

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Supervisor Brenda Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00pm in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silent prayer.

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

Members Absent: None

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ten public comments were given.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

**A. MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2022 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
(TABLED AT THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 REGULAR MEETING)**

B. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING

C. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS

1. STATEMENTS AND CHECKS FOR OCTOBER 4, 2022 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$836,790.46

A motion was made by Clerk Jarrell Roe and seconded by Trustee Peterson to approve the consent agenda.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY REPORT

A. GENERAL LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Winters reviewed the housing crisis from 2008 and discussed steps the township had taken to combat poor rental conditions during that time. He also discussed the Gault Village Shopping Center and the LynxDx Covid testing site.

Attorney Winters stated that he is concerned that the township may be headed in the direction of another economic downturn similar to 2008 and that the township will continue to monitor public nuisances in the township and he encouraged residents to continue to inform the township when they see issues.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
PAGE 2**

Treasurer Eldridge stated that he had met with Karen Wilson, a resident who had spoken earlier about difficulties in her neighborhood. He added that he had contacted the sheriff's department about her issues. Treasurer Eldridge also asked if a meeting could be held between a couple of board members, the community compliance coordinator and legal staff to discuss tightening up ordinances to make sure they are current with the times.

Treasurer Eldridge stated that they are meeting with a financial institution to see what help can be provided to Pastor Crout in his endeavor to building a recreation center at his church.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that that the township does have a problem getting the police to respond to enforcement. She said she had heard the comments from the residents of West Willow and understood they wanted good people renting homes, landlords being held accountable, and zero tolerances for ordinances. She added that zero tolerance for ordinances would be for everyone in the community.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that the township receives conflicting information from the residents and the sheriff's department. She added for example, she has received calls about fights in a neighborhood, but when she asks the sheriff's department about it, she is told that there were no calls.

NEW BUSINESS

1. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF AN APPOINTED PILOT NON-UNION SALARIED COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATOR POSITION AND TO WAIVE THE HIRING PROCESS AND APPOINT LAURIE LUTOMSKI

A motion was made by Trustee Swanson and seconded by Clerk Jarrell Roe to approve the creation of an appointed pilot non-union salaried Community Resource Coordinator position and to waive the hiring process and appoint Laurie Lutomski.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that Ms. Lutomski was originally interviewed for an ordinance position but she declined the position because she wants to help people instead of enforcing ordinances.

Supervisor Stumbo spoke about a homeless tent community that had recently been setup in the township and that she, Clerk Jarrell Roe and Treasurer Eldridge had been trying to find assistance for. She stated that the county had been contacted six weeks ago but had not responded, but Ms. Lutomski had been able to reach out to a contact to get some assistance.

Supervisor Stumbo stated this position needs to be filled as soon as possible and if we waited to go through the process it would be December or January before someone could be in place.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
PAGE 3**

Ms. Lutomski stated that she had been a social worker in the community for 40 years with the last 33 years being for Community Services and additionally 16 years with the hoarding task force. She added that she had recently retired and applied for the ordinance position because she thought it would be an opportunity to continue connecting people to resources. Ms. Lutomski said that you can offer people help but you cannot make them take the help and that sometimes the ordinance position is needed to make the people understand that it needs to happen.

Treasurer Eldridge stated that he had just met Ms. Lutomski tonight. He added that he normally would not be in favor of waiving the hiring policy but felt the position needed to be filled as soon as possible.

Trustee Swanson stated she did not feel the board waived a lot policies. She added that when it happens it is to move something faster that is needed urgently. Trustee Swanson stated that she was appreciative that Ms. Lutomski had been through the hiring process for the ordinance position.

Trustee Wilson stated that he was in agreement with Treasurer Eldridge's sentiments. He added that he would normally never be in favor a waiving the hiring policy but felt it was needed this time. Trustee Wilson added that if this becomes a permanent position, he would like to see it go through an official hiring process.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF ONE STREETLIGHT AT THE CORNER OF BELLERS CT. AND N. PROSPECT.

A motion was made By Treasurer Eldridge and seconded by Clerk Jarrell Roe to approve the installation of one streetlight at the corner of Bellers Ct. and N. Prospect.

Supervisor Stumbo stated there had been several accidents at the areas and that she hoped this light would be installed quickly since a pole is already in place.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH WASHTENAW COUNTY FOR THE 2022-2023 SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

A motion was made by Trustee Peterson and seconded by Treasurer Eldridge approve the contract with Washtenaw County for the 2022-2023 Senior Nutrition program.

Supervisor Stumbo stated this program works out of the community center and is a partnership with the county to feed nutritious meals to our senior residents.

The motion carried unanimously.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
PAGE 4**

4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR CIRCUIT COURT LITIGATION TO ABATE PUBLIC NUISANCES LOCATED AT 1255 W. MICHIGAN AVE. AND 2715 WOODRUFF LANE BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-729-801-023

A motion was made by Treasurer Eldridge and seconded by Trustee Wilson to authorize circuit court litigation to abate public nuisances located at 1255 W. Michigan Ave. and 2715 Woodruff Lane budgeted in line item #101-729-801-023.

The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Treasurer Eldridge gave an update on the construction for US12. He stated that he had met with the engineers today and they had done a walkthrough of the area. Treasurer Eldridge said that there are still many items to complete but they hope to have it done by the end of the month. He also added that the streetlights were projected to be installed before the end of the year.

Trustee Peterson announced that State Representative Ronnie Peterson would be holding a final meeting about the Whittaker Rd. construction project on October 20, 2022 from 5pm-7pm in the lobby of the Civic Center.

Clerk Jarrell Roe stated that the Clerk's office had sent out 67% of the absentee ballot requests and that there are just under 10,000 ballots to be sent out. Clerk Jarrell Roe stated that residents are always able to call the office with any questions.

A motion to adjourn was made by Treasurer Eldridge and seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Brenda L. Stumbo, Supervisor
Charter Township of Ypsilanti**

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