

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2022 WORK SESSION**

Supervisor Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 5:07pm in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.

Members Present: Supervisor Brenda Stumbo, Clerk Jarrell Roe and Treasurer Stan Eldridge
Trustees: John Newman II, Gloria Peterson, and Debbie Swanson and Jimmy Wilson Jr.

Members Absent: None.

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments given.

AGENDA

1. AAATA PRESENTATION.....MATT CARPENTER, AAATA

Ryan Hunter, Ypsilanti Township Representative for the AAATA board introduced fellow AAATA board members present Kathleen Mosaic, and Eric Mahler, as well as CEO Matt Carpenter. Mr. Hunter insured the board that he is committed to the community and representing the needs of Ypsilanti Township accordingly. He continues to state that this is the beginning of discussion, and not an end, and wants to hear from the board members, and residents.

Matt Carpenter, AAATA CEO is introduced by Mr. Hunter and begins the proposed millage presentation. Mr. Carpenter begins by explaining that the purposus of the presentation is to provide and introduction the the Ypsilanti Township Board of

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Trustees, as well as seek feedback and advice. He continues to say that this is an important public involvement period and expresses interest in hearing from the board members, as well as residents. Mr. Carpenter expresses his value of the Township residents and board.

Starting into the presentation, Mr. Carpenter explains that they have heard from the community that there is a significant need for seniors, persons with disabilities, low incomes, workers and students. The ride is looking to deliver these services and leverage more outside steady state and federal funds to do so, but will still require a local property tax in order to do everything. Mr. Carpenter begins to then explain the 25 year long range plan, as well as the millage proposal. The explanation included that public engagement occurred to form the long range plan, including a meeting with the township Board of Trustees back in October.

Supervisor Stumbo briefly asks Mr. Carpenter if he could recall the feedback that was given from the board back in October. Mr. Carpenter explained that at that time, our board expressed great concern for the millage rate and tax burden to residents. Mr. Carpenter continues to explain that AAATA has heard from many community members that public transit investments are important. Mr. Carpenter goes into further detail about the millage proposal and services that would be covered.

Trustee Swanson asks about the number of people surveyed and interviewed, and if they were able to narrow down what municipality the respondents resided in.

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Trustee Swanson also asked about the duration of the plan and if any changes were needed to be made to routes, how they would determine those outcomes.

Mr. Carpenter explained that ridership is one of the factors that they look at, and that if routes needed to be cut back, the decision to do so wouldn't be made lightly. AAATA performed a phone survey of residents, with about 600 respondent's total, only 120-125 from the township.

Treasurer Eldridge begins his comments by saying that everyone on this Township board is pro public transit, and does not want that message to be lost or to get misinterpreted. The concern is the residents and their current tax burden that varies across the township, depending on what school district you live in. Treasurer Eldridge asked if Mr. Carpenter could speak to a recent MLive article about the decrease in ridership from AAATA, and if that was the case, how we could ask for a millage increase. Treasurer Eldridge also asks if Ypsilanti Township would see any infrastructure placed within our jurisdiction, considering that this is a long range plan.

Mr. Carpenter explained that they are seeing ridership slowly returning as people are getting back to work, and that AAATA works hard to gain their business. He goes on to explain that there would not be plans for infrastructure within the township at this point.

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Treasurer Eldridge asks about the AAATA Board make up and if the other municipalities who have their own separate millage rates in addition to the collaborative one, would be lowering their millage rates as a result of this increase.

Mr. Carpenter explains that it is a 10 person board, and that the township had one representative. He did not expect the other municipalities to change their individual levies.

Treasurer Eldridge concludes his comments with discussion about the possibility of a Regional Transit Authority coming to the area and how that would impact this decision, as well as urging the AAATA board to go out in the November election, instead of August.

Clerk Jarrell Roe begins her comments by stating that this would be more than tripling the township tax payer's millage rate. The current millage is 0.7 and would go to 2.38 as proposed, while at the same time, our township has continued to see routes cut. Clerk Jarrell Roe describes being in a meeting last fall with Supervisor Stumbo and AAATA representatives and deeply urging them to keep a route going that serviced the community center and ran by a senior living facility, as well as most recently, the Harris to Ford Blvd route being cut. Clerk Jarrell Roe goes on to say that it is unfortunate but no surprise that these areas where the routes have been cut, are our highest taxed residents and also fall within the opportunity index as areas that need more access to opportunity. She concludes by saying that the proposed rate is an undue burden to our residents and this rate is not the answer.

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Trustee Wilson asks about the proposed millage including an increase in staffing, while services are seemingly down and how that works.

Mr. Carpenter explained that they uncovered a structural deficit in 2017 and now for several years they have been operating without sufficient revenue. Part of the way they have navigated this is by consolidating staffing. They are now concerned about burn out of staff and having road supervisors readily available to come help with something if needed.

Trustee Wilson concluded by urging the AAATA Board and leadership to do further community engagement.

Trustee Swanson discusses her concern over equity and that there are real people that will be impacted behind this decision. She explains that we have to get it right for the people in our community and it is very concerning to think of the increase in cost on families who are working so hard to make ends meet. She expresses concern that AAATA has not connected on the right level with people in the community who are counting on us to get this right.

Trustee Newman asks about the election and what AAATA expects the outcome to be, and identifies that Ann Arbors size in votes could tune out our communities concerns and needs.

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Supervisor Stumbo begins by explaining the history of the partnership with AAATA, and the partnership that it was centered around. She goes on to explain that this is now the fourth time that AAATA representative have come before us, with the same ask, and have heard clearly each time that this is not the right time for this large of an increase. She explains that this increase, based on a 600 person survey, is a 350% increase. Supervisor Stumbo explains that the intent of the partnership was to have trust, and provide service to our residents, workers, children and seniors and all of the ideas in the long range plan sound great but, when you actually implement them, the cost will have dire effects on people. Supervisor Stumbo references an agreement that the Ypsilanti Township Board and AAATA signed upon the beginning of their relationship, and that the agreement requires that we work to maintain good relationships, to the extent that if disputes arise out of the agreement, including but not limited to matters concerning expansion, reduction and negotiations, and that is not and has not happened. She explains that we have all expressed concern and yet, they continue to move forward. Supervisor Stumbo asks why all the other communities received 6 hour presentations for public comment and feedback, and yet our township received half of that at three hours. She explains that it's just another way that our community is not being heard or respected. She concludes by saying that she hopes AAATA will honor the agreement that has been in place and would see the undue burden that they are thinking of placing on the residents.

Resident Kristin Howard expresses her concerns with the service area and millage rate proposal.

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Resident Monica Williams expresses her concerns with the millage proposal and urges the AAATA Board to go back to the drawing board for better solutions.

2. REBRANDING PRESENTATION.....M3 GROUP

The Rebranding Discussion will move to a later meeting.

3. AGENDA REVIEWSUPERVISOR STUMBO

4. OTHER DISCUSSION BOARD MEMBERS

AGENDA REVIEW.....SUPERVISOR STUMBO

CONSENT AGENDA

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Winters stated he would give the attorney report during the regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION 2022-05, TO CHANGE A PLATTED LOT BOUNDARY LINE IN WASHTENAW CLUBVIEW SUBDIVISION LOT 6, DIVIDING THE ORIGINAL INTO TWO AS A RESULT OF A LOT SPLIT

Brian Mc Cleary, Deputy Assessor explained the process for the land division.

2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE A MASSEY FERGUSON TRACTOR FROM DIUBLE EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,346.00 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-

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770-977-000 CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mike Hoffmeister discussed the need for the new tractor, the old one is beyond repair. Trustee Peterson asks if this is coming from a local vendor. Mr. Hoffmeister explains that it is coming locally from Ann Arbor.

**3. REQUEST TO APPROVE ADDENDUM #2 TO THE AGREEMENT WITH
COMMUNITY PUBLISHING AND MARKETING FOR THE TOWNSHIP BROCHURE IN
THE AMOUNT
OF \$16,595.00 BUDGET IN LINE ITEMS #226-528-900-000, #230-754-880-000 AND
#101-267-900-000**

John Hines explains the request for this addendum is due to the increased cost in paper products and that the vendor has been really great to work with and that the magazine is a great service to our residents. Supervisor Stumbo adds that the cost of paper products has increased greatly, and we will likely see an increase for the cost of the elections and ballots as well.

**4. REQUEST TO APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH THE WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD
COMMISSION FOR THE 2022 LOCAL ROAD PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$64,085.08 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-446-982-000 CONTINGENT UPON
APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Supervisor Stumbo explains the road agreement and that there is an additional agreement that has been sent to the ARPA Committee for discussion.

**5. REQUEST TO FORMALLY APPROVE A TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH
THE LAW FIRM OF KERR, RUSSELL AND WEBER , PLC BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM
#101-729-801-024**

Supervisor Stumbo explains the need to retain James Tamm, a zoning attorney for a pending federal court case.

**6. REQUEST TO APPOINT GAGE ADAMS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A
TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023**

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Supervisor Stumbo explains that Gage Adams will be replacing Sally Richie who has resigned from the Planning Commission after many years of service. Gage lives in the same neighborhood that Sally does, so the representation from that area is still present on the board.

7. BUDGET AMENDMENT

Other Business

There is no other business.

Board Member Updates

The Work Session meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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