

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE

Approved Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

July 17, 2012

Supervisor Baroni called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Lilley called the roll:

Present: Gregory Baroni, Supervisor
Terry Lilley, Clerk
Forrest J. Brendel, Treasurer
Todd Birkle, Trustee
Carol Burkard, Trustee
David Lewsley, Trustee

Absent: Mike Powell, Trustee

Also Present: Lisa Hamameh, Attorney
Sean O'Neil, Planning Director
Amy Bertin, Recording Secretary

Supervisor Baroni made the following changes to the Agenda: Adding Item 6C, moving Items 6A, 6B, 6C to the beginning of the meeting; Tabling Items 8B, 8C and 9B.

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Lilley, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Burkard to approve the Agenda as amended. The **MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote (5 yes votes, 1 no vote - Birkle).

PRESENTATIONS

A. CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Maltese, White Lake Fire Department, presented Exceptional Civilian Service Awards for a rescue at Teeple Beach in the Highland Recreation Area State Park. Angel Brant, Nicole Aquilina, Kelley McKnight and Jamieson Prine were recognized for their life saving assistance on June 20, 2012 for the near drowning of a two year old female toddler.

B. POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Chief Harris, White Lake Police Department, gave a presentation outlining the importance of the White Lake Dispatch, its operations, associated costs, and comparing those with contracting out dispatch services. It was stressed during the presentation that it was not an apples to apples comparison. The White Lake Dispatch performs many more functions than would be given by a contract entity. Some major functions as outlined were, most importantly, receiving 911 calls, receiving other calls, monitoring custody exchanges, answering questions, vacation home checking, administering PBTs, vehicle maintenance and transportation, sex offender registration and many other administrative functions. Outsourcing will never be able to provide the

multitude of tasks done or give personal attention and service to the community.

C. PLANNING COMMISSION PRESENTATION

Mr. Sean O'Neil, Planning Commission Director, presented an award to Western Michigan University student, Tom Bonnavier, for performing an internship at the White Lake Planning Commission. He completed many hours of service during this summer, including attendance at Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeal meetings after hours. He was thanked for his dedicated service and wished well in his future endeavors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Steve Gravlin, Dolane Boulevard. For 27 years he worked on the police department and never caused serious injury to anyone nor was injured himself. He credits the dispatchers for that fact as they are familiar with the community and the people in it and are able to interpret who and what is needed on a particular call.

Linda Erlich, 2655 Northfield, White Lake. She specifically attended the meeting tonight to address the issue of possibly outsourcing the dispatching services. She feels safer and appreciates the fact that the dispatchers are familiar with her personally and the area she lives in.

Sharon Wilson, 9685 Log Cabin Trail, White Lake. She thanked the dispatch officers, the police dept., fire dept., and paramedics. A dispatch officer talked her through a nearly tragic situation. Also, she brought to the Board's attention the fact that Log Cabin Trail has become nearly impassable. It has become a hazard for residents, police, fire and medical authorities and she would like the Township's approval for assistance in putting down gravel to level out the road for easier access.

Cliff Suhr, 781 Bogie Lake Road. He attended the White Lake Citizens Academy and got to see the inner workings of the police, fire and dispatchers. He is aware that Waterford is dispatching for the City of Pontiac and there is a lot of friction and misinformation going on. He wouldn't want to see that happen in White Lake.

Resident of White Lake. He appreciates having a local dispatch service. They've been very helpful to him. Let the chief take care of cutting the costs where necessary.

Clark Robbins, Oxhill Drive East. For him it is all about his safety, the safety of his family and friends who live in White Lake. The speed with which the dispatchers act is outstanding. Safety should be this Township's number one priority.

Irene Jacobs, 2020 Kingston. She appreciates the White Lake Dispatch as she made a call to them just recently to report an incident. Also, concerning Ordinance No. 57, she would like the language to be changed from 8 ft. 'AND' 24 ft. to 'AND/OR'.

Fred Timpner, 27704 Franklin Road, Southfield. He is the executive director of the Michigan

Association of Police. They represent the dispatchers and the police officers. You have a lot to be proud of. He would like to emphasize one point. If you don't have the dispatchers monitor the prisoners, they are going to be processed and then they will have to be taken to the county. That is not just 40 minutes of time, but two officers will be taken off the road for up to two hours to process the prisoners. The services provided are intangible and invaluable and can't be added up on a balance sheet.

Jason Hudson, White Lake resident. He would like to thank the board member which pushed the issue of outsourcing as it caused everyone to unite to fight against it.

Buck Frederickson, 2743 West Meadow Drive. He has used most of the services provided by the dispatch office. He wants to live in Mayberry and keep our dispatch.

Pam Cittan, 835 Artdale, White Lake. We have an outstanding police department and excellent dispatch that does far more than any others. Why would you want to give that up for a small amount of savings?

Ivan Mero, Ellinwood Drive, White Lake. His wife is COPD. She quits breathing. She's called 911 and not been able to finish the call and they find her. They get the fire department and the EMS over there and today she is still alive.

Brad Connell, President of the Dispatcher's Union. He recommended listening to a dispatch radio to hear the difference between our dispatchers and county dispatchers. The county calls are transferred from call takers to dispatchers. That is a huge difference for officer and citizen safety and anybody that is in a harmful situation.

Al Linson, Hickory Meadows. The dispatch does a great job. He would like to know which board member is pushing this issue.

Trustee Burkard stated that there is not one of the board members who hadn't thought about it. They are fiduciaries and are responsible to balance the budget by seeing if there is a cost savings to be made. It is their job to investigate. She is happy the issue was brought up and investigated as she herself and the public would never have known everything the dispatch does.

Sue Pugliese, Towering Oaks Subdivision. We have a lot to be proud of. She doesn't think we should sever this life line that we call our dispatch.

Trustee Birkle had asked for this comparison since January because the police department does not have a real healthy fund balance. If something were to go wrong with the millage they could have trouble. It is very important that this millage passes. The police department does not have a lot of wiggle room in its budget.

James Liker, 4589 Pasture Lane. He is a fire fighter in another community that uses outsource dispatching. He feels it is a very bad idea to be detached from the dispatch center. In major incidents such as storms, a fire fighter can be put in dispatch to assist if they become

overwhelmed.

Dan Carlson, 8130 Rene Drive. He feels we should keep the dispatchers. With the election coming up, he would request more signs for the millage.

Trustee Lewsley advised the members of the audience that the Board was obliged to look at this issue as they are responsible for maintaining budgets. Based on the information they were provided, it became pretty apparent that it was an apples to oranges comparison. It is very important that the millages pass to maintain the level of services we have today.

Clerk Lilley indicated that it wasn't long ago that this Board had to make some tough decisions. From 2008/2009 we are missing almost seven employees out of the general portion of the Township and never once did a police officer or fire fighter get laid off. When people read millages, if it says increase, they think we are going to hire people. We won't hire anything additional other than what the people previously decided was an adequate level of service. He doesn't want to see crime to rise and cross our border so level of service is an important issue. We owe it to the unions of both fire fighters and police officers, through good faith negotiations, that not one dispatcher lose their job.

Treasurer Brendel was a past fire fighter and so he is very adamant about keeping the dispatch. When he was a full-time fireman, in the middle of the night, they were right there when we needed them. He will fight to the end to keep the dispatch here.

Supervisor Baroni agreed with what everyone has already said. The fire fighters, police department, dispatchers, EMS do a fabulous job. Thanks to the audience members for taking the time to attend the meeting and voice their opinion.

Resident. Chief Harris did a tremendous job in his presentation. She would like to thank the Citizens Academy attendees who came tonight and the Huron Valley Optimists because they are a great support to the police department.

Joe Erlich, 2655 Northfield. Trying to remain rural is questionable because of all the development that has taken place. Where are all the tax advantages from all the big businesses in the community? You see more development, which means you need more services but yet you don't realize any money from it.

Supervisor Baroni stated that the big box stores are currently going through the tax appeal process. We are listening to all the tax appeals they are bringing to us. Currently, there is a shortfall.

Trustee Burkard advised that St. Joe's Hospital and Huron Valley do not contribute to taxes. There are certain things that are not taxed for the reason they are a benefit to your community and make it worth more. The more businesses that do come in the better off we are. The three top things the Board must consider when making decisions concerning the budget are safety, health and welfare. She is a big proponent for tightening the budget and eliminating waste but the dispatch is anything but waste.

Clerk Lilley added that the Township has lost over 30 percent of their total revenue over the last four years. It is hoped by 2013 that will level off but it will only increase about three percent a year. It will take 10 years to catch up to that 30 percent which is why millage increases are being asked for.

Chief Maltese gave a brief presentation on the 04M millage. It was first passed in 1994 because the equipment, vehicles and apparatus were appalling. The millage passed, revenue slowly increased from 1994 to 2004 so new equipment and apparatus was purchased. The population increased and so more manpower was needed. The millage was renewed in 2004. The language specified these funds for equipment, apparatus, and additional fire fighters. He listed every piece of capital equipment that the fire department uses, the service life, and estimated cost per unit. If you look at the analysis, you will see the revenue generated each year from the 04M minus the costs for personnel, capital investment for equipment and apparatus replacement costs. Currently, we are in a deficit every year. If you look down the road, we don't want to end up where we were in 1994 without money to buy equipment. That is what the 04M fund is all about.

Patty Page, 735 Ranveen. She is running for Township Trustee. She is frustrated concerning political signage and compliance with the sign ordinance. The ordinance is being ignored. It is not fair to the candidates that are abiding by the law. The ordinance officer should be notifying the people that are not doing it correctly or removing the signs. She would appreciate it if everybody would work together and abide by the ordinance so we can all have an equal chance.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. LIST OF BILLS**
- B. REVENUE AND EXPENSES**
- C. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
 - 1. TREASURER'S REPORT**
 - 2. POLICE DEPARTMENT**
 - 3. FIRE DEPARTMENT**
 - 4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
 - 5. OVERTIME REPORT**
- D. BUDGET AMENDMENT**

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Brendel, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Birkle to approve the Consent Agenda. The **MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote (6 yes votes).

MINUTES

- A. JUNE 19, 2012**

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Brendel, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Birkle to approve the Minutes of

June 19, 2012. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (6 yes votes).

OLD BUSINESS

**A. SECOND READING, PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 57
(OUTSIDE STORAGE)**

Trustee Burkard received information from a concerned citizen about an abandoned pontoon boat which is being referred to as a swimming dock, which it is not as it is falling apart. She questioned whether this problem should be addressed by Ordinance No. 57, and if so, how many days until the removal of the boat?

Mr. O'Neil responded the problem is being addressed as not only is it an unlicensed vessel but it is also inoperable. The deck of the boat is rotted out. There currently is a renter on the property and they are responding to the Township's communications. We are on top of things. If compliance is not given things will be escalated. (Amended C. Burkard)

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burkard, **SUPPORTED** by Treasurer Brendel to approve moving to Second Reading, Proposed Amendment to Ordinance No. 57 (Outside Storage) changing Item 2B to read, "All licensed or operable vehicles greater than 8 ft. in height or 24 ft. in length shall be parked or stored a minimum of 10 ft. from a primary structure on any adjacent property." The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (6 yes votes).

NEW BUSINESS

A. INDIAN SPRINGS METRO PARK SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY FARM

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Brendel, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Birkle to approve Indian Springs Metro Park Solar Photovoltaic Array Farm with the agreement of installing a small berm/buffer on the property as approved by the Planning Commission. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (6 yes votes).

C. REQUEST TO REPEAL ORDINANCES

It was **MOVED** by Clerk Lilley, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Birkle to approve the Request to Repeal Ordinance Nos. 39, 48, 49 and 50A. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (6 yes votes).

D. LARGE FORMAT DISPLAY PROPOSAL (TELEVISION PURCHASE)

It was **MOVED** by Treasurer Brendel, **SUPPORTED** by Trustee Burkard to approve the Large

Format Display Proposal (Television Purchase) in the amount of \$5629.00 from line item number 101-265-971-000. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (5 yes votes, 1 no vote - Birkle).

E. SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER

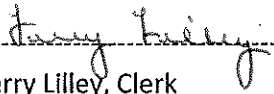
It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Trustee Burkard to approve the appointments of the Senior Advisory Council members for the Dublin Senior Center, with terms expiring December 31, 2012. The MOTION PASSED with a voice vote (6 yes votes).

ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED by Treasurer Brendel, SUPPORTED by Trustee Birkle to adjourn the meeting. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (6 yes votes).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

I, Terry Lilley, the duly elected and qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of White Lake, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, herby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the July 17, 2012 regular board meeting minutes.



Terry Lilley, Clerk
White Lake Township
Oakland County, Michigan