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 board members were present.

1. Approval of Agenda: Sargent requested the agenda be amended by taking 8a off the agenda since it was already addressed. Dufresne moved to approve the amended agenda. Sargent seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The agenda stands amended and approved.
2. Approval of February 14, 2023, Township Board meeting minutes. Dufresne moved to approve the February 14, 2023, minutes. Harris supported. All in favor, none opposed. The February 14, 2023, minutes stand approved.
3. Accounts Payable: Sargent. Sargent explained that the accounts payable is not complete. More end of the fiscal year bills may come in and need to be paid before the next fiscal year. Harris moved to accept the delayed accounts payable in order to include other end of the year payments. Anderson supported. Roll Call: Patti Sargent - Yes, Deb Harris - Yes, Laura Anderson – Yes, George Dufresne – Yes, and Mike Cockerill – Yes. The accounts payable is accepted with the delay in order to include final end of the year bills.
4. Correspondence: Many letters to the board regarding Solar Energy Projects in White River Township have been received. Tree Trimming by Great Lakes Energy.
5. Reports:
   1. Financial February 2023 report: Harris. Noted
   2. Constable report: Cockerill. The Chase sign is ready to go up at the corner of Chase and Eilers Roads. The life rings will be placed on the jetty the first of April.
   3. Solid Waste: Harris. The Pride Days are still on hold. There might be one in September.
   4. CEIC / recent meetings: Anderson. CEIC is continuing to work on their media outreach campaign. One article has been published in the Beacon with more to come. On 2-15-23 Marty Holtgren, a Fisheries Biologist attended the CEIC meeting to discuss restoration of Sadony Bayou. On 3-10-23, Claire and Marissa met with Dave Dempsey, author and senior advisor of FLOW, For Love of Water. They gave a power point presentation on the Chemours site and the current work being done by CEIC. He is willing to work with CEIC. The next meeting is March 15th, at 2pm.
   5. Recycling: Goericke. The committee reviewed the draft of the market analysis. The next meeting is March 30th, 2023.
   6. Planning Commission. Lloyd or Dufresne. Dufresne reported they are working diligently on the solar amendments.
   7. Ambulance: Cockerill. The amount White River Township pays for our share of the ambulance service is $216,124. There were 124 calls in February. Two (2) of those calls were in White River Township.
   8. Fire Authority: Cockerill, Cederquist. A 50/50 grant was awarded from the DNR to replace the heater. There have been 44 runs this year, which is down from last year at this time.
6. Public comment:
   1. E. Paul Schroeder – Solar should move forward. (WRT resident)
   2. Tamara Horne – In support of solar array. (not a WRT resident)
   3. Ele Goudreau – Against the scale of the solar. (WRT resident)
   4. Mack Goudreau – Against solar (WRT resident)
   5. Chelsea Bender – concerned with scale and size, too large. (WRT resident)
   6. Dave Frederick – In favor of scaling down project. (WRT resident)
   7. Susan Collins – Referenced the website and master plan. (WRT resident)
   8. Alyssa Pischel – Follow our master plan and ordinances. (WRT resident)
   9. Shelley Grattafiori – Against solar project, follow the master plan. (WRT resident)
   10. Mark Grattafiori – Keep the serenity put in place by the master plan. (WRT resident)
   11. Dan Near – We need to educate ourselves on solar energy. (WRT resident)
   12. Linda Cudney – Too big. (WRT resident)
   13. Casey and Nikki Seymour – Solar will be an eyesore. Look into solar available for private homes, not solar farms. (WRT resident)
   14. Mitch Johnson – Not for the solar. It’s dividing our community. (WRT resident)
   15. Bob Przewlocki – Update 3.9 Section 16.06 Regarding ground mounted panels and solar glare, (See letter attached to the minutes) (WRT resident)
   16. Lauren Wackernagel – Urges adequate set backs from properties and concerned about loss of property values. (WRT resident)
   17. Steve Niezgoda – Believes in climate change but also believes in the rural township and the proposed scale is too large. (WRT resident)
   18. Marjory Erdman – Farms are organic, not industrial. Follow the ordinances. (WRT resident)
   19. Tim Balcom – We should only support our township needs which is about 50 acres of solar. (WRT resident)
   20. Chris Rogers – Open fields, no solar. (WRT resident)
   21. Mary Jo Ernst – Presented map of the township showing the 1300 acres left by Dupont and 1700 acres proposed for solar, combined is 3000 acres. Cap solar at 50-80 acres, enough to power the township.
   22. Matt Hedges – Asked attendees to stand up if they opposed the solar project.
   23. Fred Drakus – P.A. 342 of 2016: 30% of township energy should be generated by our own township. We should determine energy needs of our township. (WRT resident)
   24. Melissa Lorenz – Consumer’s Power website states only 2% of Michigan farmland needed to meet our renewable energy goal. (WRT resident)
   25. Chuck England – concerned about damage to the environment. (WRT resident)
   26. Mark Grattafiori – Comment 2. Follow the money. (WRT resident)
   27. Pamela Balcom – Residents have built a life here and intend to pass it down generationally. (WRT resident)
   28. Lauren Wackernagel – Comment 2. Michigan Healthy Climate Plan. Link to information: https://www.michiganbusiness.org/press-releases/2022/04/whitmer-unveils-mi-healthy-climate-plan-create-good-paying-jobs-protect-air-and-water/ (WRT resident)
   29. Ele Goudreau – Comment 2. On Monday, Biden Administration approved 8 billion in oil extraction on federal land. (WRT resident)
   30. Bruce Wackernagel – Pierson Drain should be called Pierson Creek again. (WRT resident)
7. Unfinished Business:
   1. Stairs to Lake Michigan Beach from Hancock road end information currently on hold.
   2. There will be a county wide millage election on May 2, 2023. There will be early voting during Federal and State elections. In order to be ready for early voting we need to buy additional equipment. We will need $9,900.00 to purchase the equipment if needed.
   3. Planning and zoning training. The planning commission voted and approved a motion to ask the Township Board to spend $1,000 to subscribe to the Plus Level within the MTA membership, in order to access 25 different webinars on planning and zoning for the entire board. Sargent moved to approve the request for $1,000 to access the Plus Level training. Dufresne seconded. Roll Call: Patti Sargent - Yes, Deb Harris - Yes, Laura Anderson – Yes, George Dufresne – Yes, and Mike Cockerill – Yes. The motion to spend $1,000 to access the Plus Level for planning and zoning training is approved.
   4. Board of Review Wednesday March 15, 2023 1 pm to 4 pm and 6 pm to 9 pm, also Thursday March 16, 2023 from 9 am to 3 pm.
8. New Business:
   1. Taylor Special Exception (Addressed and approved as neighbors on both sides sent in support letters.)
9. Supervisor Comments: None.
10. Public Comment:
    1. Dave Pickard – Read a statement aloud asking for Supervisor Mike Cockerill to resign. The letter is included below.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Goericke, Deputy Clerk

Patti Sargent, Clerk

This letter was asked to be included in the meeting minutes:

I feel that this is an appropriate comment for today.

It is regarding and updating Article 3.9, Section 16.06MM of the Zoning

Ordinance relating to Ground Mounted Solar Energy systems to include

wording that not only relates to GLARE affecting navigation by air, water

and roadway, but to the actual residents and their residences who are exposed

to continuous glare from such solar energy system designs.

On a day like today, and well into the future as our community is within a

snow belt on the leeward side of a Great Lake, where there is brilliant

exposure to the sun plus snow plus solar panel enhanced reflection, it is

obvious an analysis needs to be done to safeguard the eye health of each

RESIDENT who has continuous exposure to the ramped up UV rays from

the panels. Anyone who skis, snowmobiles or has ever been subjected to

photokeratitis or snow blindness can attest to that. Even minus the snow,

there needs to be a review of this issue to assure us who don’t fly planes into

airports or drive delivery trucks to them have safeguards from ocular hazard

as well.

And, that the Township should choose a consultant and not rely on the

applicant and their expert’s metrics.

Case in point, in the most recent application for site plan review and a special

use permit for a Solar Energy System, the glare consultant used a defunct

Ottiger Airport model for their study. The Board must have oversight on these

and other submittals when it comes to safeguarding residents’ health and

welfare.

Bob Przewlocki

8657 Lehman Road

This letter was read at the closing of the meeting:

