

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE  
Approved Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting  
December 15, 2020**

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

Clerk Noble called the roll:

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

Also Present: Aaron Potter, DPS  
Lisa Hamameh, Attorney  
Jeanine Smith, Assessor  
Jennifer Edens, Recording Secretary

**AGENDA**

Supervisor Kowall added the following item to the Agenda:

- Item 8 – Patrol Agreement

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. REVENUE AND EXPENSE**
- B. CHECK DISBURSEMENTS**
- C. BUDGET AMENDMENTS**
- D. APPOINTMENTS TO PLANNING COMMISSION & ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**
- E. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD OF REVIEW**
- F. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

1. POLICE
2. FIRE
3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
4. TREASURER

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

## **MINUTES**

### **A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

Trustee Voorheis corrected her husband's name under her Trustee Comments on Page 10, to read Bob, not Ron.

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Powell to approve the Minutes of November 17, 2020 as corrected. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Powell/yes, Kowall/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Voorheis/yes, Noble/yes).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **8. PATROL AGREEMENT**

Cathy Derocher indicated this is a one-year tentative agreement for the year 2021. There is a 2.5% increase as well as an additional step increase to the dispatcher booth, which is supported by Chief Keller and the Department. Additionally, FTO training time was added, which Chief Keller also found to be appropriate.

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

### **A. REQUEST TO APPROVE POLC POLICE COMMAND TENTATIVE AGREEMENT**

Cathy Derocher indicated this simply adds a 2.5% increase for 2021. She noted that the rank differential remains the same as it does in the current contract and that there are no additional changes.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Powell, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Ruggles to approve the One-Year Tentative Agreement between the Police Officers, Labor Counsel, and White Lake Township as presented. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Powell/yes, Kowall/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Voorheis/yes, Noble/yes).

## **B. REQUEST TO APPROVE MAPE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT**

Cathy Derocher indicated this is a 2.5% increase with no other changes for the year of 2021.

**It was MOVED by Trustee Ruggles, SUPPORTED by Trustee Smith to approve the One-Year MAPE Agreement. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Noble/yes, Voorheis/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Powell/yes, Smith/yes, Kowall/yes).**

## **C. RESOLUTION #20-043; TO APPROVE NON-UNION EMPLOYEE & ELECTED OFFICIAL WAGE**

Cathy Derocher indicated this is a 2.5% increase applicable to department heads, elected officials, and part-time employees for the year of 2021.

Supervisor Kowall indicated that during previous discussions the labor agreements were not on their radar. He thanked Ms. Derocher for her hard work regarding this matter.

Trustee Powell concurred in Supervisor Kowall's sentiments. He questioned how much help the Township labor attorney had in the negotiations.

Ms. Derocher indicated he was involved. She further noted that the MAPE Agreement was resolved quickly and there were not a lot of labor costs.

Clerk Noble indicated that it is interesting to sit on this side of things as he has sat as a union negotiator. He knows what work it takes and he too thanked Cathy Derocher and the unions for coming up with the one-year agreement.

Trustee Voorheis she does not like the elected officials being grouped with the non-union fulltime and part-time. She feels 2020 has been an odd fiduciary year for the state and country. She as a leader in White Lake Township does not want a 2.5% raise. She further noted that this Resolution with out including the elected officials would have her support.

Trustee Smith also prefers to not take a raise as an elected official. With that said, she would not vote against the deserving township employees encompassed in this Resolution but wondered if elected officials could be eliminated from it. She does not feel that as an elected official she needs a raise while residents are struggling.

Cathy Derocher indicated that the Resolution can, with Board approval, be amended.

Supervisor Kowall reminded that historically these steps have been followed because the Township/Board has not decided to have a compensation board. It is a fair and equitable way to keep the elected officials and non-union employees in line with the costs that the Township puts up with. The Township is in good

fiscal condition. The Township and Board have been extremely fiscally responsible. He noted that he was able to put together a budget that is lower than the previous year, without these raises. If approved, there would need to be a budget amendment. With the cost of living he noted that there is probably a half of percent increase. He closed that this would keep within the same format outside of a compensation committee.

Treasurer Roman has had many discussions with former Clerk Lilley who convinced him that the most equitable way to look at wage increases/decreases is to follow the rest of the Township. His problem with a wage committee is that it would be created by this same Board and he doesn't see how that can be independent. He furthered noted that he doesn't think anyone on the Board is overpaid.

Clerk Noble commended the Board and workers as the Township is 79% MERS Pension funded with the OPEG. The Township is ahead of a lot of cities. He gave props to Treasurer Roman and the Board for being fiscally sound.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to approve Resolution #20-043; Non-Union Employee and Elected Official Wage Resolution One-Year Extension. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Voorheis/no with comment\*, Powell/yes, Ruggles/yes, Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes with comment\*\*, Noble/yes).**

\*Trustee Voorheis apologized to the non-union fulltime and part-time employees.

\*\*Trustee Smith votes yes for the employees, but historically she votes no against elected official raises.

Treasurer Roman noted that to those who voted no, if they wish to decline the raise, they will need to advise the accounting department.

#### **D. REQUEST TO APPROVE MERS DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

Supervisor Kowall noted that this is just a reconfiguring of how the day is structured.

Cathy Derocher indicated that MERS is the Township's retirement system. They have been revising their policy and procedures so that the definition of how one gets credited service is more defined to the specific municipality. Previously they had a general term which was ten, eight-hour days, would get an individual credited service for that month. It was realized that that calculation did not fit every municipality or every division within which resulted in this fifty plus page document.

She indicated that the Township has eight groups within MERS. The groups are broken down not only by division (i.e. police, fire, general township), but also by date of hire and if there are nuances within the contract. They have provided a format that they want the Township to follow, which is basically fill in the blank and identify every scenario. What the term of a workday is, how many workdays a division must work in a given month to get service credit. It was also identified whether service credit would be given for sick

leave. This document does not change the current practice, it clarifies to them. The definition of a workday is spelled out within the document. She closed that they were assured that if changes are identified, they could be made.

Trustee Powell questioned if the Township had some groups that are not covered by MERS. He is of the impression that new hires were eliminated from pensions.

Cathy Derocher indicated that the Township is not eliminating any pensions, but that the formula may vary between the groups. All fulltime employees are eligible for this, but a variance could exist if there is an employment contract.

**It was MOVED by Clerk Noble, SUPPORTED by Trustee Ruggles to approve the MERS Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Noble/yes, Powell/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Kowall/yes, Voorheis/yes).**

**E. RESOLUTION #20-046; DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE (COVID-19)**

Supervisor Kowall reminded in March of 2020 there was a small meeting to declare the state of emergency for the Township. The situation has not remedied itself and it is recommended that the Township declare the state of emergency from December through March of 2021. He believes this will happen statewide and anticipates the county will re-up theirs as well. He highly recommends the Board support this.

Lisa Hamameh reminded that the emergency declaration was drafted because the Open Meetings Act allowed the Township to continue to hold electronic meetings through the end of 2020. It required an act or in part a declaration for the Board to continue beyond December 31, 2020. She further noted that it was only put through the end of March, because the future is undetermined. Additionally, she shared as new information that the Senate passed new legislation that is waiting for the House to pass, that would extend the allowance to continue to conduct electronic meetings for no reason through the end of March. She closed that this Resolution gets the Township assurances whether or not the legislation passes.

Trustee Ruggles asked of Ms. Hamameh what would be a reason another Board would not pass this Resolution.

Ms. Hamameh is unaware of any negatives and believes that a lot of people/communities were banking on said legislation and did not deem it necessary. She noted that many communities are now scrambling to try to get a Resolution passed.

Trustee Powell clarified that if adopted, it would apply to every board/committee that meets in the Township and who would determine when this Resolution would end.

Ms. Hamameh indicated that the rules dictate who, how, what, when, where, and why. She further answered that if the county extended the state of emergency, then the township would not need the local state of emergency to effectuate the Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Powell further asked how might the electronic meetings extend for perpetuity for no reason of emergency, but rather those that are on vacation to attend. To which Ms. Hamameh indicated an amendment to the Open Meetings Act that allows it for perpetuity for no reason. She further stated that it was only extended during a state of emergency.

Trustee Smith believes that according to the MTA any board member can attend electronically for a video call conference if they are sick, on vacation or any reason, as long as the location from which they will attend is publicly posted by noon prior to the meeting. According to MTA a board member can attend by video conference at any time, it just has not been common practice in White Lake.

Lisa Hamameh noted that yes, under the new Meetings Act Amendment if the board member is sick.

Trustee Smith and Ms. Hamameh recognize they have a difference of opinion regarding this.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Ruggles to approve Resolution #20-046; Declaring a Local State of Emergency to Protect the Public Peace, Health, Safety and General Welfare (COVID-19) The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Kowall/yes, Ruggles/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes, Smith/yes).**

#### **F. REQUEST TO APPROVE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR ELECTRONIC MEETINGS**

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to approve the Rules of Procedure for Electronic Meetings. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Voorheis/yes, Ruggles/yes, Noble/yes, Kowall/yes, Smith/yes, Roman/yes, Powell/yes).**

#### **G. RESOLUTION #20-040; TO APPROVE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BONDS FOR BOGIE LAKE NORTH SEWER MAIN**

Trustee Powell wondered if there is any validity in waiting on selling these bonds until they might be coupled with other projects.

Supervisor Kowall indicated the answer is no, because these people are in an urgent situation and time is of the essence.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Ruggles to approve the Bond Resolution #20-040. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Powell/yes, Noble/yes, Voorheis/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes, Kowall/yes).**

**H. RESOLUTION #20-041; TO CONFIRM SPECIAL RE-ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATED 2020-2025 RESIDENTIAL REFUSE COLLECTION PROJECT**

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Powell, **SUPPORTED** by Treasure Roman to approve Resolution #20-041, which confirms the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District Designated 2020-2025 Residential Refuse Collection Project. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Noble/yes, Voorheis/yes, Smit/yes, Powell/yes, Ruggles/yes).

**I. RESOLUTION #20-042; TO TENTATIVELY DECLARE ITS INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS OAK RIDGE PARK SEWER MAIN**

Supervisor Kowall noted this is to simply establish the intention. He further noted that there will be some future discussions regarding the use of PA 188 funds for some smaller projects due to cost prohibitive bonds. He believes the Township needs to do what it can to remedy for the residents. He asked of Mr. Potter how many residents are in this group and it was confirmed that there are forty parcels.

Supervisor Kowall continued by stating that this is one of those problematic projects for financing and yet it has a huge impact on the water quality. He is highly recommending that this resolution be approved.

Trustee Ruggles questioned the math with an approximate cost \$310,000, and a per REU cost of \$8,600 ( $310,00 / 40$  parcels equals = 7,750). He asked if the \$8,600 is an additional cost.

Aaron Potter responded that there are additional fees (administrative fees, engineering fees, etc.). The full costs will be broken down at the next public hearing when the district is established. He further noted that the cost estimate done here was based on the Castlewood Project. He would like to combine this as it is small enough that it wouldn't be bonded on its own, but it is a large enough amount of money if the Township wanted to pay for it out of PA 188 or Major Maintenance. He shared that there is not a lot of money in Major Maintenance due to the Shotwell Project.

Lisa Hamameh commented on Mr. Ruggles question that there are also contingencies that are built into these estimates. She laid out the Township's process in establishing special assessment districts for the benefit of Mr. Noble.

- Intention
- Establishment
- Confirmation

This is the Intention Resolution where the Township is simply declaring their intention to create the S.A.D. and scheduling a public hearing. This matter is set for January 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for public hearing at the Township Board Meeting. She asks that any approval of the Resolution amends the location of the meeting to reflect that it is an electronic meeting. Prior to the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Assessor will

publish notice and mail letters to every property owner in the district, letting them know that the Township is considering establishing the district. At the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board will decide whether to establish the S.A.D. Individuals will have the opportunity to attend and object. At that time, the Township Board will decide to remove/add people from the district. She indicated that is the last chance to determine the parcels that will be in the district.

That Resolution that will before the Board on January 19<sup>th</sup> will schedule a public hearing to confirm the roll. At that public hearing individuals can appear and object to the amount that they are being assessed.

She further noted that failure to attend a public hearing and object, forfeits their opportunity to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal in the future.

Aaron Potter added that all the costs in the intention resolution are preliminary estimates. He typically will ask the Board to approve engineering services between the establishment and confirmation public hearing. At that time, he typically will have accurate cost estimates.

Treasurer Roman inquired if any callers were present regarding this topic. To which none were.

Trustee Smith thanked Mr. Potter for explaining the costs structure for this project as it is a little different. She further clarified with Mr. Potter that there is a contingency fee included.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to approve Resolution #20-042 to Tentatively Declare its Intention to Establish a Special Assessment District to be Known as Oak Ridge Park Sewer Main with the following changes: Paragraph II – changing the date to January 19, 2021 with the meeting to take place electronically. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Noble/yes, Voorheis/yes, Powell/yes, Kowall/yes, Ruggles/yes, Roman/yes).**

**J. RESOLUTION #20-044; TO TENTATIVELY DECLARE ITS INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS TWIN LAKES VILLAGE ROAD PAVING**

Treasurer Roman indicated this Resolution is for reconstruction of roads in Twin Lakes on the private roads.

Jeanine Smith pointed out that the Township does not have a road department. In this case the individuals who put through this petition have already received bids and have done all the preliminary work on their own to establish this special assessment.

Trustee Ruggles questioned on the map (top left) the difference in the highlighted homes from South and East versus North and West. He asked why the homes on one side would not be included in an S.A.D. that is repaving that street and how the homes were decided.



Ms. Smith indicated the homes that are involved are the people in the Twin Lakes Village Condo Association and they have private roads. She further noted that Twin Lakes Village includes both private and public roads. She indicated that the people included in the map are all the people included in the condo association and that not all of the roads are private, but they are part of the association.

Treasurer Roman added that the road in question with the highlighted parcels is not being repaved with this assessment. However, those parcels have agreed to chip in towards the costs of this district.

Trustee Powell indicated that they would be included in the intention and might be included in the overall S.A.D., noting that each have an opportunity to request the Board that they be included but their amount be different.

Treasurer Roman added that the association that includes those parcels has a road fund that they are going to use to chip in for those parcels to keep the costs down for the residents that live on the private roads.

Jim Kushnereit, 410 Berry Patch Lane, President of the TLVA. He appreciates the explanation given by Ms. Hamameh regarding the process. The Association has a road assessment and they will pay for those residents so that they are not affected. He has one request seeking expeditious determination of yes/no as it would be helpful to get it done in 2021 to avoid cost increase.

Trustee Powell asked if they have engineering drawings or if they are dealing with one contract for estimates.

Mr. Kushnereit indicated they are using G2, a general contractor that has worked with White Lake several times in the past. He further stated that the subdivision has two associations within it and half of the subdivision had roads redone two years ago working with G2. He indicated that G2 has done a full geotechnical survey, examined the road and provided a full report that has been placed on the Association's website for residents to view.

Mr. Powell further asked if they are proposing to grind the road(s) or overlay. To which, Mr. Kushnereit responded that they will take off the top four inches.

Trustee Ruggles believes it is impressive that they achieved 68% of the resident's signatures. He joked that he is either really convincing or their roads are really bad.

Mr. Kushnereit indicated that his intent here was not to redo the road but give the residents the opportunity to do so if they wanted to. He shared that they only had ten days to get the signed petition back to make this meeting. There were some residents unavailable and vacant lots that are counted as no votes, but despite that they are still at 68%. He shared that they are now at 75% in favor.

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Roman, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Powell to approve Resolution #20-044; to Tentatively Declares its Intention to Establish an S.A.D. to be known as Twin Lakes Village Road Paving Project with the following changes: Paragraph I, remove Sunny Beach Drive, Berry Patch Lane, and Sandy Ridge Drive which are public roads; and in Paragraph II, change the date of the public hearing to January 19, 2021. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Kowall/yes, Roman/yes with comment\*, Noble/yes, Voorheis/yes, Ruggles/yes, Smith/yes, Powell/yes).

\*Treasurer Roman thanked his Deputy Treasurer Lisa Reaser for reviewing the project and pointing out many of the issues discussed, including the fact that there were public roads.

**K. RESOLUTION #20-045; TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR NORTH HULBERT SEWER MAIN SPECIAL ASSESSMENT**

It was **MOVED** by Supervisor Kowall, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Voorheis to approve the adjournment of Resolution #20-045 to Adjourn the Public Hearing for North Hulbert Sewer Main Special Assessment. The motion **PASSED** by roll call vote (Smith/yes, Noble/yes, Powell/yes, Kowall/yes, Roman/yes, Ruggles/yes, Voorheis/yes).

**L. REQUEST TO APPROVE SCADA SYSTEM UPGRADES FOR SANITARY SEWER STATION AND SEWAGE METERS**

Supervisor Kowall indicated that this will bring the Township into the twenty-first century with some of the aging systems in place.

Aaron Potter compared it to trying to use a twenty-year-old computer to have this Board meeting right now. He indicated that is essentially what the SCADA systems are doing right now. He further stated that in 2016 Oakland County began upgrading their SCADA system. They have now completed the majority of their project with White Lake Township now being one of two remaining communities to upgrade to the new system. It will include eight stations.

He indicated that the Township began working into the new system with the Kroger, Worthington Crossing, and Trailside Meadows stations. This would be for the remaining stations. The total costs not to exceed \$234,800. He noted that this would typically come from Sewer major Maintenance but asked the Ms. Hamameh if consideration could be given with possibly bonding this with some of the other special assessments. He reminded that over \$300,000 was just approved out of Major Maintenance for the Shotwell and East Oxhill Projects. He believes the fund currently has approximately \$1.71 million in it and with this and the Shotwell project it would leave it low around \$500,000.

He is asking the Board to approve the Oakland County Water Resource SCADA System upgrade for the remaining White Lake sanitary pump stations and metering sites not to exceed \$234,800.00 with discussion

on where that should be paid and authorize Supervisor Kowall to execute all necessary documents associated with the Agreement.

Trustee Powell asked of Treasurer Roman, what the advantages would exist for the Township to couple this with a bond sale that puts the obligation for the Township to pay it back over a period of time with interest. He questioned if the Township would make enough money on the monthly charges for the sanitary sewer as well as the capital charges to pay that loan back or should the Township fund it internally.

Treasurer Roman does not think \$234,000 is enough to bond out. He believes the bonding cost would be prohibitive. He questioned of Mr. Potter if Mr. Traciak's recent rate study was on just water or if it included sewer.

Mr. Potter noted that Mr. Traciak did a sewer rate for the SAW Grant methodology. Mr. Potter admittedly has been a bit of a hawk on capital connection charges. He tries his hardest to collect all charges owed to White Lake Township for this reason because all of these projects are paid out of Major Maintenance and 100% of Major Maintenance comes from capital connection charges. He thinks it is important to note there are development projects out there and there will be some additional funds coming into Major Maintenance. He agrees it would be cost prohibitive to bond this by itself, but questions if it could be combined/group with some of the capital maintenance projects.

Treasurer Roman believes and recommends that it should be taken out of the Sewer Maintenance Fund. He further stated that the Township is making great progress at paying off the sewer debt from Phase I. He believes it will be paid off in full in a year.

Clerk Noble asked of Mr. Potter if the old programming that is being used is antiquated and that the new system will bring us to par with homeland security measures post 911 from someone breaching our infrastructure.

Mr. Potter confirmed that the programming is antiquated, but that the SCADA systems are proprietary and do not necessarily connect out to the world where they can be accessed. The newer system does use different types of encryptions that allow them in some cases to be web based. He further noted that typically he would not have a detailed discussion regarding the components in a public forum for security purposes. He left it that this system will not be less secure than the old one.

**It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Powell to approve, not to exceed \$235,000.00 to come out of Sewer Maintenance for the SCADA System Upgrades for Sanitary Sewer Station and Sewage Meters and to allow for Supervisor Kowall to execute the necessary documents. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Ruggles/yes, Kowall/yes, Voorheis/yes, Roman/yes, Smith/yes, Noble/yes, Powell/yes).**

**M. REQUEST TO APPROVE DLZ ENGINEERING SERVICE PROPOSAL- US EPA RISK AND REILIENCE ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

Supervisor Kowall indicated that the EPA has mandated policies, procedures, and programs to be in place. One of them is the Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) which is how we will act if we have a problem and how we will deal with it. It is a very comprehensive document that needs to be looked at from an engineering standard eye. DLZ has put a proposal before the Board to provide the necessary engineering review of documents and prepare the plan with a cost estimate not to exceed \$22,000.

He further indicated that in 2018 the America's Water Infrastructure Act was signed into law, which requires community water systems that serve over 3,300 people to develop a Risk and Resilience Assessment and an Emergency Response Plan and that is what this is about.

**It was MOVED by Trustee Powell, SUPPORTED by Trustee Ruggles to approve the DLZ Contract at a price not to exceed \$22,000.00 for US EPA Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan and to authorize Supervisor Kowall to execute the documents. The motion PASSED by roll call vote (Noble/yes, Smith/yes, Ruggles/yes, Powell/yes, Roman/yes, Voorheis/yes, Kowall/yes).**

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Trustee Voorheis apologized for not being at the swearing in at the newest career firemen, Dylan, Scott and Devin. She welcomed them to White Lake and is hopeful that they may be the Station III personnel they have been looking for. As for Parks and Rec, they are continuing to work with Beckett Raeder on the development of Stanley Park and are making great progress.

She finished by sharing that the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year marked the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote. She further named the women of White Lake Township that were named as elected officials and thanked them. She wished everyone a great holiday, wished them safety and health and noted she is looking for a different 2021.

Trustee Ruggles shared that the Planning Commission has not met since the last Board meeting but are scheduled to meet this Thursday. He congratulated Mr. Noble on his first Board meeting. He recalled his first Board meeting and how Carol helped him with writing down motions for him to make and how she would indicate that they were easy ones. He further shared that she teased him about his leather case and organization that she too had fifteen years ago. He acknowledged the difference in him from then to now. He offered if they ever get to sit next to each other, he'll pass Mr. Noble a note. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

Trustee Powell shared that with regards to the Parks and Rec Committee, the overall discussion and presentation is trying to determine what aspects we want to bring to the Township Board. The input is

valuable and is trying to make it as usable to as many people in the Township and make it a destination where people want to come and recreate and enjoy the Township. Input has been received from residents in the area and they are mindful of the impact they could have on the lake. It is a very good group and thanked the Supervisor for appointing everyone. He thinks he will be proud of the park and he looks forward to bringing it back before the Township for discussion at the Board level.

As for the ZBA, he noted it has been very active with five or six request per meeting. There were so many this month that they have scheduled extra meetings in an effort to not hold people up. He has noted a problem that the ZBA is dealing with where residents are asking for more and more variance request and stretching the standards out (i.e. bigger homes, expensive homes, and homes that are closer to property lines). He noted the ZBA tries to keep the homes further apart and the homeowners are trying to push the property lines. He declared that they are not pleasing everyone and that it is not the position of the ZBA to do so.

He closed by complimenting the staff this year, not only the hardship with COVID 19 issues, but the amount of work with the elections. He declared that the Township has incredible professional staff and that department heads utilized the staff as efficiently as possible. He thanked Supervisor Kowall, Clerk Noble, and Treasurer Roman for their guidance and keeping the Township running as smoothly as it does. He would like to see a picture of former Clerk Lilley in the Township Hall and reminded that he will never be forgotten. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He reminded to wear the masks and stay safe and next year will be much better year.

Treasurer Roman indicated that it is truly an honor to serve this community and that he is looking forward to doing so for four more years. He thanked his fellow Board members for the great thoughts and work they do. He thanked his entire staff for their dedication shown in serving the community during these trying times. He wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Trustee Smith echoes the comments in thanking staff and the Board. She feels it has been an interesting year and that this year couldn't be done without the staff. She shared that it has been a pleasure to join in the Parks and Rec Committee and that there have been great suggestions and progress and she believes they will bring forward a very exciting and workable plan to the Board. She clarified for the benefit of the residents that they are seeking grant money for Stanley Park.

Regarding the library, it is following restrictions set forth by the state or county. They are still offering curbside service and Wi-Fi in the parking lot for those in need.

She gave a warm welcome to Clerk Noble and Deputy Clerk Bullard. She is looking forward to working with them.

She read a social media meme into the record that reads: Yes, we are all seeing the same storm, but we are all not in the same boat. Some people are in canoes, yachts, and hanging on for dear life holding onto

a floating raft. She doesn't want anyone to feel discouraged or embarrassed if they need help. She reminded that there are a lot of resources available and that the community has really stepped up to help with donations and such. She is proud of the community. She encouraged residents to reach out if they need help for Christmas.

Lastly, she congratulated the Board for the many positive things they have done in moving the Township forward. She is looking forward to working together the next four years. She wished everyone safety, health and happy holidays. She prays that 2021 will be better for everyone.

Clerk Noble thanked the residents for having the faith and giving him the honor to serve them. He knows that serving is a privilege. He thanked Mr. Lilley for his guidance and mentorship during his transition. He thanked the police, fire and staff for the open arms and kindness. It was brought to his attention that Officer Barber aided a resident with a broken pipe, and he assisted her in turning off the water. He thanked him personally for his actions. (technical glitch occurred, and Mr. Noble's remarks went mute)

It has been a great transition. He thanked supervisor Kowall for he and his wife for paying for the Christmas tree lighting. It is appreciated by him and the Township. He is looking forward to a better 2021. He is looking forward to the next four years on the Board and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Supervisor Kowall noted that the Township will be seeing some necessary upgrades as the speed is slowing down and the demand has gone up. He noted that those that received a Township computer, they are theirs to keep post COVID as it will make it easier to keep in touch with their constituents and for security purposes. He shared that there are security test taking place and noted and thanked Trustee Smith for recognizing an outside threat the other day. He reminded that we can't be too careful.

He believes the Township has great people committed to a great community. He notes there are sometimes differences, but they share their history in common. It binds them in what they can do tomorrow. He indicated this Board made history in purchasing land for the park and the future of the Township. It has ensured the preservation of a lake front area and hopefully will have a thriving, walkable community. He, after speaking to Denise Stefanik, felt bad for her with all the work in keeping the library running. He is hopeful for a change in the winds with vaccinations.

He thanked the Board for their consideration in reprogramming the CDBG monies. Multiple requests for furnaces and hot water tanks have been received.

He advised that Community Sharing, located at the western end of the Township, at the old Duck Lake Elementary on Duck Lake Road. He has been working with others to find them a new home. He gave kudos to Rick Hammel of Highland Township that donated a parcel of property near their library. He advised that there will be fundraising to fund this to keep them in the area and able to assist residents.

Regarding W.O.T.A., as of January 1<sup>st</sup> it is going into its second year. It is finishing the year in the black and has made a huge difference to individuals in getting to dialysis and just be part of our society. He believes COVID has made W.O.T.A. even more important. He reminded if there are seniors out there in need get ahold of the senior center or W.O.T.A. and they will get them connected.

To the Board, this is his ninth year as an elected official, he notes that this is a good group and he appreciates everyone and the hard work in getting things done. He thanked Trustee Powell and Smith for their efforts with the park and looks forward to what they come up with.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas, be safe, and social distance. He reminded that sometimes it hits closer to home than we want it to. God Bless White Lake and Happy New Year!

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 8:50 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 December 15, 2020 regular board meeting minutes.



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