The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Cockerill at 10:03 AM.

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

Present: Deb Harris, Laura Anderson, Patti Sargent, Mike Cockerill. Absent: George Dufresne

1. Approval of Agenda: Sargent moved to amend the agenda by removing the first public comment section. Harris supported the motion. All in favor, none opposed, Dufresne absent. The first public comment section will be removed. Sargent moved to approve the amended agenda. Harris supported the motion to approve the amended agenda. All in favor, none opposed, Dufresne absent. The amended agenda is approved.
2. (Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each. Removed)
3. Special Order of Business: (Board Members dismiss to a closed session meeting with Township Attorneys) Supervisor Cockerill recused himself from this portion of the meeting and put Clerk Sargent in to preside over the meeting.

Clerk Sargent, moved to go into closed or executive session with the Township’s Attorneys to discuss confidential and privileged information. More specifically, the Township Board will go into a closed or executive meeting under the Michigan Open Meetings Act for the following:

1) To discuss a privileged and confidential communication from the Township Attorney dated August 30, 2023, regarding the pending *Lakeside Solar, LLC* v White River Township federal lawsuit pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h).

2) To consult with the Township’s attorneys regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation (i.e., *Lakeside Solar, LLC* v *White River Township*, pending federal lawsuit) pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(e).

 The motion was supported by Harris.

Roll call vote: Anderson – yes, Harris – yes, Sargent – yes, Dufresne – absent, Cockerill – recused.

Board members Sargent, Harris, and Anderson left the room to go into closed session.

Board members Sargent, Harris, and Anderson returned to the room.

Harris moved to reopen the meeting to the public. Anderson supported the motion. Roll call vote:

Anderson – yes, Harris – yes, Sargent – yes, Dufresne – absent, Cockerill – recused. The White River Township Board meeting is again open to the public.

Clerk Sargent introduced Attorney Craig Noland. He made a statement to open the meeting. He stated that he represents White River Township in the pending litigation with Lakeside Solar, LLC. A July 2024 trial date has been set in Federal Court in Grand Rapids, MI. The communication between the attorneys and board members was informal and no decisions have been made. The Township Board will not discuss the information that was discussed today in the closed session.

1. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.

Marilee Bailey, 9951 Chase Road, Montague, MI. thanked the board for their service and voiced support for the 600-foot setbacks to protect property values.

Bruce Wackernagel, 10137 Old 99, Montague, MI. Asked why the solar array/ installation is not on the Chemours (formally DuPont) property. Also asked why the board would negotiate with Lakeside Solar.

Mary Jo Ernst, West Old Channel Trail. Montague, MI. “Thank you to the board” and supports the amended Solar Ordinance (58-2023) passed in 2023. She has found eight (8) other townships that have at least 500-foot setbacks. Asked the Board members not to cave to pressure. The setbacks are not too large. It is hard work to be a farmer. Nonfarmers work equally hard to acquire and maintain their properties and do not want to see the value of their investments diminished. We want to maintain the unique characteristics of White River Township.

Pamela Balcom, Old 99, Montague, MI. Asked how we will know about the recall. It was explained that the notice of recall has been displayed in the notice window of the Township Hall.

Deborah Hopkinson – Lehman Road, Montague, MI. Asked about the Recall process and when will ballots be made available. Clerk Sargent explained to the best of her knowledge how the recall process works. The person being recalled will be on the ballot as will anyone else that files to be placed on the ballot in time, otherwise any candidates wishing to fill the recalled position will be a write in candidate but must register with the county to be tabulated as a real write in candidate. Every election someone writes in Mickey Mouse, but because he is not a registered write in candidate, that vote is not counted.

Clerk Sargent read or summarized letters from: Fred Drachus, Allan Dahl, Lauren Wackernagel, the VanTols, Melissa Lorenz/ Bill Ditty, and Ruthie Eilers. The letters all voiced support for Ordinance 58-2023, the 600-foot setbacks, the size and scope of the solar installations, and support for the White River Township Board.

Bruce Wackernagel 10137 Old 99, Montague MI, said thanks to the board.

1. Adjournment: Sargent moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 am. Harris supported the motion. All in favor, none opposed, Dufresne absent. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Sargent Clerk