

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

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Noble called the roll:

Present: Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Anthony L. Noble, Clerk
Mike Roman, Treasurer
Scott Ruggles, Trustee
Liz Smith, Trustee
Andrea Voorheis, Trustee
Michael Powell, Trustee

Also Present: Daniel T. Keller, Police Chief
Sean O'Neil, Planning Director
Aaron Potter, DPS Director
Jeanine Smith, Assessor
Lisa Hamameh, Township Attorney
Jennifer Edens, Recording Secretary

AGENDA

Supervisor Kowall amended the agenda removing items:

- 8C – Public Hearing – Confirming the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District Designated Oak Ridge Park Sewer Main
- 8D – Resolution 21-044; Confirming the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District Designated Oak Ridge Park Sewer Main
- 8E – Public Hearing – Confirming the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District Designated North Hulbert Sewer Main
- 8F – Resolution 21-043; Confirming the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District Designated North Hulbert Sewer Main
- 9F – First Reading; Amendment to Fee Ordinance, Ordinance No. 129
- 9G – First Reading; Amendment to Code of Ordinances, Chapter 38, Article II – Water System

Supervisor Kowall further added agenda item:

- 9N – Engagement for Legal Services with the law firm of WILLIAMS, WILLIAMS, RATTNER & PLUNKETT, P.C. (WWRP)

Trustee Powell asked Supervisor Kowall if he could explain to residents that may be in attendance for these agenda items as to why they are being removed.

Director Potter noted that there is a procedural error, an incorrect resolution, and updated costs regarding actual engineering costs. He furthered that in order to make the public record regarding this counsel recommended these items be tabled for approximately two weeks to allow for proper notice and the scheduling of a special meeting on or around December 6th or 7th.

Treasurer Roman confirmed that the Board is removing the public hearings and resolutions to confirm the roles for the Oak Ridge Park Sewer Main and the North Hulbert Sewer Main.

Supervisor Kowall added that also being removed is the first reading of the fee ordinance and code of ordinances. Additionally, that 9N, Engagement for Legal Services is being added.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Powell to approve the Agenda, as amended. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. REVENUE AND EXPENSES
- B. CHECK DISBURSEMENTS
- C. LIST OF BILLS
- D. BUDGET AMENDMENTS
- E. CERTIFICATE OF LEVIES ON TAX BILLS FOR TAX YEAR 2021
- F. DEPARTMENT REPORT - POLICE
- G. DEPARTMENT REPORT – FIRE
- H. DEPARTMENT REPORT- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- I. DEPARTMENT REPORT – TREASURER

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Voorheis to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

MINUTES

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 19, 2021

Trustee Powell noted two minor punctuation issues with the minutes of the special board meeting, September 28, 2021:

- Page 2, paragraph 4 – remove the hyphen in the word drop-in;
- Page 2, paragraph 6 – add a second comma after the word is, in the sentence that reads:
Trustee Powell clarified that the bottom line is, even though the 2021 budget was \$80,000 more, the department is not going to use all of it so the expenditure this year will be more than last year at the final accounting.

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** Clerk Noble to approve the Minutes from September 28, 2021, as amended and approve the Regular Board Minutes of October 19, 2021. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

PUBLIC HEARINGS WITH RESOLUTIONS

- A. PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PY 2022 APPLICATION

Supervisor Kowall stated that this is the public hearing for the 2022 CDBG applications. The overall goal of the CDBG fund is to strengthen it by supporting home improvements, public service, senior citizens, low-income families, and disadvantaged and disabled residents. The deadline to submit is December 15, 2021.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** Treasurer Roman to open the public hearing for the CDBG 2022 Community Development Block Grant Applications. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

No public comment.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Powell to close the public hearing. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

B. RESOLUTION 21-045; APPROVING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PY 2022 APPLICATION

Supervisor Kowall read Resolution 21-045 into the record.

Trustee Powell thanked Supervisor Kowall and his office for presenting this. He opined that these four items have been very helpful in the past. He thanked the Trish for doing just a great job.

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Ruggles to approve Resolution 21-045. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

C. PUBLIC HEARING – CONFIRMING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED OAK RIDGE PARK SEWER MAIN

Removed.

D. RESOLUTION 21-044; CONFIRMING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED OAK RIDGE PARK SEWER MAIN

Removed.

E. PUBLIC HEARING – CONFIRMING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED NORTH HULBERT SEWER MAIN

Removed.

F. RESOLUTION 21-043; CONFIRMING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED NORTH HULBERT SEWER MAIN

Removed.

G. PUBLIC HEARING – TO APPROVE THE 2022 BUDGET

Supervisor Kowall thanked Dawn and Elaine for their hard work on the budget.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Smith to open the public hearing to approve the 2022 Budget. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

No public comment.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Smith to close the public hearing. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

NEW BUSINESS

A. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE 2022 TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Supervisor Kowall noted that by approving this budget, the Board is approving a general township expenditure of \$6,040,258.00, a fire expenditure of \$4,183,600.00, a police expenditure of \$6,549,530.00, and a variety of other departments. He further noted that the budget is available at any time for the public to view.

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Powell to approve the 2022 Township Budget as presented. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Powell/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Noble/yes, Kowall/yes).

B. RESOLUTION 21-039; 2022 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Supervisor Kowall noted that this Resolution defines the powers and duties of the Township officers. He commended the Board and its members, all department heads, police, fire, and water for being very careful with the taxpayer's money. He shared that the Township has been within or below budget since he started.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Ruggles, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Voorheis to pass Resolution 21-039. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes).

C. RESOLUTION 21-040; 2022 TOWNSHIP BOARD SALARIES

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Voorheis to approve Resolution 21-040. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/no, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

D. RESOLUTION 21-042; CONFIRMING SPECIAL RE-ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED 2020-2025 RESIDENTIAL REFUSE COLLECTION PROJECT

Trustee Powell pointed out that this is a six-year contract and that it covers the Township from large increases.

Attorney Hamameh indicated that this is simply a resolution that updates the current and already existing garbage S.A.D. to add new parcels and remove no longer applicable parcels.

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** Clerk Noble to approve Resolution 21-042 confirming the reassessing roll for garbage pick-up. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Powell/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes).

E. RESOLUTION 21-047; ADOPTION OF GUIDELINES FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY TAXES

Assessor Smith stated that the state changed the law and now the Township must use a percentage, which she thought to be fairer. She further shared that the Township must now use the state's form and can no longer use the Township's form.

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Ruggles to adopt Resolution 21-047 Adoption Guidelines. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

F. FIRST READING; AMENDMENT TO FEE ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE NO. 129

Removed.

G. FIRST READING; AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 38, ARTICLE II – WATER SYSTEM

Removed.

H. REQUEST TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR POSITION AND SALARY

Supervisor Kowall shared that things have been working very well and that the counter and cross-training is also working well. He would like the Board's support on this as he feels Director O'Neil has proven himself to the Township. He further shared that Director O'Neil will act as the emergency contact liaison. He opined this will be very helpful to the community in the future.

Trustee Voorheis clarified that Director O'Neil will be in charge of the Planning/Building Department and asked if the budget reflects this position. She further asked if Director O'Neil would have car privileges.

Supervisor Kowall indicated that it works in the Township's favor as to the budget and that yes, he would have car privileges.

Trustee Powell noted that because of the man Director O'Neil is, he has already been doing the work without being asked and that he feels it is about time the Board recognize this. He is in full support.

Clerk Noble commended Director O'Neil for thinking outside of the box, for always being available for questions, and for his deep customer service. He shared that he picks up his phone on the weekends and always makes himself available. Clerk Noble opined that with his expertise, the Township is getting a heck of a deal. He too is in support of this.

Trustee Ruggles noted that Director O'Neil is very deserving, qualified and helpful. He too is happy to see this.

Trustee Smith shared that she spoke in depth with Director O'Neil regarding this and feels that the Township is so lucky to have him and that he is more than qualified. She is happy to have him in-house and believes this is a great step for the Township to have him in this position.

Treasurer Roman appreciates having Director O'Neil around every day.

Supervisor Kowall shared that when he first stepped into a project working on the hall, he was approached and advised that he needed to get on the ZBA by now Director O'Neil. He shared that they have a long working relationship.

Treasurer Roman clarified that his start date will coincide with the pay period, beginning November 22, 2021.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** Clerk Noble to approve the Employment Agreement. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

I. HURON VALLEY YOUTH ASSISTANCE REQUEST

Supervisor Kowall shared that this is approved by court action and supported by judges. He believes this expenditure of \$10,334.00 will help defer some of the costs for the youth that are sent there.

Attorney Hamameh suggests that the Board ask for a contract which will assist in the public benefit versus costs.

Clerk Noble noted that he researched this and that the Township is covered under its 501C3.

Trustee Powell clarified that this amount is over and above the CDBG and that it will come out of the general fund. He further noted that he too is a major fan of this.

Supervisor Kowall opined that the country invests in so much, but not its youth. He noted that if kids with challenges don't get help, then there is no telling where they will end up in the future. He would much rather help them at this level.

Clerk Noble noted that the program has been around for twenty plus years. He is familiar with it from his time as a police officer. He too shared that the investment is now so that these kids don't end up in prison. He shared that the success rate is awesome.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Powell, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Smith to approve the expense of \$10,334.00, for the Huron Valley Youth Assistance and to authorize the Township Supervisor to sign and the Township Supervisor and legal counsel to work out the details. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

J. RESOLUTION 21-041; TO ESTABLISH MEETING DATES OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR 2022

Trustee Voorheis is thankful for keeping the Tuesday dates.

Trustee Ruggles suggests that the November date be modified.

Discussion amongst the Board occurred.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Powell, **SUPPORTED** Treasurer Roman to adopt the Resolution with the alteration of the November 15, 2022 date to November 22, 2022. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/no, Powell/yes, Voorheis/no).

K. RESOLUTION 21-046; INTENT RESOLUTION TO ISSUE LIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Supervisor Kowall shared that the building space is deficient and has issues. He stated that the community is growing as is the Township and that this Board is trying to move forward with a public civic center and public safety building that will carry the Township well into the future. The Township will issue \$29 million in bonds which will not require a millage to service. He reiterated that this will not create an additional millage.

Treasurer Roman indicated that the Board has done its due diligence. The cost to renovate the building has been looked into and it was determined that the cost to renovate would cost more than to build new, which makes no sense. The future includes new facilities for a township hall and combined public safety building that will house police and fire. This Board has a history of always being fiscally responsible and because of that the Township has saved enough money to build a new township hall/community center. He noted the Township does not have the money for a public safety building, which will need financing. The Township has been presented with a lease option which comes to three times more than what it can actually be bonded out for. He opined that fortunately the market for bonding out right now is one of the best ever seen at 2% to 3% range for 25 to 30 years. It is cheap money that will likely never be cheaper than it is now. He is trying to put the Township in the best possible position financially. He advised that if the Township does this, the bonds can be paid off by the following:

1. Increase in tax base due to a ton of building occurring;
2. Repurposing money spent elsewhere (i.e., retirement health care);
3. Tax incentive financing; or
4. Charge administrative fees on tax bills, up to 1%.

Trustee Powell feels it would be very wise to take advantage of the bonding rates. He points out that if this is approved tonight it just gives the Township the opportunity to bond out, up to \$29 million, not that it has to. He also feels that if done, it puts the burden on this Board to make sure the design of the building is being done properly and to ensure that it is not overzealous. He is not a fan of government buildings to impress people. He believes it is this Board's responsibility that the building proposed are adequate for needs. He concedes that the increased population of staff is important and current placement of staff has been very tight and it will cost millions to bring the current building up to code.

Supervisor Kowall interjected that the last study we did showed it would cost \$3.5 million just to get us to square one and that is before going forward.

Trustee Powell does not believe it smart to band aid things and that a lot of time has been spent to develop a new township hall/civic center and the area is prime for the development. He is hopeful that a public/private partnership that is being looked into will come to reality and that the private entity might build the building for the Township, bringing down the actual construction costs. He is favor of this and wishes to get started immediately to narrow down the costs.

Trustee Ruggles noted that up until now he has been an advocate that the residents needed to directly input this decision. He felt that a vote would be a way to get their opinions to the Board. Without needing a millage, that reduces that ability. However, it also reduces the direct expenditure to the residents. The Township has the ability to internally cover the expenditure year to year by reallocation of funds. He notes the interest rates are very beneficial to the Township. He will go along with this tonight.

Trustee Powell was also thinking the same thing, and would have liked to have the public vote, but to wait until next November for a vote, the interest rates will be lost.

Supervisor Kowall interjected that the interest rates alone would be hundreds of thousands of dollars lost. He indicated the Township is in a very strong fiscal position, with a high AAA bonding. He shared that the Township

could borrow far more than this, but it is not needed. The Township wants to be in a position to be responsible and have the ability to finish what it starts. He shared that he and Trustee Powell have seen the interest of the general public for this development.

Trustee Smith cautiously approaches this topic as she is very well aware that the public is trusting this Board to make the right decisions here. The interest rate is the most relevant driving force for her. She is inclined to go along with it this evening but has a couple of things she wants placed on the record. As it moves forward, she will have a lot of questions and an eagle eye on the dollars spent. She noted that neighboring communities have built fire stations and townhalls for far less. She wants to stress that the \$29 million is up to and not what will be spent. She indicates that this project does not need to be overbuilt and that there are some square footage concepts that are too large and that she will be on the conservative side of this. She knows that the residents have entrusted this Board and believes that this Board has and will continue to be fiscally responsible.

Clerk Noble commended Treasurer Roman for researching leasing and bonding out this development. He noted that the current Township building has rain coming through the ceiling and space restraints for the fire department. He too will be fiscally prudent for this project, but this is the time. He believes this heading in the right direction.

Attorney Hamameh pointed out that this Resolution is approved appoints the law firm of Dickenson Wright as bond counsel and appoints Bendzinski & Co., as municipal finance advisors.

Trustee Powell pleads with the Supervisor's Office and in-house staff continue to keep this Board updated on the design progress.

Supervisor Kowall responded that his office door is always open.

Trustee Smith sought out plans today and understands that they are conceptual, but she believes that the square footage is too large. She concurs with Trustee Powell that the Board needs to be involved now rather than have to backtrack later.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED Clerk Noble to approve Resolution 21-046. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Powell/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Ruggles/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes).

L. REQUEST TO APPROVE TENTATIVE AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT – NORTH HULBERT SANITARY SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Director Potter indicated that DPS held a public bid for the project on October 13, 2021. The project was advertised yet only one bid was received. The bid was lower than the cost estimates. The contractor had the foresight and financial capabilities to stockpile materials prior to the current supply shortages. The contractor is the same as the leading bidder on the North Bogie Lake Sanitary Sewer S.A.D. These projects do include a special construction detail.

DPS is request that the Board of Trustees tentatively award the construction contract for the North Hulbert Sanitary S.A.D. to Superior Excavating pending and contingent of the confirmation of the role in an amount not to exceed \$117,990.43, which is \$109,250.00 plus the 8% contingency.

Trustee Powell shared that he is personally familiar with Superior Excavating and they are a very good company and they do an excellent job.

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Powell to tentatively award this Construction Contract for the North Hulbert Sanitary Special Assessment District, not to exceed \$117,990.43 and subject to the Special Assessment District confirmation. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

M. REQUEST TO APPROVE TENTATIVE AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT – OAK RIDGE PARK SANITARY SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Supervisor Kowall noted this is a similar tentative award in the amount of \$205, 984.78, which is \$190,726.65 plus 8% contingency.

Director Potter indicated that DPS request he Board to tentatively award the construction contract for the Oak Ridge Park Sanitary Special Assessment District pending the confirmation of the role in an amount not to exceed \$205,984.78, which is \$190,726.65 plus 8% contingency.

Trustee Powell points out to the Board that the larger the project the lower the unit prices can be.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Powell, **SUPPORTED** Clerk Noble to tentatively award the Construction Contract for the Oak Ridge Park Special Assessment District pending the confirmation of the roll, in an amount not to exceed \$205,984.78 which includes contingencies. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes, Noble/yes).

N. REQUEST TO APPROVE ENGAGEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH THE LAW FIRM OF WILLIAMS, WILLIAMS, RATTNER & PLUNKETT, P.C. (WWRP)

Supervisor Kowall noted this group has expertise and knowledge in the area and he feels very comfortable that this group could assist the Township in a development of a public/private partnership. There is no agreement in place as of now.

Director O'Neil noted that a special meeting will be necessary to discuss the next steps. He indicated the Township would work with WWRP on an amendment that would be brought back in the next several weeks. He echoes the comments of Supervisor Kowall and has confidence in their abilities.

Trustee Powell noted that normally he would like this sent out to bid but understands that this is a very specialized project and he takes the opinion of the Supervisor, Director O'Neil and staff that this is a good fit.

Attorney Hamameh interjected that legal services are the exception to the bid requirement under the Administrative Policies.

Treasurer Roman directed the Board to page one, paragraph one, the last sentence that ends without prior notice. He understands through Clerk Noble that the firm will not have an issue changing it so that it reads with notice. He further commented that there is verbiage stating they would act as bonding attorney and it should be changed that they are not acting as the bonding attorney.

Clerk Noble indicated it can be stricken and sent back to them.

Supervisor Kowall indicated this essentially is an agreement for legal services that will help the Township through a potential contractual agreement in the proposed public/private partnership. It will bring the Township together with a proposed developer or ultimate developer so that everybody knows who's on first, who's on second, and who's going to catch the flyball. He believes it is in the best interest of the Township to have persons with a high level of expertise in this area to protect the Township and get it the most bang for the buck.

He reiterated for the public that he and this Board take this endeavor in which the Township is about to step into very seriously. He noted that spending the money now and getting the right answers will put this Township on the upward track for the future. He compared it to an individual seeking services of a good CPA.

It was MOVED by Supervisor Kowall, SUPPORTED Clerk Noble to enter into an engagement agreement for legal services and to authorize the Supervisor to sign the engagement letter as amended. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Noble/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes).

OLD BUSINESS

A. REQUEST TO APPROVE TENTATIVE AWARD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL – NORTH HULBERT SANITARY SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Director Potter indicated that DPS is requesting that the Township Board tentatively award the construction engineering, inspection, contract administration, and staking portion of the DLZ Engineering Services proposal for the North Hulbert Sanitary SAD pending and contingent of the confirmation of the role in an amount not to exceed \$10,303.20 (\$9,540.00 plus 8% contingency).

Trustee Powell reminded how vocal he has been regarding design contracts with DLZ. He is comfortable with this. He looks forward to their work being done hourly.

Director Potter indicated that the contingency is included in all proposed projects.

Mike Leuffgen of DLZ, commented that when the original pricing was put together it was believed they would be separate projects with separate contractors. Now that it is the same contractors it will be more cost effective.

Treasurer Roman asked if both of these projects will be grinder and if the connection requests are occurring. To which Director Potter indicated they are both pressure and that they have done about two a week all summer, half emergency and half regular connection.

Trustee Powell would like in the future to discuss potential for S.A.D. for connection fees.

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED Trustee Powell to tentatively award engineering services for North Hulbert Sanitary Sewer Special Assessment District to DLZ, not to exceed \$10,303.28, and contingent on the confirmation of the roll. The motion PASSED by voice vote (7 yes votes).

B. REQUEST TO APPROVE TENTATIVE AWARD OF DLZ ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT – OAK RIDGE PARK SANITARY SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** Trustee Powell to tentatively award DLZ Engineering Service Agreement for Oak Ridge Park Sanitary Special Assessment District, contingent on the confirmation of the roll, and not to exceed \$20,520.00. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Voorheis gave kudos to Supervisor Kowall and his staff for a very nice Veterans Day service. She appreciated that the politicians in the crowd were not recognized as the event was about the veterans. She wished everyone a great Thanksgiving.

Trustee Ruggles noted there is a Planning Commission meeting this Thursday with three items on the agenda. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He looks forward to seeing what this Board is capable of doing with the new civic center/township hall. He noted that Highland Township built a nice fire station for far less than \$29 million.

Treasurer Roman shared that 2022 dog licenses will go on sale soon and that winter tax bills will be mailed out on November 30th. He wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Trustee Smith is glad to have the regulars back in the audience. She indicated that the library is back to regular services and the website is update. She wanted to commend Sgt. Way and the police department for such a fantastic presentation regarding the collaboration with Common Ground from last month's meeting. She apologized for not recognizing the presentation and her pride in the department for the steps they have and are taking to support the community. She further shared that she too thought the Veteran's Day ceremony was wonderful. She noted the attendance of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the choir. She thanked everyone who attended the beautiful service. She is excited for what is to come for the Township with the planning and building of the civic center. She reiterated that this Board takes this very seriously and everyone is willing to dig in and get it going.

Clerk Noble thanked all veterans who served and sacrificed for the great nation. He thanked his staff for their excellent job done on the recent election. He noted a lot of work went into the small election and it worked out.

Trustee Powell asked that the seating on for the next meeting be modified to tilt the ends of the tables so that the Board can see each other. He further noted that in regard to the ZBA meetings, that they have been very long and that the planning staff has been very aware of the agenda items and lengths of meetings. He noted that the bylaws allow for the ZBA to stop the meeting at 10:00. However, the ZBA Board feels that it would inappropriate to shut a meeting down and make people wait another month to be heard. He wanted it noted that it is the Board's decision to have the meetings go longer and not the planning staff. That being said, there were a couple of items on the ZBA agenda last month. He shared there that almost all requests are for additions or modernization of existing buildings and that a portion of ordinance limits the amount of improvements to a building to a certain percentage. He believes the number need to be increased. He also noted that the sign ordinance is very confusing and hopefully discussion will ensue, and the Planning Commission can look at this as well. He thanked Supervisor Kowall for this in person meeting and wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Attorney Hamameh shared that the Board will soon be hearing of an appeal filed from a ZBA decision. The Township's brief is due December 22, 2021 and then oral arguments are scheduled for January 12, 2022. It will not be a long drawn-out process.

Supervisor Kowall noted change is a good thing, it can be scary, it can be exciting, but he is thankful for change. Since 1976 he has had a front row seat to change with things like amenities, restaurants, and shops have been great, but things like extra traffic, not so great. He opined that everyone needs to be receptive to change as it forces


us to grow and broaden our horizons. It is an education process like reading a good book, learning to cook something, or learning to build something. He believes that each one of us has the potential for growth and understanding. Whether it is building a new township area or putting in a new amenity for the community, or filtering water at the new iron filtration plant. He declared that the things this Board does are for the benefit of the community and that White Lake is a great place to be and a lot of people want to be here. He noted that the Board must be careful of what it does and how it does it. He shared personally that his family business sold after 60 years and he wishes the new owners well. He closed by wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Smith, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Voorheis to adjourn. The motion **PASSED** by voice vote (7 yes votes).

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 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 November 16, 2021, regular board meeting minutes.



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