The meeting of the White River Township Board was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Ron Bailey with the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call: Ronald Bailey Supervisor, Patti Sargent Clerk, Deb Harris Treasurer, Laura Anderson & George Dufresne Trustees. All but George Dufresne present.

1. Approval of Agenda: Sargent moved to approve the agenda. Anderson seconded. All present in favor, none opposed. The agenda stands approved.
2. Approval of December 12, 2023, Township Board meeting minutes. Harris moved to approve the minutes. Sargent seconded. All present in favor, Anderson abstained due to being absent last month, and none opposed. The December 12, 2023 meeting minutes stand approved.
3. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.
   1. Shelly Grattifiori, WRT Resident. Asked about Trustee George Dufresne and his absence. Sargent responded that he has been unable to attend and the township allows a 6 month recovery period. It has been 4 months and hopes are that he will return.
   2. Dave Pickard, WRT Resident. It is not illegal to remove White Pine Trees.
4. Special Order of Business: (Comments by Board Members) Sargent read a request from Planning Commission member Marissa McGlue. McGlue would like to add a discussion to the agenda about how to help community members be more aware of township happenings. The board decided to continue this conversation at the Planning Commission meeting next Tuesday.
5. Old (Unfinished) Business:
   1. Zoning Enforcement Officer. The interviewing panel would like to reccommend John Howell as the Zoning Enforcement Officer. Sargent moved to accept John Howell as the Zoning Enforcement Officer. Harris seconded the motion. All present in favor, none opposed. Mr. Howell is the Zoning Enforcement Officer for White River Township.
   2. Hourly maintainence position. The township received a letter from Mark Grattafiori for the hourly maintainence position. He holds state mechanical, electrical, and building licenses. Harris moved to hire Mr. Grattafiori. Anderson seconded. All present in favor, none opposed. Mr. Grattafiori has been hired for the position.
6. New Business:
   1. Sargent moved to nominate the following Election Poll Workers for the Presidential Primary Election Feb 27, 2024: Patti Sargent Chair, Julie Goericke Poll Worker and Receiving Board, Margaret Kline, Laura Anderson, Sue Levy, Susan Lloyd, Alternate Deb Harris, and Brian Thompson Receiving Board. Anderson seconded. All present in favor, none opposed. The nominated workers have been approved.
   2. The Hancock Road End ruling by Muskegon County Circuit Court Judge Kenneth Hoopes has been announced. The judgement was in favor of the county and the township. The road ends belongs to the Muskegon County Road Commission. The Hancock Road end is 66 feet wide and extends to the waters of Lake Michigan and allows public access to Lake Michigan.
   3. Accepting bids on stairs from the road end of Hancock to the Lake Michigan Beach. There is $19,000 available from the Dune Sanctuary Fund that can only be used for dune related projects. The $19,000 won’t be enough so the balance will need to be raised. The Hancock Road end is not in critical dunes so EGLE permission is not required.
   4. The supervisor read a Letter of Support from White River Township to CEIC. Sargent moved to support CEIC and sign the letter. Harris seconded. All present in favor, none opposed. The letter of support will be signed.
7. Reports:
8. Financial December 2023 report: Harris. The financials were noted.
9. Constable report: Bailey. Nothing to report.
10. Solid Waste: Harris. Nothing to report.
11. CEIC / recent meetings: Anderson. The CEIC meeting is Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 7 pm to prep for the meeting with Chemours on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 5:30 pm.
12. Recycling: Goericke. Nothing to report.
13. Planning Commission. Lloyd or Kline/Harris. Lloyd reported that they are continuing to work on the master plan. There was discussion regarding the creation of a letterhead for the township.
14. Ambulance: Anderson. A commission was formed to look into increasing pay. There is interest in purchasing another lift assist.
15. Fire Authority: Bailey. Noted.
16. Accounts Payable: Sargent/ Goericke (The township’s roof top Solar Power credit for December was $1.57). Sargent moved to approve the accounts payable. Harris seconded. Roll call: Anderson – yes, Harris – yes, Sargent – yes, and Bailey – yes, Dufresne absent. The motion passed and accounts payable approved.
17. Other Business or Correspondence: Bailey called Ken Hulka from the road commission for estimates on 4 sections of WRT roads. He hasn’t heard back from Ken Hulka, but it takes time to measure and put an estimate together. The 4 sections are; Lau Road, Hancock from Lamos to Indian Bay, Lamos from Meinert to Skeels, and Indian Bay road from Post to Hancock.
18. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.
    1. Paul Schroeder, WRT Resident. Appreciates that Eilers Road from Old 99 to Lamos has been ground up and easy to drive. Noticed that something has been dumped on the road that hasn’t been grated yet.
19. Harris moved to adjourn the meeting. Sargent seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Goericke, Deputy Clerk