

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2019 WORK SESSION MEETING**

Supervisor Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 6:04 p.m. in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.

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

Members Absent: none

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

1. BOARD POLICY.....CLERK LOVEJOY ROE

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated she submitted to the Board a down sized version on what was discussed at different meetings. She said she met with Attorney Angela King and she reviewed all of the information. Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated Attorney King said it would be up to the Board what they wanted to adopt but she recommended that we not include items covered by state law.

Trustee Ross-Williams asked under the order of business it used to have Trustee Comments and it's not listed and she asked why it was taken out. She said she didn't know if it was taken out before she was elected to the board but she asked how she could have it put back in.

Trustee Wilson stated that he remembered for the first year he was on the Board there was a Supervisor, Clerk and Trustee report and then it wasn't in there anymore. Trustee Wilson said he would like to know why it was no longer in there. He said didn't care if it was there or not.

Trustee Ross-Williams said she knows it would be a board decision but she would like it back on.

Supervisor Stumbo said she thought it might be because agenda items for

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2019 WORK SESSION MEETING
PAGE 2**

township government were for action on an item instead of just getting updates. She said maybe we could do it in the work session.

Trustee Eldridge stated since he's been here sixteen years it has been hit or miss. He said sometimes the Supervisor would give a monthly report on meetings she attended. He said we didn't take any action on those. He said the Clerk or Treasurer had a report and if the Trustees had something to say they would give a report. He said the first to get cut was the Trustees and then eventually the other reports disappeared. He said he agreed to have it put back in.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that would be the same for all the board members. She asked if it should be on the work session, should it be in verbal and written form.

Trustee Eldridge suggested it should be at the Regular Board Meeting when more of the public was present. He said he wanted it to be a verbal and not a written report.

Trustee Ross-Williams said she wanted it to be a verbal report and it could have a time limit of maybe three minutes.

Trustee Jarrell Roe said she didn't care if we make a special time for a Trustee Report. She said if she has something she wants said she will say it during the meeting. She said if the board decides to have a special time in the meeting for a Trustee Report she would not like a time limit.

Trustee Ross-Williams stated the time limit was just a suggestion which could be accepted or rejected. She said she does think it should be on the agenda.

Trustee Eldridge explained where the Supervisor, Clerk and Trustees report should be located on the agenda.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2019 WORK SESSION MEETING
PAGE 3**

Supervisor Stumbo suggested it should be listed as Board Reports. She asked if it should be at the end of the meeting or the beginning.

Trustee Eldridge suggested it should be at the beginning of the meeting since some of the residents may leave before the board meeting was over.

Trustee Jarrell-Roe stated on a work session agenda there was a designated place for Other Discussion and she said that would be an appropriate place to give our reports.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated Other Discussion was for Board Reports and other discussion.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she was thinking about people who come and give their presentations and we have to vote on their agenda items. She said it was professional courtesy more than anything to not make them wait.

Trustee Eldridge said if we were limiting it to two or three minutes it should not make that big of a difference.

Trustee Eldridge stated he didn't care either way but that it was important to put it on the agenda so if any board member had something they wanted to say there would be a designated place.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe asked to get a consensus on where they should be located.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she preferred it at the end.

Treasurer Doe stated he would like it in the Work Session.

Trustee Ross-Williams stated it she would like it before or right after the Attorney Report.

Trustee Wilson agrees that it should be in the regular meeting early in the

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2019 WORK SESSION MEETING
PAGE 4**

agenda.

Trustee Wilson asked if it was going to be in the beginning of the work session could we also include a written copy for the board packet.

Trustee Eldridge stated that he didn't understand why an elected official couldn't have two minutes to speak at a board meeting.

Trustee Ross-Williams stated she would like it at the regular meeting and it would be to speak about what meetings they have attended and not to speak about agenda items.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she would not like it at the beginning of the agenda because that is when the board takes care of business. She said if it was on the regular board meeting agenda it should be at the end of the meeting or just before Authorization and Bids.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said if it was only for the board member to state what meeting and other township functions they have attended it would be better to submit it in written form and we would put it in the board packet.

Trustee Ross-Williams stated it was to explain what each member has done between board meetings.

Supervisor Stumbo asked if Trustee Ross-Williams would compromise.

Trustee Ross-Williams stated her main purpose was to get it back on the agenda. She said she would like it after the Attorney Reports but it could be before or after Authorization and Bids.

Supervisor Stumbo asked if the new policy draft referred to any of the recordings of the meetings.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated it was not in there.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2019 WORK SESSION MEETING
PAGE 5**

Supervisor Stumbo asked for the recordings of the meetings to be added to the policy.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated she would include in the policy audio and video when they come available they would be uploaded.

Trustee Eldridge stated that on the policy draft under Public Comments it does not state they have a maximum of three minutes.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said she would put it in the policy for three minutes maximum for Public Comments. She said she would include that audio and video recordings would be available on the website. She said the Board Reports and Discussion would go on the regular meeting agenda after Other Business.

Trustee Eldridge questioned under the regular meeting agenda when do the items need to be in for next board meeting.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated she and Supervisor Stumbo decided they should be in at 1:00pm on the Monday on the week before the board meeting. She said the board packet would get out on our website the Wednesday before the next board meeting on Tuesday.

Trustee Eldridge suggested it be changed to 4:00pm on Monday and give staff a full day to get the information to the Clerk's Office for the agenda.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated the difference was the Clerks' office has shortened their time for getting the packet together by two days.

Trustee Eldridge asked what was so magical about getting it out on Wednesday instead of Thursday because you still have five full days plus the day of the meeting to go over what is in the packet.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated the earlier we get it out the more residents can see

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2019 WORK SESSION MEETING
PAGE 6**

what is on the agenda. She said her goal was to have it out a week before the meeting for increased transparency.

Trustee Eldridge questioned where it says items not received by the stated deadline shall not be considered by the board except by unanimous consent.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated that was the law.

Trustee Eldridge questioned if they came in on a Tuesday afternoon and something has been added and one person says they don't want to discuss it tonight than that ends that, correct?

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said it's when it is on the agenda before the board meeting because there is not a deadline on that. Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated by law we do not have to have an agenda. She said the reason is so someone wouldn't put something on the agenda when someone else isn't there and wasn't able to see it was on the agenda.

Trustee Eldridge stated he was confused because by law we don't have to have an agenda for the public to see.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated you just have to have a notice there will be a meeting. She said she would double check because she believes its' a law.

Trustee Eldridge stated that would run contrary to having the information out by a certain date. He said he has an issue when something is placed in front of four Trustee an hour before a board meeting and they are asked to make a decision on it when they have had not real opportunity to discuss it between themselves. He said that wasn't very transparent for the Trustees. He said if we leave it this way that's fine.

Trustee Jarrell Roe read the rule and then said the item shouldn't be put on the agenda they should come to the board and state they have an item they would like to add to the agenda to be voted on.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2019 WORK SESSION MEETING
PAGE 7**

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated that was actually the law so she would get clarification to be able to explain it clearer.

Trustee Jarrell Roe stated she thought they were not putting any laws in the policy. She said she suggests that if it is a policy to have something in by a certain time than stick to it.

Supervisor Stumbo said that a good example of what happened on Friday was Nathan Vought contacted us and said we could be reconsidered for environmental cleanup brownfield dollars and if the agenda item had to be in on Friday that would not be able to happen.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated if we as Elected Officials could agree that unless it was a true emergency, we would be able to get our items on the agenda and get it out 6 days before the board meeting.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said the current process applies to the work session and agenda items.

Trustee Jarrell Roe said that being rushed into decisions was not a responsible way to do business. She said a business that is done with tax-payers dollars should not be in a rushed, hurried manner. Trustee Jarrell Roe said it's always an issue and she hates making decisions when she thinks she is under the gun.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said with the CDBG grants we may lose them if we don't get the bus shelter and the Washtenaw Avenue project completed because they have been going on for four years and you think its' ready and then there is another easement you have to get. Clerk Lovejoy Roe said you're trying to stay in the time frame that Urban County has set for this in order to keep your funding. Clerk Lovejoy Roe said some of the processes are out of our control related to revising the agenda.

Supervisor Stumbo stated we also have the ability to call a special meeting if we

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2019 WORK SESSION MEETING
PAGE 8**

need to. She asked if there was a time that the packet would be uploaded on Wednesday.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated they didn't specify but the goal was to have it uploaded by 4:00pm.

Supervisor Stumbo said that when something pops up like with Brownfield it should go to the entire board and they will decide if it should be added based on what's before us. She said there was no revised agenda language in the draft.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said the problem is that by adding items to the agenda at the board meeting, is they are not in writing on the published agenda or in the packet and must be added later. She said it is more transparent to at least have it as a revised agenda and in the packet then to verbally add it at the board meeting.

Trustee Eldridge said we just have to be better at this. He said we need a full packet in order to vote on items and if it isn't in the packet we should not vote on it until it is.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said since we didn't finish all the policy we will add it to another work session.

The Work Session adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti