

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2021 WORK SESSION**

Supervisor Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. on a Zoom Virtual Board meeting.

Members Present: Supervisor Stumbo, Clerk Heather Jarrell Roe, and Treasurer Eldridge
Trustees: Gloria Peterson, Debbie Swanson, Jimmie Wilson, Jr. (arrived 5:20PM)
John Newman (arrived 5:55PM)
(All members stated that they were present in Ypsilanti Township)

Members Absent: none

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

**1. BOARD ETHICS POLICY DISCUSSION.....TRUSTEE SWANSON
SUPERVISOR STUMBO**

Supervisor Stumbo stated that Trustee Swanson has studied other ethics policies and has put in the packet an example from Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and there is a copy of it in our board packet.

Trustee Swanson stated she would like to get feedback from the board on the example policy and discuss changes that this board would like to make. She said she looked at other policies on line and thought this example was most concise and organized. She said she also included in the packet a copy of the policy that Monica Ross-Williams had previously presented to the board.

Trustee Peterson asked if the attendance policy was in the bi-laws.

Supervisor Stumbo stated it was a policy that was adopted by the Board in 2016.

Trustee Peterson asked that with the attendance policy and because of the virus and zoom would that be a waiver for attendance. She said that sometimes with the problems with technology it may be difficult for someone to attend a zoom

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meeting and wondered if that would be considered an absence if it was beyond ones control to get into a zoom meeting.

Supervisor Stumbo stated the attendance policy was adopted because there were some Trustees that missed over a year of meetings but because they were paid a salary they continued to receive their salary without attending board meetings.

Treasurer Eldridge stated that also there were some Trustees that lost the primary election in August so they didn't work out their term through November and there was not a way to save the taxpayers money because there wasn't a policy that specified attendance for board meetings. He suggested adding to the attendance policy that due to certain circumstances some of the policy could be waived. He said he liked the way Trustee Swanson laid out the policy and it is real easy to read.

Trustee Swanson stated she just gathered the information. She said she was concerned that some points may need attorney review.

Clerk Jarrell Roe suggested that we move this to the agenda tonight per attorney review so it can be adopted.

Attorney Winters stated he and Karen Wallin should go over it and make sure there is not a conflict with other policies in the Township.

Trustee Swanson stated this was a pro-active policy and it was not created because of something that currently was a problem. She said she would like to thank former Trustee Monica Ross Williams and the former board and residents who have asked us to pursue an ethnics policy.

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AGENDA REVIEW

CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2021 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING

B. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS

**1. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS FOR APRIL 6, 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$1,489,660.53**

OLD BUSINESS

**1. RESOLUTION 2021-08, CREATION OF CAMERA SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
DISTRICT #076 VILLAGE GROVE APTS. (PUBLIC HEARING HELD AT THE
FEBRUARY 16, 2021 REGULAR MEETING)**

Clerk Jarrell Roe explained the background on how this camera special assessment came about. She said this will be a benefit for the community.

Attorney Winters stated this came about because there was a drug deal where several apartments in this complex had gunshots come through their walls. He said this agreement includes several things that the apartment owners must do other than just pay for the camera to be installed. He said there is approximately 12 requirements they must do to make them more accountable for how they screen tenants to help maintain a safer environment for residents. Attorney Winters stated that this camera will not solve all the problems but is another tool available to the Washtenaw County Sheriff department in the event something does occur at this complex.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION 2021-14, AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION OF PLATTED LOTS IN EASTLAWN SUBDIVISION

Supervisor Stumbo stated this was reviewed by the Assessing Department and it is in proper form.

2. REQUEST TO APPROVE AN AMENDED CONTRACT WITH THE WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION FOR VERMIN MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-956-000-801-000 CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET AMENDMENT

Supervisor Stumbo stated we continue to have problems with rats and we are partnering with the Water Resource Commission to help combat this problem. She said Attorney Winters has reviewed the contract and it is in proper form. She said we will do whatever it takes to protect the public health and safety of our residents.

Trustee Swanson stated as the Federal Government has talked about the infrastructure, they are looking at the impact of highways that were built through communities. She said when the walls were built it caused the vermin to get enclosed in neighborhoods and not to be able to run freely and that has caused part of the problem. She said we should keep track if the legislature provides solutions for the infrastructure problems we may be able to received help from them if they push a program forward.

Attorney Winters stated there is an agenda item tonight regarding nuisance which involves a burned out building. He said in addition to working with the Water Resource Commission we with the Ordinance Department to eradicate the blight which will also help eliminate the vermin population.

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Supervisor Stumbo stated that the storm sewers are a highway for vermin and that is why they baiting the sewers. She said it takes all of us to do our part to control this problem.

**3. REQUEST TO APPROVE A FACILITY USAGE AGREEMENT WITH THE
YPSILANTI NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE FOR A THREE YEAR TERM**

Supervisor Stumbo stated this is a contract we renew every three years.

Trustee Swanson questioned the item in the contract stating the Township will not offer competing leagues during the spring and fall session. She said she wondered why we would have a non-compete clause that harms the Townships' recreation department. She said in the past some of our kids that didn't play Little League played teams offered from our Recreation Department.

John Hines, Deputy Supervisor stated this decision was made after discussing this with the Recreation Department and Residential Services. He said the National Little League has had a long standing relationship with the Recreation Department. He said they do a good job with fundraising and they subsidize a lot of their costs. He said they are able to offer t-ball and youth baseball for almost zero cost to a lot of the youth playing in their league and the Township Recreation Department could not offer it at that cost. He said we can still offer a summer league for youth that want to play in the summer and the National Little League can offer spring and fall ball.

Trustee Swanson stated when she was involved about 15 years ago she remembered there was kids that wanted to play little league and just a strong a group of kids that wanted to play rec. ball. She said she feels we are limiting what the Recreation Department can offer. She said there is also the western portion of the Township where those would play in the American Little League. She said the American Little League does not offer soft ball and Ypsilanti Township youth all played soft ball with the National Little League.

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Clerk Jarrell Roe asked how many kids in the past have participated in our township recreation t-ball, softball, and baseball program in the spring and fall.

John Hines stated our numbers are on the border of not having a full league. He said that is why we thought to do the non-compete clause thinking if we don't compete with the little league and focus solely on the summer we may get a better turn out for our recreation program.

Trustee Swanson stated she wanted to make sure no township youth were excluded from playing in a program and that everyone was treated fairly.

Treasurer Eldridge stated he has been involved in baseball programs for 35 years. He said this is a good agreement. He does understand some of Trustee Swansons' concerns from the past. He said there is also Lincoln Little League which also has some Township youth involved with that league. He said in the Midwest for the past several years there have seen less involvement for recreation ball in the spring and fall.

4. REQUEST TO APPROVE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH DTE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ONE STREETLIGHT TO BE LOCATED AT S. HARRIS AND VILLAGE LANE FOR VILLAGE GROVE APARTMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,866.02 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-956-000-926-050 CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET AMENDMENT

5. REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE CIRCUIT COURT LITIGATION TO ABATE PUBLIC NUISANCES LOCATED AT 621 WOODLAWN AVE. AND 1093 DESOTO AVE. BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-950-000-801-023

Attorney Winters stated that 621 Woodlawn had a very bad structural fire. He said it was a total loss and the property does not have any insurance coverage. He said the mortgage company discharged the mortgage because they didn't want to be responsible for any liability. He said we've exhausted all options except going to court so we can get the property cleaned up. He said 1093 Desoto was also caused by a fire. He said we were told the house was insured but the insurance

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company has not responded and therefore we have exhausted all options on this except to go to court to get this property cleaned up. He said these nuisances are not fair to the neighborhood.

Trustee Swanson asked who owns the house when these are demolished.

Attorney Winters said the titled owner still owns the house but there will be a lien to reimburse the Township for costs incurred.

6. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE UPDATED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR AND A WAGE INCREASE OF \$5,000.00 ANNUALLY

Supervisor Stumbo stated that when our Residential Services Director was hired he had a job description that did not include the Recreation Services Manager or the Golf Course Director even though he has been overseeing both. She said we are recommending this approval from the Township Board.

Trustee Wilson concluded that the increase in the wage was for the added responsibility.

Supervisor Stumbo confirmed that was the reason for the increase. Supervisor Stumbo stated recently they have adjusted wages for Michael Saranen, Karen Wallin, and Javonna Neal for added responsibilities. She said in the past they have only increased wages for non-union employees with the same percent increases the union has negotiated for union employees. She said we should do yearly reviews and look at the market and additional responsibilities to see if the wage for non-union should be adjusted separate from what the union folk also receive. Supervisor Stumbo stated they have not done this before but she said there is a possibility they will in the future. She said the pandemic has made people work harder. She said there was a small group of people who worked every day at the Township hall.

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7. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE 2021 AGREEMENT WITH THE WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION FOR LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$241,853.31 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-446-000-818-022 CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET AMENDMENT

Supervisor Stumbo stated they do this every year. She said the Road Commission gives us a list of suggested road improvements for the year. She said the full time officials met and went over the list and made the recommendations for 2021. She said all the improvements cannot be done in a year but they budgeted for what they can do. She said eventually they would like to form a committee to go over the list and make the suggestions to the board.

Trustee Newman asked how long would the improvement last.

Treasurer Eldridge stated that the road commission stated they last approximately 7 and 10 years.

8. BUDGET AMENDMENT #4

AUTHORIZATION AND BIDS

1. REQUEST TO AWARD THE LOW BID FOR ANNUAL PLAYGROUND MULCH INSTALLATION TO SUPERIOR GROUND COVER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,402.50 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #202-774-000-818-011

ATTORNEY REPORT

A. GENERAL LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Winters stated there has been a committee looking into enhanced security at the Civic Center and 14B District Court. He said its' suggested that we have a single point entrance/exit for the Civic Center and 14B District Court. He said in the last several years there has been increased attacks against Public Officials. He said there was an incident at the Township recently that Washtenaw

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County Sheriffs' department is investigating. He said the next step we need to make is to secure an architect who will design the entrance of this complex to be secure for our employees, staff, and elected officials, and for all who have business in the Civic Center and 14B Court.

Supervisor Stumbo stated this has happened before but we knew the person who made that threat but this time we do not know the person who made the threat and that is why Washtenaw County Sheriff is investigating.

Attorney Winters has had a number of meetings in the last 30-40 days regarding recreational marijuana. He said at the last meeting we are in a position to have public meetings in early summer. Attorney Winters said that he would hope to be able to bring a proposal to the board in August or September ahead of our March 31, 2022 deadline.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:48PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Heather Jarrell Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti**