

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI  
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 WORK SESSION**

**Supervisor Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 5:04 p.m. in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.**

**Members Present:** Supervisor Brenda Stumbo, Clerk Karen Lovejoy Roe, and Treasurer Larry Doe  
**Trustees:** Stan Eldridge, Heather Jarrell Roe, Jimmie Wilson Jr., and Monica Ross-Williams

**Legal Counsel:** Wm. Douglas Winters

**1. Presentation on Flexride and Update of September 27, 2017  
Route**

Bill DeGroot, a financial analyst and planner from the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority said the FlexRide program is a new shared ride program that will be launching September 27, 2017. He said it is a connective program designed to go where the big buses cannot such as in rural areas and areas with a lower density in the Township. He said the design they are trying to pilot was a curb to stop program which can be reserved by calling 24 hours ahead from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. or up to 45 minutes ahead on the same day. He said a Mode car will pick the resident up at the end of their driveway and take them to their destination, whether it be between Textile, Rawsonville, Bemis and Hitchingham roads; Ypsilanti Township Civic Center, Ypsilanti District Library, Lincoln schools when buses do not operate (for after school programs), Paint Creek Shopping Center or to connect a resident to Route 46. He stated as they launched the pilot program, they found residents wanted to connect to Paint Creek to shop or connect to Route 46 to go to Doctor's appointments. He said a one-way trip cost \$1.00 and is easily accessible by calling Mode or the phone number on the website, downloading the application, or calling a dispatcher for service from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. He said people with-in the eight square mile radius of service will receive a postcard with information on the FlexRide pilot service and added information can also be found on myflexride.org. He recommended that everyone try it and refer others to it as well in hopes of getting the program to take off and grow, eventually extending hours and days. Mr. DeGroot said this was completely

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funded by a grant and millage program so the future impact to Ypsilanti Township was covered, but we need to hear about how this impacts the community and if we need to make tweaks to it going forward.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe asked if she could be picked up from Lincoln High School after school was over or would she have to come to Bemis Road.

Mr. DeGroot said if it's after school hours and you cannot use the school bus, we will connect you to a convenient location or connect you to a fixed route bus.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe asked if it was just for Lincoln or would it go South. She asked if it would go to the closest fixed route.

Mr. DeGroot said it would not go any farther South. He answered if you live within the eight square mile area of service it will take you to the curb in front of your house. He said if you live outside, it will take you to the nearest fixed route and for Lincoln that would be the Ypsilanti Township District Library.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe asked if you could tell the Mode driver what drop off site you like.

Mr. DeGroot said correct, they will take you to either Ypsilanti Township District Library, Ypsilanti Township Civic Center, or Paint Creek.

Trustee Ross-Williams asked how long was the FlexRide program scheduled to last.

Mr. DeGroot stated we have an opportunity for a three year contract based on our subcontractor, Mode. He said the pilot program was scheduled to last a year and during that time they would like to find out the logistics to determine how to move forward. He said it takes a while to develop the service and for people to realize what a great opportunity this is for the community. He said it was important to grow a grass root service by helping neighbors out. He said it was easy to see big vehicles like our buses or a UPS vehicle going down the street, but when you have a smaller vehicle, it's a lot harder to see to advertise and that's

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why word of mouth was so important. He encouraged talk amongst neighbors, a push from social media through campaigns, and post cards to gain ridership. He said they were looking forward to the feedback to determine what is being done right and what could improve.

Trustee Ross-Williams asked if the cost would increase after the pilot program ends.

Mr. DeGroot said he was unsure at this time, but the goal was to incentivize the program so it does not compete with other lines of businesses. He said over the next couple of years we're looking at all of our lines of business to see if our fares are aligning with the target audience to make sure we are still serving the Township appropriately. He said after the fare study was conducted, he cannot guarantee it, but for the foreseeable future we were not going to change the fares.

Trustee Ross-Williams asked how will the Flexride work with transfers on the bus.

Mr. DeGroot said there was no free transfer in this process. Fixed route to fixed route there was no transfer fee because an individual has paid into the system. He said we cannot guarantee the fixed route to be the end point, it was going to be the regular fare of \$1.50. Seniors and disabled people who rely on ARide will be paying \$5.00 instead of \$8.00 for a roundtrip. He said it was still a viable option for those who have limited mobility with considerable savings.

Trustee Jarrell Roe asked what the target number the AAATA was looking for to consider the pilot program a success.

Mr. DeGroot stated right now the way to measure the program was the success gained to give the residents more of an opportunity to connect them to their destinations, not by the number of riders or the budget.

Trustee Jarrell Roe asked if there was a wait time given to riders when they call or use the application.

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Mr. DeGroot said there are two options in the way the vehicle will be talking through the application and the rider. He said it goes through dispatch and gets sent to the vehicle that has an electronic data base where they can accept the route and from there it will notify the driver of the wait time. He said once the vehicle was nearby, a text message or notification on the application will be sent to the rider. He said they were working on what to do if the rider does not have a phone with the option to text which is all part of the pilot program.

Trustee Eldridge asked how the area was selected.

Mr. DeGroot said in part of the negotiations to develop the county wide program we looked at the opportunity to bring Route 46 down to connect the Southern part with the rest of the Township. He said we have been looking at what transportation looks like in more rural parts of the Township. He said Denver uses a smaller vehicle while out East, a larger bus is used. He said with the difference in road profiles like gravel and Class A, we cannot guarantee a full motor coach would get down the roads without the weight of the bus damaging them. He concluded, the study with University of Michigan's transportation planning program has helped fine tune the pilot program you see today.

Trustee Eldridge asked how they were going to define success or failure, would it be in the spike of the riders and with the possibility of costs increasing, was it likely to continue to be successful. He said there has to be some factor that will determine the cost in the future.

Mr. DeGroot stated there are metrics from across the country that show statistics where we can measure riders per hour and what a proper range should be. He said University of Michigan's analysis showed there were two to four riders per service hour. He said it does not sound like a lot, however it is an improvement over our current ARide service in the area. He said since it was an ARide program the measure of success was still going to be based on how quickly people hear about it and how they understand and use it. He said we'd like to learn where those touch points and travel patterns are so we can target an audience and grow the market. He said our current fixed route is required to have 25 people per service hour. He said there was a big range between four and 25 people so it's

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tough to give benchmarks on where the community stands. He said our budget was \$100,000 with the ability to extend to three years and they will need to look at all the factors that will determine costs in the future.

Trustee Eldridge said there has to be a ballpark range from other cities doing the same program so our residents have an idea of what kind of fees we're looking at once the pilot program ends.

Mr. DeGroot said one of the things we're required to do was to stay in compliance with Title Six, an equity fare program, and since this was a public transportation program it will fall under that category as well. He said we can't be inequitable with who we were trying to serve and until we know more about our clientele only than we can determine the cost. He said he cannot get out of the fare structure itself and would consider \$5.00 astronomical. He said it's not right or fair to do that to the community.

Mr. DeGroot said the program stops at the safest stop which is most likely at the curb of the residence, or near the property if they cannot get access to the home. He also said that ARide serves the entire Township already without restriction before Flex Ride begins.

Supervisor Stumbo asked why those hours were chosen because most people have to be to work at nine, not leaving the house by nine. She said it was explained to her that the hours could change if there was enough feedback.

Mr. DeGroot said there are three service changes per year. He said we would change the time in correspondence to when the route books are printed. He said we have the ability to tweak the program. He said we have the ability to work with our current provider and to do changes mid-way through. He said the information so far does not lead us to commuters. He said people in this area are not people who largely want this service and the ones that do want to use it for shopping or Doctor's visits, hence the 9 a.m.-5 p.m. time frame. He said if there was a distinct need for a time change we can shift the hours or negotiate.

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Supervisor Stumbo asked if there are any exceptions to the 9 a.m.-5 p.m. time like if there are football games or school activities that go after hours or on Saturdays.

Degroot said the entire service was from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. there are no extensions in the time frame to accommodate other things, but if they can make it by 5p.m. they are welcome to ride home Monday through Friday.

Mr. DeGroot said we want to find a model that works to honor our commitment of the five year millage and to the community. He said there were previous opportunities where we had funding available and we had to cancel with them as well. He said it's not our design, hope or planning practice to throw something out there and cancel the FlexRide Program. He said it's fully funded and we hope to continue. He added other ride share programs do not compete in this area so we believe we have a market for this if we tailor it properly.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe asked if this was promoted in the schools or was this just advertised through postcards.

Mr. DeGroot said the younger generations typically do not read mail, so to market to them, so were focusing social media campaigns. He said for all those listening please add AAATA to your Facebook page for updates about the services they provide. He asked if the board can forward any comments or concerns to AAATA so they can address them properly.

Resident Ms. Kaiser said a way to reach the older residents would be through the neighborhood watch. She said word of mouth allowed her to find out about people who are 62 and older being able to receive a bus pass for free.

Mr. DeGroot said he would pass that along to his team to include them.

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**REVIEW AGENDA**

**A. RESOLUTION 2017-21, CREATION OF STREETLIGHT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT #212 MANORS AT CREEKSIDE VILLAGE**

**B. RESOLUTION 2017-22, CREATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD CAMERA SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT #70 MANORS AT CREEKSIDE VILLAGE**

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said it was required as part of the development agreement that the developer put in cameras. She said they have all decorative lighting so they have to put in four new streetlights at each one of the entrances for the cameras to be installed. She said working with the Assessing Department, we have to keep the streetlight and camera special assessment separate. She said the public hearing notices went to the developer because the properties in that area have not been sold yet and the developer still owns them.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Resident Joann McCollom, a member of the West Willow Neighborhood Association Board, commented to talk about what happened at West Willow Saturday September 17, 2017. She said she received a call asking why people were walking down the street and she could not answer. She said the New West Willow Neighborhood Association members did not know anything. She said she found out a group of young people did this as a demonstration and peaceful protest on violence. She said she found an article from mlive.com and recognized a person in the photo who was Derrick Jackson, the Community Engagement Director and she was stunned he did not notify anyone. She said as an Association we have been trying to connect with the police, and we are starting a new program called safe neighbors where our goal was to allow the community to feel safe, which was a challenge for the youth due to all the bad choices. She said we are trying to find resolutions, be active, and proactive. She said it was insulting for someone who was on the Community Engagement Team to let this happen. She said the problem we have was many people will do the right thing and call the police for loud noise, drugs, and suspicious activity, but we're not getting the response we were supposed to have. She said for example, the day of the mock funeral, a neighbor said she saw suspicious activity and called the police, but even after two hours the police did not show up. She said there were two police escorts in the mock funeral and that really hurt that they did not

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respond. She said we want to help the police help us by making ourselves available for them. She said it has been a difficult task to connect with the police department, however there are meetings scheduled in hopes to get everyone on the same page. She stated she met the group of individuals that put on the event and they had good intentions. She said she believes they would have contacted the Association but they did not know to. She said the new West Willow Neighborhood Association was active in working with the police force to become a better community.

Supervisor Stumbo said Director Mike Radzik will follow up with the concerns.

Resident Tyrone Bridges, an advisor for the new West Willow Neighborhood Association, said he was echoing the thoughts of their Association President. He said it hurts as a volunteer to engage the community, work without pay, receive no protection from law enforcement, use our own money, lose sleep, and feel unappreciated while serving as a beacon of life for those who are in need. He said we love our community, but get tired of crime. He said we are losing children, yet we have a Community Engagement Officer who will not give us the time or do his job. He said he will fight for the kids, but it is very dangerous for him and his son when he talks to law officers about the drug dealers and gang members.

Supervisor Stumbo said this was the first time it's been brought to our attention, but we will follow up with the concerns.

Resident of West Willow, Robert Harrison, said he is concerned with all the traffic Tyler Road was encountering and says several people are cutting through their neighborhood. He said it's causing a huge problem with traffic, parking spots, and space, where he's seen someone get their mirrors taken off. He asked how the problem can be solved. He said if police could patrol the area more it would be helpful.

Resident Melvin Parson said he spent 13 years of his life incarcerated, homeless, and on drugs, but because someone cared enough, he was able to graduate from the Eastern Michigan Social Work Program. He said him and a friend created a program in 2015 called in A brighter Way that mentors men and woman who

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were incarcerated. He said he also created a farming initiative called We the People Grower's Association. He said he started by growing vegetables from his neighbor's garden. He said he went to the Farmer's Market in Ann Arbor to look at vegetables and realized there was no one down there that looked like him. He said currently he is leasing a half an acre of land through a church in Ypsilanti Township where some of his food ends up throughout Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti restaurants. He said his goal is to build a World Class Urban Farm in Ypsilanti Township that will support a workforce of about 10-15 men and women who have been released from incarceration. He said the goal is to change the soil in people's lives by creating an environment for them to flourish. Parson said the World Class Urban Farm could be located at Kettering Elementary, which has been vacant for years, and the people in the neighborhood could look at it with pride and the community can take pride in what they've done. He said he is honored to be at the Board meeting and would like to break ground with his idea starting next year.

Resident Andrew Wells said he is concerned about the cleanliness of the community with ACM (American Center for Mobility) moving in next-door. He said the property values have not went up and thinks that the Township should crack down on the renters who are not keeping up their property. He wanted to know what the future for the ACM is.

Trustee Ross-Williams said she lives in West Willow and was called by four people who asked her if someone had passed away. She said she called Joann, President of the Neighborhood Association, and Supervisor Stumbo, but no one in the Township knew what was going on. She said to make it clear, the people who put this event on had good intentions, but as leaders we have to lead them in the right direction. She stated the NWWNA,(New West Willow Neighborhood Association) that has been around since the 90's, is very accommodating to people who want to be partners; so why wasn't the Board or Association notified in advanced. She said she doesn't appreciate being uninformed when the residents call.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2017 WORK SESSION, EXECUTIVE SESSION AND  
REGULAR MEETING**

**B. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS**

- 1. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS FOR SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 IN THE AMOUNT  
OF \$620,022.24**
- 2. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 IN THE AMOUNT  
OF \$847,847.15**
- 3. CHOICE HEALTH CARE DEDUCTIBLE ACH EFT FOR AUGUST 2017 IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$37,382.77**
- 4. CHOICE HEALTH CARE ADMIN FEE FOR JULY 2017 IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$1,207.50**

**AUGUST 2017 TREASURER'S REPORT**

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

**A. GENERAL LEGAL UPDATE – at Regular Meeting**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. REQUEST OF KAREN WALLIN, HUMAN RESOURCES FOR APPROVAL TO CREATE  
AND POST AN ELECTION SPECIALIST POSITION (CLASSIFICATION #19) WITHIN  
THE AFSCME BARGAINING UNIT (TABLED AT THE JULY 18, 2017 REGULAR  
MEETING)**
- 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2017-474, YCUA SEWAGE DISPOSAL SERVICE  
RATES (FIRST READING HELD AT THE AUGUST 15, 2017 REGULAR MEETING)**

Director Castro summarized and said the increase for water and sewer is 3.52% and Detroit's is 3.2%.

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Supervisor Stumbo said we adopt a resolution every year where the Township pays \$15 for people who are having a problem paying their water and sewer bills. She said she requested that we look at increasing the amount that is paid into the fee since there are increases in the rates and they have not been raised in years.

Director Castro added the GLWA also has a program to help those in need and it is on the YCUA website.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. BUDGET AMENDMENT #12**

Supervisor Stumbo explained the amendment.

**2. 1<sup>st</sup> READING OF RESOLUTION 2017-20, PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2017-475,  
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES,  
ARTICLE IV REGARDING PERSONS STANDING IN ROADWAYS SOLICITING  
CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF CHARITABLE OR CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS**

Supervisor Stumbo said state law allows people to solicit in the road if they are a charitable organization.

**3. REQUEST APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR THE GOLF CART  
PATHWAYS PROJECT PERFORMED BY BEST ASPHALT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$23,596.50 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #584-584-000-971-000**

**4. REQUEST TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH OHM TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR ADDITIONAL GREEN OAKS GOLF CART  
PATHWAY WORK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,964.00 BUDGETED IN  
LINE ITEM #584- 584-000-971-000**

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- 5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT TO THE WASHTENAW COUNTY WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,183,368.25 FOR THE YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP AT LARGE ASSESSMENT AND THE YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP PROPERTY OWNERS ASSESSMENT FOR THE TYLER DAM DRAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-970-000-971-100**

Supervisor Stumbo said the project was bid out and a notice was sent out to notify us we need to pay \$1,183,368.25, that would be actually paid for by the ACM contribution to Ypsilanti Township. She said MDOT and the Washtenaw County Road Commission has a portion they need to pay as well.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said we saved a lot of taxpayer's money and planning for the future by getting different bids. She said there's a lot of work and research that went in to the \$200,000 plus savings from YCUA and our employees.

- 6. REQUEST OF BRIAN MCCLEERY, ASSISTANT ASSESSOR TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO SELL TOWNSHIP OWNED PARCEL K-11-02-381-012 (114 JEROME)**

Supervisor Stumbo said this will be brought back to the board.

- 7. REQUEST OF BRIAN MCCLEERY, ASSISTANT ASSESSOR TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO SELL TOWNSHIP OWNED PARCEL K-11-02-381-013 (101 LAMAY)**

Supervisor Stumbo said this will be brought back to the board.

- 8. REQUEST OF BRIAN MCCLEERY, ASSISTANT ASSESSOR FOR APPROVAL OF LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF PARCEL #K-11-14-403-008 TO LEONARD SANDERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00**

McCleery said this was for final approval and said a lot has been cleaned up to go forward with this process. He said Mr. Sanders wants to buy the property and put a garage on it.

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Supervisor Stumbo said approval would be contingent upon Attorney Winters approval.

- 9. REQUEST OF MIKE RADZIK, OCS DIRECTOR FOR AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK LEGAL ACTION IF NECESSARY TO ABATE PUBLIC NUISANCE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1241 RAMBLING RD. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-950-000-801-023**
  
- 10. REQUEST OF MIKE RADZIK, OCS DIRECTOR FOR AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK LEGAL ACTION TO ABATE PUBLIC NUISANCE DRUG HOUSES BY PADLOCKING LOCATED AT 147 JEROME AVENUE AND 7794 BERWICK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-950-000-801-023**
  
- 11. REQUEST OF MIKE RADZIK, OCS DIRECTOR FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2017 ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,000.00 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #266-301-000-831-012**
  
- 12. REQUEST TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017 AT APPROXIMATELY 7:00PM – SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TAX ROLL**
  
- 13. REQUEST TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2017 FOR THE CREATION OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS**
  - A. REQUEST TO SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2017 AT APPROXIMATELY 7:15PM – CREATION OF A NEIGHBORHOOD STREETLIGHT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR CREEKSIDE VILLAGE SOUTH**
  
  - B. REQUEST TO SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2017 AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30PM – CREATION OF A NEIGHBORHOOD CAMERA SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR CREEKSIDE VILLAGE SOUTH AUTHORIZATIONS AND BIDS**

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**AUTHORIZATIONS AND BIDS**

- 1. REQUEST TO AWARD THE LOW BID FOR ADDITIONAL WORK ON THE GREEN OAKS GOLF CART PATHWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO CROSS RENOVATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$71,800.00 AND APPROVE A CONTINGENCY BUDGET AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 TO COVER UNFORESEEN ISSUES FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$76,800.00 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #584-584-000-971-000 OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk

Charter Township of Ypsilanti