

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2021 WORK SESSION MEETING**

Supervisor Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 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, John Newman
(All members stated that they were present in Ypsilanti Township)

Members Absent: none

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

1. WRRMA AND WRRMA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT UPDATE
.....**MICHAEL HOFFMEISTER, RESIDENTIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR**
THEO EGGERMONT, DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

Supervisor Stumbo stated that Mike Hoffmeister is not at this meeting tonight but Mr. Eggermont is here to conduct this presentation.

Mr. Eggermont explained the WRRMA Quality Improvement Grant and what it will be used for. He said the value of the grant is \$240,000.00 and we receive a lot of support through the recycling partnership. He said that there is approximately 30% of the recycling that is contaminated. He said this contamination causes additional cost and is a safety hazard for the employees. He said they have had a lot of success with this program in helping reduce the amount of trash that contaminates the recycling. He said this program will start with a pre-audit to get a baseline which will let us know how much contamination we have. He said they do a lot of education and outreach explaining the program to residents. Mr. Eggermont stated after notifying resident about the program they will send out inspectors to examine the residents recycling and if there are items that are not recyclable the resident will get a tag explaining what they found. He said at the end of the program they will do another audit to see how effective it was. Mr. Eggermont said the goal is to reduce contamination and it has been highly successful.

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Supervisor Stumbo stated this was a great way to find out where we are at and what we can do better.

Trustee Wilson stated that we were interested in the grant. He asked how many team members would be in the field. Mr. Eggermont said they have 12 team members.

Trustee Newman asked if they would inspect the whole recycling bin. Mr. Eggermont stated they are not digging through the bin. He said they are just glancing at what is in there.

AGENDA REVIEW.....SUPERVISOR STUMBO

CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2021 WORK SESSION REGULAR MEETING

B. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS

- 1. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS FOR JUNE 15, 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$541,354.99**
- 2. CLARITY HEALTHCARE DEDUCTIBLE ACH EFT FOR MAY 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,733.10**
- 3. CLARITY HEALTHCARE ADMIN FEE FOR MAY 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,190.00**

C. TREASURER’S REPORT APRIL 2021

ATTORNEY REPORT

- A. GENERAL LEGAL UPDATE – Attorney Winters will be at the Regular Board Meeting**

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NEW BUSINESS

1. REQUEST OF SUNRISE HOSPITALITY FOR AN A-1 HOTEL LICENSE FOR USE AT THE HAMPTON INN LOCATED AT 515 JAMES L. HART PKWY

Treasurer Eldridge stated they the hotel has been open about 6 weeks and there capacity levels are still rather low. He said the A-1 Hotel license would still come out of the Townships' allotted liquor license and the Township Liquor Committee concluded that they would not generate enough business and have not been open long enough to see what the capacity level might be. Treasurer Eldridge said that this is only intended for their hotel guests and even at 100% capacity the committee questioned if that would even generate enough business to allow one of the few licenses the Township has left. He said they advised Sunrise Hospitality of the multiply licenses that are currently held in escrow in Washtenaw County that they would be able to purchase.

Mr. Batel, Sunrise Hospitality stated they do not have a full service restaurant and it would be too expensive to purchase a license in escrow. He said they would like the Township to let them have a license for five years and if the Township needed it for a new establishment in Ypsilanti Township they would return it to the Township.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she is not aware of that option in the State of Michigan.

Treasurer Eldridge stated that is not allowed in the State of Michigan.

2. REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FIRST AMENDED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE WASHTENAW REGIONAL RESOURCE AUTHORITY (WRRMA)

Trustee Swanson asked about the section that stated if it was dissolved it would be equally distributed and wanted to know if you are a larger or smaller community would it still be equal.

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Supervisor Stumbo stated that each participant gets one vote no matter how large or small a community you have.

Theo Eggermont stated the language is required in the contract even if it doesn't pertain to your community.

3. REQUEST TO WAIVE THE FINANCIAL POLICY AND AWARD THE LOW QUOTE FOR WINDOW TINTING AT THE CIVIC CENTER TO ALLIED WINDOW IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,700.00 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-265-000-818-001

Clerk Jarrell Roe stated it is a tinted film that would be put on the windows which will reduce the glare so we can see computer screens. She said it will reduce the loss of heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. She said because of the plastic barriers that were installed during Covid a glare made it difficult to see people at our counter and the film on the windows will eliminate that.

4. REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE CIRCUIT COURT LITIGATION TO ABATE PUBLIC NUISANCES LOCATED AT 1106 E. MICHIGAN AVE. AND 109 JOHNSON ST. BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-950-000-801-023

Supervisor Stumbo stated Attorney Winters would give an update later in the meeting regarding 1106 E. Michigan Ave.

5. REQUEST TO FORMALLY APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH DTE FOR STREETLIGHTING FOR THE US-12 PHASE 2 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Supervisor Stumbo stated they met with DTE and finalized the cost. She said this would be a reoccurring cost each year that would be budgeted.

6. REQUEST TO CANCEL THE AUGUST 3, 2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING DUE TO THE SPECIAL ELECTION

Supervisor Stumbo stated they sent out a postcard explaining the proposals and wondered if any of the board had any feedback from residents.

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Trustee Wilson stated residents who he talked with are happy about not increasing taxes but would like less police and more recreation.

**7. REQUEST TO WAIVE THE FINANCIAL POLICY AND PURCHASE TWO (2)
RADAR SPEED DISPLAY TRAILERS FROM KUSTOM SIGNALS, INC. IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$12,710.00 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #266-301-000-977-000**

Trustee Swanson asked since they are on trailers are they insured in case of theft.

Supervisor Stumbo stated they were insured and we have never had a theft. She said we have two that will be moved around throughout the Township per resident request.

Michael Radzik, OCS Director stated there is a cable lock system that locks the axel in place which makes it difficult to steal because they would have to lift it up and put it on a flatbed truck. He said we have never had one stolen or even vandalized. He said residents are notified when they are going in their neighborhood and they keep an eye on them also.

AUTHORIZATION AND BIDS

**1. REQUEST TO SEEK SEALED BIDS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE FIRE
HEADQUARTERS DORMITORY BATHROOM LOCATED AT 222 S. FORD BLVD.**

OTHER DISCUSSION.....BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Peterson asked Mike Radzik to update them about the 6 year old boy who was shot in Ypsilanti Township.

Mr. Radzik stated he didn't have any new information but said it was an active police investigation. He said the young child that was shot is going to recover nicely and quickly. He said it was a through and through shot in the arm, which is not to diminish the severity of it. He said it could have turned out very differently and we are grateful it didn't. Mr. Radzik stated the individual who is believed to be

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responsible has been charged and is pending trial and he was taken back into custody. He said the Prosecutions' Office petitioned the Court to reconsider the bond and it was raised from \$10,000.00 to \$100,000.00 cash. He said some of our Ordinance Staff has had conversations with the victims' father. He said the father told them he is seeking justice and wants the legal process to take its course. Mr. Radzik stated more details are not available because it is an open investigation but we will find out more information when this case goes to court.

Trustee Wilson stated the next court date is July 22, 2021 and we will get more information after that hearing.

Attorney Winters explained why there is a request for authorization in Circuit Court to abate public nuisance located at 1106 E. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti on the Agenda tonight. He said this has been the most heart wrenching experience that we have ever been involved with in quite some time. He said this situation is still evolving with more information than we had even a week ago. Attorney Winters stated on 6/3/2021 our office was contacted by the OCS to notify us what was occurring at 1106 E. Michigan Ave. He said the OCS had been in contact with the Public Health Department and LARA. He said LARA oversees the licenses for cemeteries, funeral homes, and crematoriums for the State of Michigan. He said they were at the site exercising a search warrant in regards to a complaint that was initiated by a former employee reported on the conditions on how this crematorium was conducting business. He said we issued a search warrant so our Ordinance Officers could inspect this business. He said there were so many code violations that all we could do is go into litigation. Attorney Winters stated other agencies who are involved with this situation, we as a Township wanted all the bodies that were found in this building to be taken to a licensed crematorium where they could be properly identified and then have the cremation completed. Attorney Winters stated that Mr. Parker from LARA cancelled the meeting that was scheduled with the full time Officials after he was notified that there would be additional township representation present at the meeting. He said there was 39 bodies in that building on June 7, 2021 and out of them only about 8 or 9 had the proper paperwork to complete a cremation. Attorney Winters stated he went over to the crematory and saw people going in and out of the building. He said he spoke with one of the gentlemen and asked what he was doing and if the bodies were still in the building.

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He said the man told him they were burning drugs that were brought over from the University of Michigan Police Department and that he had just spoke with Mr. Parker who told him he could start cremation on the bodies that they have the paperwork for. Attorney Winters stated this was not what the Township would authorize and that the Township would be pursuing litigation with this crematory. He said we got a court order to deny occupancy of the building but it did allow for removal of the bodies to a license facility. He said that although Attorney McLain had talked with the Attorney General but was not told that the Attorney General's Office had already entered a cease and assessed on June 4, 2021. He said we did not get a copy of it until this past week. Attorney Winters stated that the owner of the crematorium, O'Neal Swanson II, had his license revoked in 2018 by the Board of Examiners of Mortuary Science for numerous violations and was charged with 10 felony counts. Attorney Winters stated that in 2019 he pleaded guilty to two of the counts and after he paid a fine of \$75,000.00 in criminal restitution and he was discharged from probation on these felony counts on May 24, 2021 which is the same day the Township received the original complaint from the former employee.

Michael Radzik, OCS Director stated that one of our ordinance officers had nightmares after inspecting that building. He said today, after our field staff was there checking on things at that location, he was told that there were refrigerated trucks parked in the back where bodies are being stored. Mr. Radzik stated our staff overheard conversations on speaker phones where workers were talking to loved ones of the deceased. He said they were crying and screaming to the staff asking where their loved ones were and stating they have had their bodies for months. He said that he commends the staff, attorney, and board for handling this.

Trustee Swanson stated that she also thanked everyone who has been trying to rectify this. She said it was important for the families that proper identification happens. She said it is hard for her to imagine 55 bodies and she believes that some people might not be aware of this because she thinks if they did there would be more media involvement.

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:49PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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