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.

Roll Call: Mike Cockerill Supervisor, Patti Sargent Clerk, Deb Harris Treasurer, Laura Anderson & George Dufresne Trustees. All in attendance, none absent.

1. Approval of Agenda: Cockerill moved to approve the agenda. Sargent supported. All in favor, none opposed. The agenda stands approved.
2. Approval of January 10, 2023, & January 17, 2023, Township Board meeting minutes.
   1. Sargent moved to amend the 1-10-23 meeting minutes, section 7b. The sentence should read, ‘Harris was sent the application …’, not, ‘Harris sent in the application...’ Sargent moved to approve the 1-10-23 amended meeting minutes. Dufresne seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The 1-10-23 amended minutes were approved.
   2. Harris moved to approve the 1-17-23 meeting minutes. Anderson seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The 1-17-23 minutes stand approved.
3. Accounts Payable: Sargent. Harris moved to amend the 22-23 budget by moving the following monies: $4,800.00 from Contingency into $3,000.00 Township Hall and $1,800.00 Attorney, $1,062.00 from Parks & Rec into $75.00 Public Safety and $987.00 Mechanical & Electrical, and moving $432.00 from Solid Waste into Elections. Harris moved to approve the amendments to the 22-23 budget. Anderson seconded. Roll Call: Patti Sargent - YES, Deb Harris - YES, Laura Anderson – YES, George Dufresne – YES, and Mike Cockerill – YES. The amendments have been adopted. Dufresne moved to accept the accounts payable, Anderson seconded. 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: Many letters to the board regarding Solar Energy Projects in White River Township have been received.
5. Reports:
   1. Financial January 2023 report: Harris. Noted
   2. Constable report: Cockerill. All life rings are accounted for and a new ‘Chase’ road sign was found for Chase/Eilers.
   3. Solid Waste: Harris. The last meeting was 1-17-23. The budget was looked at. Our township does not need to pay a subsidy to the White Lake Transfer Station any longer. The Pride Day in May has been canceled but it could be rescheduled for the fall.
   4. CEIC / recent meetings: Anderson. Chemours Environmental Impact Committee (CEIC) has started a letter writing campaign. On 2-6-23, CEIC received Volumes 1 & 2 of requested Plume Characterization Field Activities and Data Analysis Report from Ronda Blayer. Also received Appendix B of the 2021 VIAP Report. Ronda Blayer provided possible dates to meet with their whole project team. April 25th, 2023 Meeting with EGLE 10:30 – 11:30.
   5. Recycling: Goericke. The recycling committee met February 2, 2023, and reviewed Chapter 3 of the 2017 study of, ‘Recycling in Muskegon County’. The focus was on the suggested improvements from the consultant including; 1) Begin to develop recycling at a Transfer Station at the Landfill, 2) Review Transfer Stations already in place, and 3) Combine services already offered in the county. The next meeting is March 2, 2023.
   6. WMEAC: Sargent: Septic systems care and maintenance near lakes and streams. Nothing to report.
   7. Planning Commission. Lloyd or Dufresne. The Moratorium is in place and the planning commission is working with Williams & Works. A proposal to amend the zoning ordinance is being considered to convert all the Chemours property to Transitional Open Space.
   8. Ambulance: Cockerill. Healthcare for employees has been switched to save money. New flooring is being put in. The audit is in. The top dispatches for ambulance services are for breathing issues, falls, weakness, and mental health crises.
   9. Fire Authority: Cockerill, Cederquist. Runs have been high the last 2 years. Last year there were 535 runs.
6. Public comment: Ruthie Eilers spoke. She lives in Claybanks Township and wishes to support the residents of WRT in their efforts in addressing Industrialized Solar. Sam Bender asked if the Fire Department had surplus funds to help new firefighters get certified. Cockerill responded that classes are covered, but finding people is difficult. Tim Balcom questioned if a property on Meinert Road had the proper permits from the township.
7. Unfinished Business:
   1. Stairs to Lake Michigan Beach from Hancock road end information. Nothing to report.
   2. The public notices will be placed in legal ads in the Muskegon Chronicle and on Mlive.
   3. Sports and Shorts correction.The cost to White River Township is $1750, as we share the $3500 with Montague Township.
   4. 6 month moritorium on solar installations was approved and put into our ordinances as 57-2023.
8. New Business:
   1. The FOIA request by Varnum Law has been completed. It took over 50 hours to complete and printed more than 620 pages. A deposit of $540.00 was paid to the township, with the balance expected before delivery.
   2. Tonight after the meeting there will be a budget work session to review expenses and plan for next years budget.
   3. Next month there will be a budget approval meeting prior to the regular Township Meeting @ 6:30 PM.
   4. There will be a county wide millage election on May 2, 2023. This will be the first time holding an election since the passage of 9 days early voting was passed. The state is not prepared for 9 days of early voting at this time. Absentee Ballot applications will be sent out for the 5-2-23 election, and the application is only good for this election.
   5. Poverty exemption. New rules for the poverty exemptions are in. Sargent moved to approve the new rules. Harris seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The new poverty exemption rules stand approved.
   6. Planning and Zoning Training. Training for ZBA was discussed. Lloyd suggested Williams and Works provide some training at the township.
   7. Board of Review. Wednesday March 15, 2023, 1pm-4pm and 6pm-9pm, also Thursday March 16, 2023, 9am – 3pm. This notice will be in the Beacon, not in the Chronicle.
9. Supervisor Comments: Cockerill noted that the Taxes: Percentages or Ratios, will be in the paper on 2-26-23.
10. Public Comment: Craig Smith stated it was important to encourage the board to be bold and courageous. Melissa Lorenz thanked the board for charging for the FOIA, and making sure they were compensated for their time and materials.
11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Memo: Following the meeting, beginning at 8:38pm, township board members discussed the 23-24 budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Goericke, Deputy Clerk

Patti Sargent, Clerk