

# WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

IN PERSON AUGUST 8, 2023 7:00 PM

Social Distancing is recommended.

## MEETING MINUTES

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: Sargent moved to approve the agenda. Harris supported. All in favor, none opposed. The agenda was approved.
2. Approval of June 8, 2023 and July 11, 2023, Township Board meeting minutes. Harris moved to approve both meeting minutes. Dufresne seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The meeting minutes of June 8, 2023 and July 11, 2023 were approved.
3. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.
  - a. Kim Cyr, Muskegon County Commissioner, reported that the Muskegon Air Show was successful. He also reported that the Solid Waste Station at the county Recovery Resource Center (RRC) was completed.
  - b. Teresa DeWeerd, WRT Resident, submitted an official complaint to the board regarding a guardrail she would like removed on Lloyd alley, off Ferry Street.
4. Special Order of Business: (Comments by Board Members) Nothing to report.
5. Old (Unfinished) Business:
  - a. CPR classes will be held at the Viking Athletic Center in Whitehall, please contact them for dates and times
  - b. Special Exception for septic systems, 7001 and 7005 N. Old Channel Trail. Permits have been granted.
6. New Business:
  - a. Millage proposal resolution 64-2023. Harris explained that Resolution 64-2023 will put the millage question on the ballot for November 2023. Pre-Headlee Amendment, the WRT millage rate was 1.3 mills. The current millage rate is 0.7326. The township is asking for an additional 0.2674 mills to bring the total millage rate to 1.0 mills. The additional millage will raise estimated revenues of \$36,128.00 in the first year of the levy. Sargent moved to approve Resolution 64-2023. Dufresne seconded the motion. Roll Call: Patti Sargent - YES, Deb Harris - YES, Laura Anderson - YES, & George Dufresne – YES, & Mike Cockerill – YES. Resolution 64-2023 has been approved.
7. Reports:
  - a. Financial July 2023 report: Harris. The financials were noted.
  - b. Constable report: Cockerill. There is a new road sign at the corner of Fruitvale and Lehman. All the life rings are accounted for.

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- c. Solid Waste: Harris. The last meeting was July 18, 2023. It was decided that prices will not be raised at this time.
- d. CEIC / recent meetings: Anderson. CEIC has now been meeting for 5 years. The next meeting is August 16, 2023, 2pm, White River Township Hall. They are working on getting the EPA involved, contacting representatives, and reaching out to Attorney General Dana Nessel. CEIC has applied for an Environmental Baseline Grant. Trout Unlimited agreed to be the Fiduciary partner for the grants but does not want to submit the grant. CEIC is asking White River Township to be partners with them and file grants on their behalf. CEIC would hire and pay for all accounting fees. Sargent and Harris said they would speak with the township's accountant, Sarah Kannitz, and also check with legal and our insurance company for liability. Dufresne suggested we check with our resources and then discuss the matter as a board.
- e. Recycling: Goericke. Nothing to report.
- f. Planning Commission. Lloyd or Dufresne: Dufresne reported that they are working on the census and opinion survey. They are also addressing the position of the Zoning Enforcement Officer. In addition, Sargent said the committee is considering a tall hall meeting for people that weren't able to fill out the survey. The town hall would be an open discussion with no minutes taken and no quorum present.
- g. Ambulance: Cockerill. Dr. McManus is the new medical director for Muskegon County. Two new paramedics have been hired.
- h. Fire Authority: Cockerill. The rescue jet skis have been in use this past month. Sargent mentioned that our representative with the fire authority has not reported back in a while. If anyone is interested in filling this position, please contact her at 231-894-9216, or email at [clerkwrtownship@gmail.com](mailto:clerkwrtownship@gmail.com)
- 8. Accounts Payable: Sargent. This is not complete yet. Waiting on 2 bills. Harris moved to approve the accounts payable with the 2 outstanding bills. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Patti Sargent - YES, Deb Harris - YES, Laura Anderson - YES, & George Dufresne – YES, & Mike Cockerill – YES. Accounts payable has been approved with the 2 outstanding bills.
- 9. Other Business or Correspondence: Nothing to report.
- 10. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.
  - a. Phil Rogers, WRT Resident. The guardrail on the alley is an impediment to emergency vehicles accessing the houses. He asks that the guardrail be removed or that the road be widened. He has not spoken with the Muskegon County Road Commission. He plans on having the area surveyed.
  - b. Beth Pickard, WRT Resident. She asked about the Hancock Road End. Harris explained that work is in progress with the attorney.

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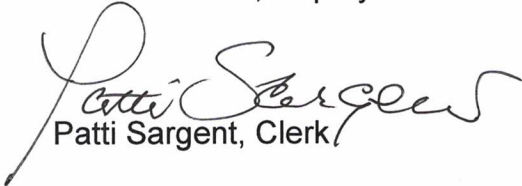
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- c. Ron Bailey, WRT Resident. He asked if the board could explain to the residents why the millage increase is needed.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Goericke, Deputy Clerk

  
Patti Sargent, Clerk