

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI  
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING**

Supervisor Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 p.m. on a Zoom Virtual Board meeting. Supervisor Stumbo stated because this meeting is on Zoom we would not be able to do The Pledge of Allegiance or a moment of silent prayer.

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

**Legal Counsel:** Wm. Douglas Winters

- 1. Agenda Item Option A:** Request to Purchase 5 Digital Ballot Scanners from Hart Interactive for \$27,725.00 and Accept Grants: 1) \$6,875 from Washtenaw County and 2) \$2,250 from Bureau of Elections for a total cost to Township for the 2020 budget year of \$18,600 and Maintenance and Annual Service Cost of \$14,100.00 to be budgeted in years 2025-2029 for \$2,820.00 per year and approve the related Option A Budget Amendment.

**A motion was made by Clerk Lovejoy Roe for Discussion Purposes, supported by Trustee Jarrell Roe to Approve Discussion of Agenda Item Option A.**

Clerk Lovejoy Roe explained that in order to handle the expected 25,000 absentee ballots in November we would have to approve either Option A or Option B. She explained how she estimated the cost for each election using the regular scanner and the cost for the high speed scanner.

Treasurer Doe asked how many ballots can be counted in one hour per scanner. Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated the machine counts approximately 200 per hour. She said people would not be able to keep the pace at 200 per hour. She said there is a process that election workers must do before they can put the ballot through the scanner.

Trustee Eldridge said he would have liked to have discussed this in the election commission meeting. He stated when he calculates how many ballots should be run through the scanner in an hour with the number of ballots we had he said they should've been finished in about 7 ½ to 8 hours and wondered why there was a discrepancy in the time. He said he wondered why we took the AV count board off the Civic Center property. He also asked why the AV ballots couldn't be taken to the precincts so they could begin counting them in the morning. He said he has run into a lot of the Chairs at those precincts who say they have down time and they could be running those AV ballots. He said he is still concerned with the Townships' budget and the money that we are having to give the Court. He said he doesn't know if there is a great need or a need at all to add more scanners for the election. He said he is shocked at how much it cost to run the August election.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said changes from the Secretary of State have been numerous and at the last minute. She said we had to move to the Marriott because we needed 5 scanners for the August election and we can only fit 3 scanners upstairs at the Civic Center. She said because of the Executive Order for Covid we needed to be compliant and there was no place in the Civic Center that we could run 5 scanners and be in compliant with the Covid criteria.

Treasurer Doe suggested that we could use the Cafeteria, the Human Resource Conference Room and the other Conference Room upstairs. She said she could've before

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Covid but now everyone has to be six feet apart. She said each tabulator takes six workers.

Trustee Eldridge stated that the whole other side of the building that use to house a police department might work for the AV Count Board. He said there is plenty of room on township property not to take it elsewhere.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated the rooms are being used but you cannot put the Inspectors in that space due to Covid requirements. She said she would do it if it was possible.

A motion was made by Trustee Ross-Williams, supported by Trustee Eldridge to call the question.

<b>Ross-Williams.....Yes</b>	<b>Wilson.....Yes</b>	<b>Lovejoy Roe.....No</b>
<b>Jarrell Roe.....No</b>	<b>Eldridge.....Yes</b>	<b>Stumbo.....Yes</b>
<b>Doe.....Yes</b>		

**The Motion to Call the Question passed.**

Trustee Jarrell Roe stated the call to question came before she had a chance for discussion but she knows that’s how Roberts Rules works.

Supervisor Stumbo stated there was a motion to vote on Option A to Approve the Five Scanners.

<b>Lovejoy Roe.....No</b>	<b>Doe.....Yes</b>	<b>Ross-Williams.....No</b>
<b>Eldridge.....No</b>	<b>Jarrell Roe.....No</b>	<b>Wilson.....Yes</b>
<b>Stumbo.....Yes</b>		

**The Motion Failed.**

- 2. Agenda Item Option B: Request to Purchase Verity Central Software and High Speed Scanner from Hart Interactive for \$124,405.00 and Accept Grants: 1) \$30,000 from Bureau of Elections and 2) \$15,000 from Washtenaw County for the Purchase of Verity Central Software and High Speed Ballot Scanner for total cost to Township for the 2020 budget year of \$79,405.00 and Maintenance and Annual Service Cost of \$118,000.00 to be budgeted in years 2025-2029 for \$23,600 per year and approve the related Option B Budget Amendment.**

**A motion was made by Trustee Jarrell Roe, supported by Clerk Lovejoy Roe to Approve Agenda Item Option.**

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated that she would like to move forward with the new technology along with the support that Hart will give us this would be beneficial for the Township.

Trustee Jarrell Roe stated that when she saw how long the election workers were working, along with how long the Clerk’s Staff had to work she said she questioned the safety of the employees and their drive home. She said we are asking people to work about twenty four hours and drive home. Trustee Jarrell Roe asked that we as board address those safety needs for our staff. She asked if there was feedback from the people who used the high speed scanner and how it compared to other scanners and also from

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the staff in the Clerks' office were they in agreement they needed the high speed scanner to run the election more efficiency.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated that Deputy of Elections, Angela Robinson and Deputy Clerk Lisa Stanfield both would like to be able to use the high speed scanner. She said when the other municipalities thought they would use the high speed scanner through the multi-jurisdictional purchase they were very excited because they knew it would be much quicker and efficient. Clerk Lovejoy Roe said she spoke with Oakland County and they were extremely pleased with the scanner. She said they did 50,000 ballots in the time it took us to do 11,000 on election night. She said that within the last two weeks we added 300 new voters and the absent ballot requests continue to go up about 100 a day. She said Deputy Stanfield stated that we can put through approximately 175 ballots an hour on the scanners we currently have. Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated that although it would be easier for her to go out with technology she is used to using, she said because the Township is still growing, it would be better for the Township to keep up with the new technology in running the elections. She said we have precincts at 3000 registered voters, which we have never had in the past.

Myla Harris, Township Employee stated that at the last meeting Clerk Lovejoy Roe questioned whether 14B Court was reducing their staff, which are AFSCME employees since the Township was having to assist them in the budget and then she asked for the large amount of money for a scanner. She said that Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated about being up election night until 5:00am and about the long hours, Ms. Harris said congratulations for doing your job. She said Clerk Lovejoy Roe, Deputy Clerk and Deputy of Elections if they have to stay until 5:00am on election night that is part of their job description. She asked the Board not to approve this Agenda item.

Trustee Ross-Williams said she was concerned about the budget and about how State Shared Revenue is going to be impacted which the issues with Covert. She said as a Trustee that is leaving is not trying to leave the Board with a difficult financial situation.

Treasurer Doe stated that at 175 an hour, if you can keep them supplied, 20 scanners would give you 42,000 in 12 hours. He said that what he is hearing is the problem is getting them opened to put in the machines. He said we should work with legislation to be able to open the ballots earlier so they can go in the scanner. He said he is concerned about the budget. He said he doesn't think we are anywhere near knowing where we will be with this pandemic. He said he would agree to the five but not to the high speed scanner.

Trustee Eldridge said he was still concerned about the budget and moving forward with a purchase at this time. He said we will have to find a way in being more efficient with what we have.

Trustee Jarrell Roe stated that her concern was not about the compensation the workers get but about the safety of the workers. She said that includes our union workers and our residents who stay up working the elections.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated when she asked about the Court she questioned if revenue was down and if that meant less people were working because the Court was closed. She said she has since gotten more information on that and I understand that is not the case. Clerk Lovejoy Roe said she has never complained about working during the elections she said she knows that is her job. She said but the later we work to process the ballots, the

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election workers are getting paid so it does cost more the longer we are there. She said she knows this is a lot of money but she said if you look over the years it would be a savings. She said she was also thinking of less workers less exposure during Covid. She said if we go with the five scanners she said she will need to get 30 more election workers. She said if you do not want to vote for Option B she said she hopes they will vote for Option A.

Supervisor Stumbo said that when you are a public servant in the Clerks' Office you are going to work a lot of hours during the election. She said if you have to worry about working twelve hour shifts and driving than she said she was in trouble because she worked a lot of twelve hour shifts. She said workers who have worked in the past were honored to work. Supervisor Stumbo stated if we have a big turnout voting absentee we shouldn't have that many people voting at the polls. She said she would like to discuss this further because if 60% are absentee you'll only have 20% at the polls.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe stated again that if you have absentee ballots at the precincts the law states we cannot take the absentee ballots to the AV Count Board.

Trustee Jarrell Roe stated that as a nurse she works 12 and 14 hour shifts. She knows the Clerks' office works long hours during the election. She said her concern was for the residents who work the election. She said as Supervisor Stumbo stated they are happy to do it but she said she was concerned about them, they are generally an older population and they would be working long and late hours. She said its' not so much about the tabulators but about the safety of the workers.

Supervisor Stumbo suggested staggered shifts. Trustee Jarrell Roe agreed.

Trustee Eldridge suggested that we move the AV Count board to some of the precincts we won't need.

Trustee Ross-Williams stated again that although she will not be here she is concerned about the budget. She said she doesn't know but there may be change in the law that would allow absentee ballots to be counted early.

Clerk Lovejoy Roe said that she can't change precincts. She said she has one tabulator at each precinct so she doesn't have extras she can use for absentee.

**The motion failed.**

Clerk Lovejoy Roe asked for someone who voted yes on Option A to ask for a vote of reconsideration to bring that back so we can vote on the 5 scanners.

Supervisor Stumbo asked if anyone that voted yes was interested in doing that. She said she was not.

**3. Request to Approve Budget Amendment #10 (Option A or B)**

**No Action was Taken.**

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**A motion was made by Trustee Eldridge, supported by Trustee Ross-Williams to adjourn.**

Trustee Jarrell Roe voted no to adjourn this meeting. She said we were here to vote for one of these options so our elections can run.

Supervisor Stumbo said she should have voted yes on the first one.

Trustee Jarrell Roe said it's ridiculous to adjourn this meeting we shouldn't have even had it.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she called it because Karen wanted it.

Trustee Jarrell Roe and Trustee Wilson voted No to adjourn the meeting. The other votes were not clear on the recording.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Stumbo, Supervisor  
Charter Township of Ypsilanti

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk  
Charter Township of Ypsilanti