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 - Present, Patti Sargent Clerk - Present, Deb Harris Treasurer - Present, Laura Anderson Trustee - Present & George Dufresne Trustee – Present.

1. Approval of Agenda: Harris moved to approve the agenda with added correspondence. Dufresne supported. All in favor, none opposed. The agenda stands approved.
2. Approval of June 8 and 13, 2023, Township Board meeting minutes. Harris requested to wait to approve the June 8 minutes because the minutes presented are not the correct revised minutes. Harris moved to approve the June 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Dufresne seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The June 13 meeting minutes stand approved.
3. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.
   1. Dave Sipka, WRT Resident, presented photographs of Mouth Cemetery before and after the Catholic Heart Work Camp spruced it up. He reported that Don Richards was instrumental in the restoration of Mouth Cemetery.
4. Special Order of Business: (Comments by Board Members) Nothing to report.
5. Old (Unfinished) Business:
   1. CPR classes to be held at the Township Hall. Upon further investigation, the cost for CPR classes is cheaper at the Viking Athletic and Activity Complex, VAC, in Whitehall. It is only $25 per person and they offer it several times a year. The VAC can be contacted at; 231-893-1070
   2. Catholic Heart Work Camp updates. Work has been completed – see 3a above.
6. New Business:
   1. Letter of Support from White River Township to CEIC. Claire Schlaf has asked the WRT board to support CEIC by sending a letter of support to Muskegon County Environmental Coordinating Council (MCCEC) expressing support for MCCEC and CEIC as they enter a partnership in which MCCEC provides fiduciary services for CEIC in its efforts to raise funds for the cleanup and conservation of the Chemours property. Sargent moved to sign a letter of support and send it to MCCEC. Anderson seconded. Roll call; Patti Sargent - yes, Deb Harris - yes, Laura Anderson – yes, George Dufresne – yes, and Mike Cockerill – yes. The letter of support will be signed and sent to MCCEC.
   2. Special Exception for septic systems, 7001 and 7005 N. Old Channel Trail. A letter was received from Chad Hipshier, Environmental Quality Analyst at EGLE, asking if the Special Exception was going to be approved. Sargent explained that no action can be taken by the board at this time until letters of support have been received from the applicants‘ neighbors.
7. Reports:
8. Financial April 2023 report: Harris. Harris noted that the township finally received the reimbursement from the state for the expenses paid for election security.
9. Constable report: Cockerill. The life rings are all in place.
10. Solid Waste: Harris. Harris reported that usage is down at the White Lake Transfer Station this year.
11. CEIC / recent meetings: Anderson. Anderson reported that CEIC had 11 people march in the July 4th parade. The committee will be discussing fundraising goals and decide how much is needed to reach those goals. The group learned that there are possible monies available through the EPA to help citizen groups. The next meeting is July 19th at the WRT Hall.
12. Recycling: Goericke. Goericke reported that at the last meeting, talk was focused on finishing the presentations and the best way to present them to the public.
13. Planning Commission. Lloyd or Dufresne: Lloyd reported that the planning commission is proceeding to work on the ‘Ordinance Enforcement Officer’ project. She proposed creating a joint subcommittee of the WRT Board and the Planning Commission to accomplish a list of tasks:
    1. Review existing ‘stand-alone’ ordinances for procedures, penalties, and resolutions.
    2. Review zoning ordinances for the same.
    3. Make recommendations for revisions to any ordinance to establish consistent procedures and comparable penalties and resolutions.
    4. Develop a clear process for identifying, investigating, and resolving ordinance violations.
    5. Propose a job description, qualifications and pay scale for a WRT Ordinance Enforcement Officer.
    6. Assist WRT in establishing this position.
14. Ambulance: Cockerill. Cockerill reported that White Lake Ambulance Authority is losing 2 paramedics. He presented a chart showing the pay scale for WLAA workers, from EMTs to Medics. The starting hourly wage for EMT’s with 0-3 years of experience is $12.61 per hour, and this chart included the 8% raise they just received. Dufresne suggested that a salary review committee be created to review hourly wages and salaries to improve the pay scale.
15. Fire Authority: Cockerill. Cockerill described the new jet ski the Fire Authority acquired. It is a rescue jet ski and has been used several times this year. He noted that the Fire Chief makes $8,000 a year, plus runs, which is a low rate of pay.
16. Accounts Payable: Sargent/ Goericke. Sargent moved to amend the Accounts Payable to include a check to Fruitport Township. Harris moved to amend the budget by moving money to cover attorney fees. She requested to move 9,924.51 from contingency and 10,000 from Township Board to the Lawyer line item for a total of 19,924.51. Sargent supported. Roll call; Patti Sargent - yes, Deb Harris - yes, Laura Anderson – yes, George Dufresne – yes, and Mike Cockerill – yes. The budget stands amended. Harris moved to approve the accounts payable as amended. Dufresne supported. Roll call; Patti Sargent - yes, Deb Harris - yes, Laura Anderson – yes, George Dufresne – yes, and Mike Cockerill – yes. The Accounts Payable stands approved as amended.
17. Other Business or Correspondence:
    1. A letter was received from a paranormal group asking to investigate Mouth Cemetery on August 26, or September 9. The letter respectfully described what they intended to do, with input and /or supervision from the township. Deputy Clerk Goericke volunteered to supervise. Sargent moved to approve the request. Harris supported. All in favor, none opposed. The request has been approved with Deputy Clerk Goericke as ‘point person’.
    2. Sargent reported that the electric company provides data on how much money we have saved on our electric bill by installing the solar panels on the roof. Last month we saved $22.
18. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each. No comments.

11. Adjournment: Cockerill adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Goericke

Deputy Clerk