Concerned Citizens Spokesperson, Jeff duPuis, spoke with board members at 6:30pm.

The meeting of the White River Township Board was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Mike Cockerill with the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to the previous meeting at 6:30, the White River Township Board meeting was called to order at 7:19pm.

Roll Call: Mike Cockerill Supervisor, Patti Sargent Clerk, Deb Harris Treasurer, Laura Anderson & George Dufresne Trustees. All present.

1. Approval of Agenda: No additions were made to the agenda. Harris moved to approve the agenda as written. Sargent supported the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The agenda was approved.
2. Approval of April 12, 2022, Township Board meeting minutes and review of other meeting minutes. Anderson moves to approve the minutes. Sargent supports. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed to approve the minutes.
3. Accounts Payable: Sargent. Harris moves to accept the accounts payable. Sargent supports. Roll Call; Patti Sargent - YES, Deb Harris - YES, Laura Anderson – YES, George Dufresne - YES, and Mike Cockerill - YES. The accounts payable is accepted.
4. Correspondence: No correspondence.
5. Reports:
6. Financial April 2022 report: Harris. Noted.
7. Constable report: Cockerill. The life rings are in place. The new rings have not been purchased yet. The street sign at the corner of Chase and Eilers Road is missing. Cockerill will check to see if there are any older signs in storage to replace them.
8. Solid Waste: Harris. Committee members discussed using the transfer station to accept construction materials and they expressed concerns with wear and tear on the roads from the heavy equipment needed to dispose of the materials. It was noted that the budget hearing is in January of 2023. Because the transfer station is doing so well, the township will not need to pay subsidies for them this year. This Saturday, May 14th, is our township’s pride day. The $25 coupons have been available at the township hall.
9. CEIC / recent meetings: Anderson. EGLE has completed their drone fly-over and CEIC is waiting to hear the results. CEIC has reviewed the findings from Mirror Lake done by the Muskegon Conservation District (MCD). CEIC would like to compare the Mirror Lake results to a similar healthy pond. CEIC is working on creating a 3-fold informational hand-out to educate the surrounding communities about the Chemours site, CEIC’s ongoing efforts for clean-up, and how citizens can become involved. The next meeting is 5-18-22.
10. Climate Action Meeting: Kriesel. There were no meetings in April. One of the student activities for Earth Day was to paint store front windows around the town. The students are also looking forward to receiving a YES grant from Howmet in the amount of $500. The students recently bought 150 white pine and white spruce tree saplings for planting on school grounds.
11. Recycling: Goericke. The last meeting was 4-28-22. Results were in for the Cash For Plastic drive. In total, 466 pounds of #2 plastic was collected and delivered to Padnos in Muskegon. Upon review, future drives should consider the amount of storage required for the collected plastic as well as better education of the public regarding the numbers that can be collected and the condition of the plastics. Chad Kuipers from Goodwill spoke about a project they are pursuing to recycle their end-of-life plastics. They have a MICROS grant to recycle their plastics into pellets that will then be formed into ‘Hydroblocks’ that can be used for water diversion and erosion control. Jim Frey, market analyst, spoke to the group about the feasibility study.
12. WMEAC: Sargent: Septic systems care and maintenance near lakes and streams. Many older homes in our area come with decaying septic systems. A tri-fold brochure was created to educate our citizens about septic systems care and maintenance. It is waiting for approval from EGLE.
13. Planning Commission. Lloyd or Dufresne. Lloyd reported that the township survey for the master plan is being put together by Williams and Works. She also reported that the planning commission needs to follow Michigan law and local criteria when it comes to land splits. The planning commission is anticipating many land divisions, each requiring private streets which must be in place before any construction begins. They advise that we should use the county assessor’s office to establish consistency throughout the county and allow the county assessor to oversee. There was also discussion of the Chemours property. Chemours needs to bring the targeted area to residential standards. Anyone purchasing any of this property has the liabilities that follow the property.
14. Ambulance: Cockerill. Last month’s budget, with the 7.5% pay raise, was approved. Last year, workers were given bonuses per run, but that program is about to end. Runs are down in April from March. A paramedic is expected to resign in the near future.
15. Fire Authority: Cockerill. The proposed budget was shared. One firefighter has left their position due to moving out of state.
16. Public comment:

A) Jenny McNeil introduced herself. She is running for the 14th Circuit Court Judge Seat.

B) Kendrah Robinson introduced herself. She is also running for the 14th Circuit Court Judge Seat.

C) A citizen asked about fixing Hancock Road.

1. Unfinished Business:
2. Lymantria disipar (gypsy moths) and woolly adelgids. Some neighborhoods are working together to have their properties sprayed against Lymantria disipar.
3. Road Ends. A letter was drafted and approved by the Muskegon County Road Commission Managing Director and the Township Supervisor and will be mailed 5-11-22 to residents encroaching on the Hancock road ends.
4. May 3rd Election. 292 voters, 163 through Absentee Ballot, 129. The proposed millage did not pass.
5. ARPA. (American Rescue Plan Act). Roof – Three bids were collected for the roof. Parking Lot – Two bids were submitted. We need to follow the ARPA procedures for hiring. Harris will check the guidelines for taking bids/hiring and report back. Solar Panels – waiting on more bids. Fire safe – Waiting to hear back. Stairs to beach on Hancock’s road end – No bids yet. It is unknown how much money will be available after the other projects are funded and approved by ARPA.
6. Pride Day for White River Township residents, $25 coupon toward garbage disposal on May 14, 2022. Discussed.
7. NutriGro. Cockerill talked to a representative from Nutrigro and asked him to come to our next meeting. We also talked to a representative from a local business about brining the roads. They emailed information to the township showing that they do not use salt in their brining. We will continue to discuss.
8. Concerned citizens regarding recent criminal activity. This meeting was held at 6:30pm.
9. New Business:
10. Letter regarding road end. Discussed.
11. Age Well (Meals on Wheels) We gave to Age Well last month.

1. Supervisor Comments: No comments.
2. Public Comment:
3. Pier Phone. Not working. Frontier says they can’t fix it. We need an electrician. Korthase has been contacted.
4. DuFresne. There are 2 trailers on the property on Anderson Road. We need to have the health department go out and check on the trailers.
5. DuFresne. Morton Trail. DuFresne would like to compare the EGLE maps with our zoning maps. Our zoning maps indicate all of Grey Dunes is in the Critical Dunes overlay. A citizen said that their property in Grey Dunes is not in the Critical Dunes overlay according to EGLE.
6. Online application – There is an issue with the online Building Permit Application. It is going to Troy DeBrot, but it’s not going to George DeFresne, therefore it’s not getting signed by both. Suggestion; put the Zoning Permit first and then the Building Permit.
7. Constable. Discussion about hiring a part-time constable.
8. VRBOs. The townships cannot regulate rentals. We have Noise Ordinances and Nuisance Ordinances we can regulate if there are problems with VRBO guests.
9. Adjournment: Sargent moved to adjourn the meeting. Harris supported. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Goericke

Deputy Clerk

Patti Sargent, Clerk