

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019 WORK SESSION**

Supervisor Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.

Members Present: Supervisor Stumbo and Clerk Lovejoy-Roe, Treasurer Doe
Trustees: Stan Eldridge, Monica Ross-Williams,
Heather Jarrell Roe and Jimmie Wilson were late

Members Absent: none

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

1. DISCUSSION OF ATTENDANCE POLICY.....TRUSTEE ELDRIDGE

Trustee Eldridge stated that a couple years ago they had changed the attendance policy for the Trustees. He said he initiated this again to see if there was a need to draft an Attendance Policy for the elected officials regarding attending meetings or their required work schedule. He said he was bringing this up again because residents and township employees had requested him to do so. He said if there was a will to move forward we would discuss it. Trustee Eldridge said that even if the township came up with a policy for the elected officials he said there would be no penalty if an elected official did follow it. He said his suggestion would be if the board agreed there should be a policy and if an elected official violated it although their benefits could not be diminished the board could restrict them from receiving any pay raises that other board members earned. He said that the state law might be in contrast to MERS which states you need to work a number of days per month for so long before you are eligible for retirement. Trustee Eldridge stated he felt the board should discuss adopting a formal attendance requirement for elected officials.

Treasurer Doe questioned the MERS requirement because in the auto industry an employee could be off at least 90 days and still be eligible for retirement.

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Trustee Eldridge stated they had to work ten days per month for retirement. He said the residents' expectations are the official would work 5 days a week, 8 hours a day just like the employees they supervise.

Trustee Ross-Williams stated she would like to discuss it.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she wasn't opposed to having standards for everyone.

Trustee Eldridge stated if we mandate our employees should be here 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and we are supervising them, that's when our elected officials should be at work. He said he understands that they are going to have time off but he said we need to get back to a standard work day and week.

Treasurer Doe said he wondered if there was something they could put in that would have meat to it.

Trustee Eldridge stated that he guessed it depended on how much you want a pay raise at the end of the year. He said if one of the three decided to come to work they would get a raise that the other two wouldn't receive. He said that was the only thing he could think of since there was not a state law that mandates it.

Supervisor Stumbo stated it would be like a performance review.

Denise Kirchoff, Township Resident, stated that she believes that if you are being paid you need to work 40 hours a week.

JoAnn McCollum, Township Resident stated she agreed there should be a policy for elected officials.

Arloa Kaiser, Township Resident believes that the whole board should be accountable not just the Trustees.

Paul Noble, Township Resident was in agreement with a policy but suggested more flexibility since the officials have commitments such as board meetings that

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they were required to attend. He suggested core hours but they should be able to flex the time accordingly.

Trustee Eldridge stated he handed out a proposed policy and asked the board to read it and make suggestions and changes.

Supervisor Stumbo stated they should bring it back to discuss it at the next work session.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated that the issue of flex hours was raised and said that both the Supervisor and Clerk positions require much more than 40 hours a week to do the work. She said she had served in both positions as Supervisor and Clerk. She said both positions take 50-60 hours a week to fulfill the responsibilities of the positions and during elections the working hours per week are even more.

2. DISCUSSION ON VIDEO RECORDING OF BOARD MEETINGS

.....TRUSTEE ROSS-WILLIAMS

Trustee Ross-Williams stated she appreciated the board putting the audio recording on the website for residents but she still believed having a video of board meetings would better serve the residents. She said she, Clerk Lovejoy Roe, and Supervisor Stumbo had a meeting with Van Buren Township Cable Director, Ally McCracken, to discuss how the township provides live video recordings of their board meetings on youtube, on a cable access channel, and on the Van Buren website. She said that Ms. McCracken stated they had purchased professional equipment at a cost of \$60,000.00. Trustee Ross-Williams stated when this was discussed in December 2017 the board decided since Ypsilanti Township did not have a cable access channel and the cost being \$60,000.00 they would only proceed with the audio portion being available to our residents on our website. She said the board would possibly revisit the video portion in the future. She said Ypsilanti City provides audio and video of their meeting to residents without a cable access channel. Trustee Ross-Williams suggested a video camera be used to record all the board meetings with facebook with live streaming. She

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said it could go on youtube but Ypsilanti City streams it on facebook. She said the estimated cost to be able to provide this would be a lot less than \$60,000.00.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that we would have to work with Travis from the Information Systems Department to come up with a solution. She said there is a way to do it for less cost than originally proposed because other communities were doing it.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe shared that in the past Derrick Jackson had live streamed the board meetings with a camera or a phone on a tripod from the back of the board room. She said it would be great for our seniors that can't get out and for our residents that are busy, and it provides transparency which she said was important. She also said that from our recent survey it showed that residents want more in the area of communication and information from the township.

The board members agreed to move forward on some type of video recording of the board meetings.

Denise Kirchoff, township resident, indicated that posting on Facebook Live generates a lot of viewers and shared the number of viewers that were on her current Facebook Live post.

Trustee Ross Williams said that we could work with the township employee responsible for social media to assist.

3. DISCUSSION ON UPDATING BOARD RULES.....CLERK LOVEJOY ROE

Clerk Lovejoy Roe explained the draft update of the board rules were in the packet that she had worked on. Discussion was held and several suggestions were made. Clerk Lovejoy Roe said she would incorporate the suggestions.

Supervisor Stumbo said the Attorney should review the rules.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said she would send the updated rules to the Attorney for review before bringing back to the board for adoption.

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4. AGENDA REVIEW.....SUPERVISOR STUMBO

A. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2019 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING.

Supervisor Stumbo shared her suggestions for changes for the March 5, 2019 Work Session minutes. Clerk Lovejoy Roe said she would review the audio tape and update the minutes accordingly and the revised minutes would be brought back to the April 2, 2019 meeting for approval with the changes.

B. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS

- 1. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS FOR MARCH 19, 2019 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,220,926.90**
- 2. CHOICE HEALTH CARE DEDUCTIBLE ACH FOR FEBRUARY 2019 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$54,761.49**
- 3. CHOICE HEALTH CARE ADMIN FEE FOR JANUARY 2019 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,124.50**

C. FEBRUARY 2019 TREASURER'S REPORT

ATTORNEY REPORT

A. GENERAL LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Winters updated the board on the progress with the contract with Rutherford Pool and Ypsilanti Township. He also shared information on the productive meeting with Pastor Ford and his contractors about Kaiser School. He said they have agreed to cooperate and meet the requirements for fire suppression. He informed the board that he was scheduled to meet with Nathan Voght from Washtenaw County to work on finalizing the last easement for the sidewalks on Washtenaw Ave. as a part of the Re-Imagine Washtenaw project. He said they have a conference call scheduled with

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Camelot Apartments to try and finalize the last easement. Attorney Winters reported they had another meeting set for Fire Fighter negotiations tomorrow. He said one of the more serious matters is 923 Ecorse Rd., Forbes Cleaners which is a major concern for the township officials and residents because it is a contaminated site. He said he had talked with Mary Miller, DEQ staff person assigned to the cleanup of this site. He said fencing was going to go up to prevent trespassing. He said we still do not know the extent of the contamination and reported more testing was being conducted. He said funding had been secured for part of the cleanup. He said all hands were on deck to make sure DEQ does right by the township to make sure the area is properly remediated.

NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION 2019-09, WASHTENAW REGIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WRRMA)

2. REQUEST APPROVAL OF YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COUNTY DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AS PRESENTED BY THE WASHTENAW COUNTY WATER RESOURCE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE DATED JANUARY 2019

Supervisor Stumbo reminded the board that Evan Pratt, Washtenaw County Water Resource Commissioner and his office had presented this Asset Plan at a work session and were now requesting the township to adopt the plan. She said the township had spent some \$160,000 this year on repairs and maintenance of drains. She said the township did work on a road plan, on a water and sewer plan and now we needed to address our drains with a plan to handle the storm water. She said it would be necessary to come back with a budget amendment in the future and this request was to adopt the plan this evening.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

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**A. 7:00 PM-RESOLUTION 2019-10, SUPPORT FOR ADMISSION OF MICHIGAN
NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS
TO LOONFEATHER PARK**

Supervisor Stumbo reviewed the process completed by engineering staff to identify almost \$600,000 of needs for renovating Loonfeather Point Park. She explained the grant would require a 50% match from the township if the grant was awarded. Supervisor Stumbo said the grant application included repairs to the shoreline and bank for soil erosion, rehabilitation of two pavilions, the bathrooms and the gate house. She said that since the original grant to develop the park around 1986 there had not been any improvements to the park, except for the new playground structure. She said the updates were needed and would benefit both the taxpayers and the residents who use the park.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe thanked everyone who helped put the grant together in a very short timeframe. She also said that letters of support for the grant and the park improvements were needed to file with the grant and asked individuals and organizations to submit letters as soon as possible.

Trustee Ross-Williams said she would write a letter of support. She said Loonfeather Point Park was one of our premier parks and she thought this would be a great addition to our park system.

- 4. RESOLUTION 2019-11, AUTHORIZING THE WATER RESOURCE COMMISSIONER TO EXCEED THE STATUTORY SPENDING AND ASSESSMENT LIMIT OF FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000.00) PER YEAR FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE OAKLAND ESTATES SUBDIVISION DRAIN**
- 5. RESOLUTION 2019-12, AUTHORIZING THE WATER RESOURCE COMMISSIONER TO EXCEED THE STATUTORY SPENDING AND ASSESSMENT LIMIT OF FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000.00) PER YEAR FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE RECREATION PARK SUBDIVISION DRAIN**

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6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT TO LAVERNE COURTNEY FOR HIS CONVEYANCE OF ANY INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY LEGALLY KNOWN AS RIVER GROVE TOWNHOMES PHASE II IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000.00 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-950-000-969-010

Attorney Winters said the property referred to as Rivergrove Townhomes has 17.19 acres and has 75 lots included in Phase II. He said the developer never developed Phase II and went through tax foreclosure. Attorney Winters reported that in 2014 Treasurer McClary Quit Claimed this property to Mr. Courtney and the terms of the Quit Claim deed, the Treasurer made with Mr. Courtney, said that if Mr. Courtney ever defaulted on the taxes the property would automatically revert to the township and Mr. Courtney would lose his interest in the property. He said this is something the township did not ask for but was something Treasurer McClary had the legal right to do. Attorney Winters said the property was conveyed to the township on December 29, 2015. He said developers were calling his office in regards to questions about when the township would be taking proposals on the property. He said the title company required the township to file a complaint to quiet title so the property could eventually be able to have a marketable title which is required to sell the property. He said the payment to Mr. Courtney will finalize the process for a deed to the property.

Supervisor Stumbo said there is also a grant possibility for connection to the bikepaths along this property line.

7. REQUEST TO AMEND THE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH OHM FOR THE CIVIC CENTER AND COMMUNITY CENTER ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,450.00 TO BE BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-970-000-975-141 CONTINGENT UPON BUDGET AMENDMENT APPROVAL

Supervisor Stumbo said this would allow this project to move forward to have this work finally completed.

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**8. REQUEST ADOPTION OF A PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL POLLINATOR
WEEK JUNE 16-22, 2019**

Supervisor Stumbo said we do this each year as a requirement to remain as a Bee City.

9. BUDGET AMENDMENT #5

Supervisor Stumbo said this was for PTO payouts and professional services for the roof project.

OTHER DISCUSSION.....BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Ross-Williams said she wanted to highlight the Lincoln High School Men’s Basketball Team for their State Championship and said it was the first State Championship in the school’s history. She also said Emoni Bates, Lincoln High School student and basketball player was awarded the Gatorade Player of the Year.

Lt. Marocco gave a brief overview of the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department report for 2018. He said work was needed in the area of run-away’s in comparison with the rest of the State of Michigan. He said we will have the addition of three new psu’s this year which he said will help a lot. He said Ypsilanti Township operates around 42 officers. He said the 12 hour shifts were working well and that the team was working hard for the township.

Work Session ended at approximately 6:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti