

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
Approved Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
June 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 7:00 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

ABSENT:

Mike Powell, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT:

Trish Pergament, Deputy Supervisor
Sean O'Neil, Community Development Director
Nick Spencer, WLT Building Official
Daniel T. Keller, Chief of Police
Steve Hanneman, Fire Captain
Cathy Derocher, Human Resources Manager
Lisa Hamameh, Township Attorney
Hannah Micallef, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was MOVED BY Trustee Voorheis, seconded by Clerk Noble, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion CARRIED with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Bazinet, 99 Danforth, thanked the Board listening to her comments during last Board meeting. She thanked the staff who have helped her with her fencing issues, but said there had been four more loose dog attacks. She is concerned for the safety of her neighbors and other dogs in the neighborhood. She wanted the Board to take action to ensure future safety.

Ann Marie Rogers, Responsible Citizen's for Public Safety, 4125 Collins, Rochester, MI. She thanked the Board for their time during last month's meeting. She had appeared in support of Sarah Bazinet and wanted to educate the community about safe dog handling and safe dog ordinances. She stated that the comments made previously by Trustee Smith were disrespectful and hurtful. She believes Trustee Smith's actions discourage public input and do not foster a sense of community.

Christine Long, 1342 E. Commerce Road, greeted the Board as she was an Oakland County Commissioner. She extended her help to the residents and the Board.

Carol Miller, 81 Danforth. She said her neighborhood used to be peaceful. She witnessed Ms. Bazinet's dog being attacked. She was concerned over the safety in the neighborhood due to dogs jumping fences as well as homes displaying flags with profanity.

Teresa Renaud, District Director for State Senator Runestad's Office, was present to lend support and listen to resident's concerns. She spoke of a favorable work history with Ann Rogers and support for common sense dog legislation. She also spoke personally in opposition of dogs running at large.

Beverly Knolls, 983 Danforth, said she was afraid to walk or ride her bike in her neighborhood due to loose dog safety concerns.

Supervisor Kowall closed the public comment at 7:17 P.M.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. REVENUE AND EXPENSES
- B. CHECK DISBURSEMENTS
- C. DEPARTMENT REPORT - POLICE
- D. DEPARTMENT REPORT - FIRE
- E. DEPARTMENT REPORT - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- F. DEPARTMENT REPORT - TREASURER

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Trustee Ruggles to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion **CARRIED** with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

MINUTES

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING, MAY 16, 2023
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, MAY 23, 2023
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, JUNE 7, 2023

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Clerk Noble to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of May 16, 2023, the special Board meeting minutes of May 23, 2023, and the special meeting minutes of June 27, 2023. The motion **CARRIED** with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

NEW BUSINESS

- A. REQUEST TO APPROVE CITYWORKS LICENSE - ANNUAL MAINTENANCE RENEWAL
The software program allowed the Township to keep track of its utilities and equipment.
It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, seconded by Trustee Ruggles to approve the annual maintenance renewal of the Cityworks software license. The motion **CARRIED** with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).
- B. REQUEST TO CONSIDER EXPANDED "GENERAL TOWNSHIP VEHICLE USE" POLICY IN PLACE OF 5.6 VEHICLES IN THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Deputy Pergament said the policy would be tightened up, and it had already been reviewed by legal. The document was living and could be amended in the future.

Trustee Voorheis asked Deputy Pergament if the Trustees were able to use the Township vehicles for Township related events or seminars. Deputy Pergament confirmed.

It was MOVED Treasurer Roman, Clerk Noble to approve the expanded "General Township Vehicle Use" Policy in Place Of 5.6 Vehicles in the Township Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual as submitted. The motion CARRIED with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

C. FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR RECLASSIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Steven Hanneman, Fire Captain, spoke on behalf of Chief Holland who was not present. He presented a request to reclassify the Executive Secretary to Administrative Assistant, and to reinstate her former Senior Election Specialist wages.

Trustee Ruggles noted that there wasn't anyone to ask further questions from as the Fire Dept had to leave and the Chief was not present.

Trustee Voorheis said residents had reached out to her about Ms. Amburgy's raise. Ms. Amburgy had taken on work from the Fire Department that let them assist the residents and give them better service.

Treasurer Roman stated that there were other employees with great work ethics and dedication. He said a pay raise was based on the job. He said he asked for outside comparables from other communities, and he didn't receive any. He said he wasn't comfortable approving anything tonight without comparables. He wanted to table the conversation until outside comparables were reviewed.

Trustee Smith said it warmed her heart that the captain spoke so highly of Mrs. Amburgy. The Fire Department had gone a very long time without an administrative assistant, and Mrs. Amburgy was a tremendous asset to the Fire Department. Trustee Smith said she asked H.R. for comparable and the only comparable she received was for the Executive Assistant in the Supervisor's Office. She stated she would be in support of the requested reclassification and reinstated wages.

Clerk Noble stated that this was a union contractual issue. He wanted to see external comparables from the surrounding area for public safety administrative assistants. He stated the issue should be tabled until there was a complete Board present with external comparables to review.

Chief Keller stated he would like to see both Public Safety positions addressed but that there are processes that need to be followed.

Manager Derocher said this was not the first time external comparables were not used. She said it was now time to look at the pay scale internally. She stated that Ms. Amburgy takes on unique roles that may not apply to apples comparisons with other fire departments or the Police Chief's secretary.

Treasurer Roman asked Manager Derocher about a salary study. She said a general salary review was done several years ago.

Clerk Noble asked Manager Derocher if she could do a salary study in order to have equity for the entire bargaining unit because this is a union position. Manager Derocher agreed it is a collective bargaining position and said it could be done. She added that there have been discussions with the labor attorney and Supervisor Kowall.

Supervisor Kowall said it was his duty to fulfill the needs of the Department Heads. Not every employee worked with the same skill set or paygrade. He said it was difficult to retain quality employees. Duties that were given to individuals were based on their level of merit. He supported the Chief's decision, but understood the point his fellow Board members were trying to make.

Trustee Ruggles said the decision should address the position, not the person behind it. He said he would feel more comfortable voting with a full Board present as it might benefit everyone.

Trustee Smith said that it could be beneficial to hear the conversation again with Chief Holland present.

Trustee Voorheis reminded the Board that they gave themselves raises recently.

Treasurer Roman said if this Board tables this to the next meeting, he would like to see the Police Executive Secretary come back with it so that it includes the Fire and Police Departments.

Trustee Ruggles asked Manager Derocher if she believed all employees with the same title should get the same benefit? Manager Derocher said no. She added that none of the other executive secretaries have the same responsibilities and this position is unique.

Chief Keller offered that his secretary exceeds the responsibilities virtually by the fact that they have more activity as a result of having the largest number of employees, the largest budget and they host more community events and his secretary is involved in every single one of them.

Manager Derocher said she didn't think this was supposed to be a comparison of the two. She said that there are multiple executive secretaries in the township and if their job qualifications exceed their job description is now, their department head needs to advocate for them.

Sandy Vetter, spoke in favor of the Fire Department's request.

Mary Earley, 5925 Pine Ridge Court, also spoke in favor of the Fire Department's request.

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, seconded by Clerk Noble, to postpone the Fire Department's request for reclassification of Executive Secretary to Administrative Assistant until the July 2023 Board Meeting. The motion **CARRIED** with a roll call vote: (4 yes votes). (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Voorheis/no, Smith/no, Ruggles/yes).

D. REQUEST TO APPROVE FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR CEDAR ISLAND LAKE

Supervisor Kowall said all the necessary requirements had been met from the Cedar Island HOA.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Ruggles, seconded Trustee Smith, to approve the Cedar Island Lake Firework Display scheduled for July 1. The motion **CARRIED** with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

E. REQUEST TO APPROVE FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR PONTIAC LAKE

Supervisor Kowall said all of the necessary requirements had been met for this request as well.

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Noble, seconded by Treasurer Roman to approve the Pontiac Lake Firework Display scheduled for June 30. The motion **CARRIED** with a voice vote: (6 yes votes).

FYI

A. 9885 CEDAR ISLAND ROAD UPDATE

Litigation was ongoing. The most concerning structure had been removed, but there was still a large amount of junk and debris on the property. Witness statements were compiled, discovery would close on August 14, and the deadline to file motions would be in September. The Board concurred to continue with litigation.

B. CIVIC CENTER COMMITTEE UPDATE

Nothing new to report.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Treasurer Roman said he took pride in the community, and took concern with the residents who voiced their opinions about unleashed dogs. He put blame on the owners for not leashing their animals.

Clerk Noble thanked Elaine and Dawn in Accounting for an excellent audit. They both did an outstanding job.

Trustee Voorheis asked Chief Keller how many hot dogs were eaten at the Open House. Chief Keller said over 1,000 hot dogs were consumed. Trustee Voorheis said the event was great and she looked forward to next year. Chief Keller thanked Trustee Voorheis for her support during the event.

Trustee Smith thanked all of those who came out and supported the friends of the library. She said the summer reading program is up and running and encouraged residents to join. The library was working on making the patio available with outdoor games, and they would have food trucks and music on site as well. She said the rain didn't stop the fun at the Police Open House. She commended Chief Keller for a good job on community outreach, she enjoyed the day. She stated roundabouts are a hot topic and thanked Commissioner Long for coming today.

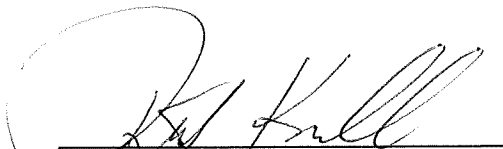
She added that she was sad that some use this forum for their own agenda and cause harm to others. She apologized if her words were misconstrued, and she was trying to convey that any dog can be aggressive. She stated that she exposed nothing that was not already public. She said she is a loving, caring dog owner. She believed in responsible pet ownership. It was tragic what happened to Ms. Bazinet, and she was heartbroken to hear her story. She looked at Danforth Street's fences, and when residents voiced concerns about fences not be compliant or in good standing it was her that spoke up. She wished Ms. Bazinet healing.

Trustee Ruggles said the Planning Commission worked on the Master Plan update. He was attended the Police Open House and said it was a good time. He wanted to know if White Lake could get a post office.

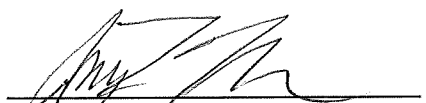
Supervisor Kowall reported with humor that a window was broken during the Police Open House by a youngster on accident trying to succeed at the dunk tank. He stated it was a great event and good to see that response for the community. The roundabouts were a current discomfort, but in the end, it would be beneficial for the Township. He thanked the Board in general for their work during his absence, and was happy to be back. He shared the concerns for responsible pet ownership. He hoped higher legislature would take the issue into consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, supported by Trustee Smith to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 P.M.



Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Charter Township of White Lake



Anthony L. Noble, Clerk
Charter Township of White Lake