence to keep people informed. He added the creation of the new website and that his office has been working to increase communication since he has been in his current position, including an additional secretary in his office. He has only had two persons in his office for eight days and declared to the Board to give it a chance. He believes his office is working in the right direction to improve communications and notes everyone in the Township has been working for eighteen months under extreme circumstances – the pandemic.

He believes in the past his office has made every effort to notify the Board, when appropriate, of events. Now that the Township is starting to open back up, his office has shared information regarding upcoming events. He has no issue adding additional policy that the Supervisor's Office will send all appropriate invitations to the Board as they are received. The current policy was written pre internet and cell phones. He has no issue adding to the policy proclamations and having the Board members sign them if they so choose to, however a timeline will have to be met. He would like to see Lisa Hamameh and Trish Pergament collaboratively put something together and bring it back before the Board for first reading. He notes that some of the proposed language out there now is restrictive with words like shall and may. It would be binding future boards and creating restrictions on person who may not be responsible for every communication.

Trustee Voorheis agrees with Supervisor Kowall. In her lifetime, the Supervisor's Office has never had two staff members and that a chance to get caught up needs to be given. She noted that personal mail at the Township includes a lot of ribbon cuttings. She notes that her personal job does not allow her to attend everything and that she is good with the communication that she receives. She has no problem calling the departments to ask what is going on. She does not feel that the Supervisor's Office should be micromanaged.

Treasurer Roman indicated that a second body in the Supervisor's Office is welcomed as his office is constantly approached by residents wanting to speak with someone in the Supervisor's Office. He also shared that his problem is the opposite, he gets too many invitations to things and most are junk. He agrees with Supervisor Kowall that to sort out every invitation and advise the Board of the same would be information overload and he doesn't think anyone wants that. He likes the idea of having Attorney Hamameh review this.



Trustee Smith noted that the sign and Facebook are great tools that this Board has updated as a tool in technology, but they communicate to the public and not necessarily the Board. She believes the communication during the tornado could have been improved to the Board. She admits there have been more communication to the Board since the agenda request but is disappointed that the language isn't part of the Board packet and that the request is not attached. She states this is a starting point and is open to input and dialog. As far as tributes, she provided a secondary email that it would be an effort made and that not everyone will be able to sign each one but would like the opportunity. She is looking for, if you can let one person know, you can let all persons know. She doesn't need long explanations, but a forward. She read the minutes and watched the meeting and notes that most of this board agreed there is a need for more communication. She asks for it now as there is a second person in the Supervisor's Office and perhaps it could be incorporated into a job description.

Trustee Powell states that this is in no way a judgment of Supervisor Kowall as his office has been more communitive than any other, he served under. He believes Supervisor Kowall makes it a point to communicate with him and the Board. He does not bring this up because of Supervisor Kowall's office, but the previous supervisors that have deliberately left out Trustees and only shared information they wanted the Trustees to know to the point that requests to add to an agenda by a Trustee went ignored. Therefore, he is more inclined to force the office to keep the Trustees informed. He agrees with Treasurer Roman regarding the multitude of invitations but notes if there is something that specially invites the Trustees to an event, he would like to know about it. A simple forward to the Trustees would allow the decision to attend.

As for tributes, he suggests a signature stamp if they are unable physically make it to the office to sign due to time constraints. He would like to have a modification of the requirements to prevent future supervisors from keeping secrets. He also notes it would be nice to have a heads up on communications sent to the supervisor's Office regarding things coming up or if there is trouble out there so that they may give input and get ahead of it. He is in favor of making some changes and feels it important to make sure the Board has input on what is going on in the Township.

Trish Pergament noted that she takes communications very seriously to the Board. She notes between the pandemic and the tornado she was spread thinly and that it was very difficult between the pandemic and workload. She is unaware of anything that was purposefully not shared with the Board. She continued that adding Kelly to the office will provide her relief and will help. She doesn't see a problem stating that we should communicate to the Board in the policy, but notes they need a chance with the added staff member.

Clerk Noble is adamantly against restrictive words such as shall and must. He notes that each of the Board members has an obligation to one another to communicate. He shared that in regards to the library function the other day, he didn't find out about it until he looked at the Facebook and he was fine with that. As for the signature stamps he would defer to counsel. He declared that it is the Supervisor's statutory authority to interpret and communicate the day to day with its employees. He observed how buried in work Trish Pergament has been. He believes the Board needs to be forgiving on each other and work as a team.

Lastly, he corrected the signatures when it was brought to his attention. He thinks everyone works hard in the same direction and the added staff will only help. He thanked the staff in Supervisor's Office.



Trustee Smith believes the language was misinterpreted. The purpose in her proposed language was to say that the board could choose, she asked if that is a reason to not bind future supervisors and Boards. She noted that there might not always be two people in that office, and that it wasn't to bind, but rather give more room. She reiterated that she brings this up now because there a second person and the Board could put the policy in place and move forward.

Clerk Noble believes when you use shall and must you are setting someone up for failure and that you are asking that person to be perfect.

Trustee Smith does not believe that the policy should bind one person to give out the information but believes this is a starting point.

Treasurer Roman thinks ultimately the Supervisor must be responsible for communication. He thought the gist of Trustee Smith's email was great. He shared that it is very difficult to write an ordinance due to multiple interpretations and questions. The merit of what Trustee Smith wants to implement, he supports, but believes attorney Hamameh should be the one that implements the writing.

Trustee Smith clarified it is not an ordinance it is the policy handbook, a personnel handbook.

Attorney Hamameh stated in the past Trustee Smith has asked for communication and that the Supervisor's Office feels it has been communicating. She noted that since March of 2020 there has been very little going on and that recently there have been some events that triggered this. Listening to the comments at the last meeting and discussion at this meeting, as well as discussions she has had with several Board members, she thinks a simple amendment to policies that would require any proclamation, tributes and awards that the Township Board be notified prior to awarding, distributing, announcing of those things. The next item to add would be a notification of township events and community events that the supervisor is aware of. These things should not be offensive and would allow the Supervisor's Office the opportunity to move forward. She thinks with the additional staff a change will be seen. She added this is the first Board of Trustees that wants this kind of information. There is nothing wrong with it, it is just getting use to the change of what has always been the way things were. She commends the Supervisor's Office for making the efforts that they have. She has spoken with Supervisor Kowall and thinks everyone is on board with it and notes that it can always be revisited later.

Clerk Noble asked of attorney Hamameh regarding the signature stamps if he needs some sort of legal document to protect his office for the use of the same. To which attorney Hamameh noted that something could be drafted to allow for signature stamps. She wouldn't want to put something specific in the policies regarding signature stamps as future Boards may not want to use them.

Attorney Hamameh suggest language that any proclamations, tributes, or awards, that the supervisor must notify all the Trustees.

Supervisor Kowall recommends that attorney Hamameh look at this and present something to the Board for review.



Clerk Noble doesn't think a policy is needed. He believes what is fair and equitable is that if a Trustee can't make it, he uses a stamp. Otherwise he will put out an email with a deadline date and time or it will go back to the three in-house officials. It would only be for proclamations. He would want something drafted to protect his office.

Supervisor Kowall would like to authorize the Lisa Hamameh to move forward with this, to compile information and options and bring it back to the Board for further review.

Trustee Smith, in talking with Attorney Hamameh understands she will take some of the proposed language and this discussion, mesh it together and bring the Board a future first reading.

**FYI**

**A. UPDATE ON NEW GENERATOR FOR TOWNSHIP HALL**

Supervisor Kowall solicited four vendors and all reviewed the situation at hand and agreed that the generator was under powered and tired. He does not have all the information as of now to share with the Board. However, it was determined that one cannot determine the future power capacity of the new building, but all agreed that a new 150kbw unit would be more than adequate to power the new building. It was also discovered that when the Township building was built, it was built under an old delta system. The new and preferred wiring system is a "Y" system. Therefore, the winding and alternator for the generator must be one or the other. As of yet, a dual system generator has not been located.

Clerk Noble interjected since Supervisor Kowall's connection was unstable, that the current system is from the 1960's with add on and band aids. If the Township were to buy a new generator right now, it will not fit the new building. It is proposed that the Township lease for the next few years, which he thinks would be advantageous.

Supervisor Kowall returned and noted that he will keep the Board updated, but that it is heading in the direction of leasing one versus buying a new one.

Trustee Powell asked that that Supervisor Kowall make sure the lease isn't more than buying a new one and then reselling it.

Trustee Smith asks that the possibility of leasing a generator for Fire Station II be explored as well. To which Supervisor Kowall noted it is part of the package.

Clerk Noble believes it is critical to get a generator at the Township due to the 911 call center.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**APPROVAL TO RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR STRATEGY AND NEGOTIATION SESSIONS CONNECTED WITH THE NEGOTIATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT IF EITHER NEGOTIATING PARTY REQUESTS A CLOSED HEARING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MCL 15.268(c)**



It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by, Trustee Smith to approve the recess into closed session for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing, in accordance with MCL 15.268(c). The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Powell/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Kowall/yes).

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by, Trustee Ruggles to move forward with the proposed retirement agreement between the fire department and the Township. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

### **TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Trustee Powell thanked the Board for a great meeting. He thought it was a very productive meeting despite disagreements. He noted the Board came around and acted. He informed the Board that he and Supervisor Kowall had a meeting with the Commerce Township supervisor and building official regarding talks about the sanitary sewer system agreement. The initial meeting went very well, and they agreed to get back together again. He doesn't think each of them will get exactly what they want, but they have two years to close the deal and to design new sewers if necessary. He also shared that the ZBA approved the use of a mobile home/travel trailer for a resident on Teggerdine and Pontiac Lake Road while their home is being reconstructed. He expects there will be a number of those as an ongoing issue.

Trustee Ruggles shared that the Planning Commission meets in October. Their last meeting was just to approve CIP seen here tonight. He has been spreading information to those affected by the tornado to go to the Supervisor's Office for aid. He knows of a couple of people who got the paperwork and is hopeful they can be part of the first one hundred people to receive \$1,000. He encouraged residents to reach out and be part of it.

Trustee Voorheis had the opportunity to be at the fire department on the 14<sup>th</sup> to honor eight-year-old Brittany Brand who collected money for the fire department after the tornado. She received the royal treatment and tomorrow morning she will be picked up by the fire department and driven to school in a fire truck. She admits she was a tad jealous. She further congratulated Chris Hill for twenty-five years and Jeff Barber for thirty-two years of service to White Lake. She thanked Trustee Smith and Clerk Noble for showing up at the Fisk Farm Festival and declared that it was a different year, but they managed to pull it off. Lastly, she has been contacted by residents regarding the phragmites being treated with Round Up. She reached out to Justin who indicates it is okay, yet it will be taken off the market in 2023. She further shared there is evidence that exposure can cause non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and breast cancer. There is evidence that it impacts wildlife, ground water and that it is important that safe alternatives to these herbicides are found.

Trustee Smith thanked the Board for observing a moment of silence in honor of Bill Caddell who was in dearly called "Doc". He passed away on August 27<sup>th</sup> and his funeral was September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Her father, Senator Fessler gave a meaningful eulogy at his funeral about faith, family, and his commitment to



community. He was a close personal family friend to her. He was an Oakland County Commissioner in 1979, he served as Deputy Clerk under Lynn Allen, and then became the Oakland County Clerk from 1998 to 2004. He was very involved in the community and loved by all. She has many memories as he was a huge part of her life. She gave her condolences to his family.

She shared that she spent a lot of time with the fire department this month and couldn't be prouder of them. She participated in the Walk 140. She believes the firefighter raised close to \$90,000. She further noted that he takes donations all year. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year he has walked to raise funds for firefighters and their families fighting cancer. Additionally, she had a great time at the Fisk Farm Festival with Trustee Voorheis. She too had a great time at the honoring of Brittany and agrees she received the royal treatment. As a reminder, she noted that it is Suicide Awareness Month and t-shirts are available for purchase. She furthered that the fire and police also participated in a firetruck pull for special Olympics. It was a great fundraiser. She invited her colleagues to wear pink next month for cancer. She sadly lost a family member this year and has had three family members and a pet effected as well. As for the library, the patios are open and are beautiful. She encouraged residents to check them out. She closed that tomorrow is the last day of summer, but it will change in colors will be beautiful and she looks forward to the new season.

Treasurer Roman reminded of the twenty-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. He watched a lot of footage from that day and his thoughts and prayers go out to those impacted. He hopes congress puts in a better effort to protect our borders. He has very little confidence with what is going on, especially on the southern border. He gave congratulations to Taylor Little Leaguers for winning the World Series. He thanked all the residents for tuning in on what he opined was a great Board meeting that he is proud to serve.

Clerk Noble noted that Brendel's will be out of the Township at the end of the month. He thanked Justin, Nick, Jason, and Sean for tackling this long overdue issue. He also thanked Lisa Hamameh for addressing it in a professional way and taking the Township out of a lawsuit that could have taken the Township down a long expensive road and he appreciates that she puts the Township first. He thanked Jason, who has one of the toughest jobs in the Township enforcing ordinances. He thanked Justin for stepping up in his absence. He further thanked Elaine, Dawn, and Trish for the disaster relief. He opined that he is lucky to have them in the offices as they are the heartbeat of this government body.

Supervisor Kowall thanked everyone for attending tonight. He thanked all the staff for doing what they do. He shared that Stanley Park has a new sign that he fabricated in his shop. He is hopeful to have an update on the point situation for the DNR trust fund grant in the next forty-five days. Informational will be shared in the future. He thanked Trustee Powell for attending the sewer system meeting with him. He wished everyone a good night and God bless

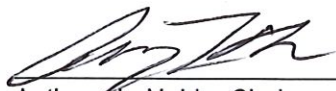
## ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 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 September 21, 2021 regular board meeting minutes.



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