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. The roll was called and all board members were present.

1. Approval of Agenda: Harris moved to approve the agenda. Sargent seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The agenda stands approved.
2. Approval of June 11, 2024, Township Board meeting minutes. Anderson asked to amend item 7g in the minutes. Dufresne moved to approve the minutes with the corrections in 7g. Sargent seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The June 11, 2024, meeting minutes stand approved with corrections.
3. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.
	1. County Commissioner Kym Cyr read a letter from a Muskegon County Superintendent regarding a meeting they attended.
	2. Nathan Nagelkirk, WRT Resident. Encouraged the township to allow residents the opportunity to develop STRs (Short Term Rentals) as the township board considers a future STR Ordinance.
4. Special Order of Business: (Comments by Board Members)
	1. Bailey informed residents that Michael Homier is an attorney that specializes in solar energy and solar systems. Bailey moved to appoint attorney Michael Homier from Foster-Swift as special counsel for White River Township, at a rate of $295 per hour. Harris seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patti Sargent - Yes, Deb Harris - Yes, Laura Anderson – Yes, George Dufresne – Yes, & Ronald Bailey -Yes. The motion to appoint attorney Michael Homier stands approved.
	2. Bailey moved to go into a **Closed or Executive meeting** under the Michigan Open Meeting Act pursuant to MCL 15.268 to discuss privileged and confidential communication dated July 3, 2024, with Special Council regarding solar energy and renewable energy systems. Harris seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patti Sargent - Yes, Deb Harris - Yes, Laura Anderson – Yes, George Dufresne – Yes, & Ronald Bailey -Yes. The motion stands approved. The board moved into closed session at 7:10pm. The board returned at 7:50pm. Bailey closed the closed session and opened the open session.
5. Old (Unfinished) Business:
	1. Sargent explained that the next election in White River Township is the Primary which will be held on August 6. The Clerk will be in the office from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, August 3, to register new voters and for those who would like to vote absentee. Check the White River Township Website for the dates and times of early voting at 1903 Marquette Ave. in Muskgeon. (www.whiterivertwp.com)
	2. Sargent reported that absentee ballots and applications for a ballot have been sent **and this is the last year that the applications will be sent.** Next year those who signed up for a ballot for every election will automatically receive a ballot. Please notify the clerk if you move out of White River Township so that our voting records are accurate. If you apply to vote somewhere else in Michigan, White River Township will be automatically notified.
	3. ORV Ordinance. Tabled for this meeting so that the township attorney has time to work on the wording for the ordinance.
	4. Short Term Rentals Ordinance. Tabled for this meeting so that the township attorney has time to work on the wording for the ordinance.
	5. Property Owners Guide to Building in White River Township. Sargent moved to approve the draft for placement on our website, [www.whiterivertwp.com](http://www.whiterivertwp.com). Anderson seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The Property Owners Guide to Building in White River Township will be placed on the township’s website.
6. New Business:
	1. Sargent moved to nominate and approve election inspectors for the August 6th Primary Election. The inspectors are: Maggie Kline, Susan Levy, Susan Lloyd, Marianne Delavan, Janet Graham, Lauren Wackernagel, Barb Reese and Patti Sargent. Harris seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The election inspectors stand approved for the August 6th Primary Election. (Brian Thompson will serve on the Receiving Board)
	2. The Public Testing of Election Equipment will be Monday, July 22, 9:30 am, at the Township Hall. The public is welcome.
	3. Self Reporting of Storm Damage through the Emergency Management System. A link for self reporting can be found on the township’s website.
	4. The Muskegon County Road Commission will chip and Seal the newly paved portion of Hancock Road within the next month.
7. Reports:
	1. Financial June 2024 report: Harris noted.
	2. Zoning: Howell/Schmiege. Schmiege reported that many have called about repairs. He said that you do not need a building permit to replace or repair damage. Permits are needed only to add what was not there before. Schmiege noted that camping permits are for 30 days and cost $100. Camping permits may be renewed twice for 30 days each. Howell reported that the complainant on Hancock Road was supposed to respond to the township’s letter and has not done so. The next step is to visit the resident.
	3. Solid Waste: Harris reported that there was a budget hearing on June 18, 2024.
	4. CEIC / recent meetings: Anderson reported that tomorrow, July 10, is the first visioning session for Sadony Bayou. There is still space available to attend. The next Zoom meeting is August 1st at 7pm. The next in-person meeting is August 21st, 2pm, at the township hall.
	5. Recycling: Goericke reported that there have been 2 meetings in the last month. The Muskegon County Recycling Network (MCRN) is partnering with Resource Recycling Systems (RRS) and has established 3 goals. MCRN will be presenting to the MTA meeting on July 29th, 2024, at noon to share those goals with Muskegon County stakeholders. On July 11th at 2pm, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by Consumer’s Power to kick off their County Solar Program. This will be held at 1043 S. Swanson Road in Ravenna.
	6. Planning Commission. Bailey noted that Susan Lloyd has retired from the Planning Commission after many years of service. The board would like to thank her for her many years of dedication to White River Township. Standing in as temporary chair, Don Kline reported that a new chair will be elected next week. In addition, he reminded residents that the next town hall meeting is being held this week, Thursday, July 11th from 6:30 - 8pm. The topic will be Lot Sizes and the Land Division Act.
	7. Ambulance: Anderson noted that the box from the ambulance involved in last month’s accident was saved. They will be able to do all the repairs from the general fund and won’t need to touch the equipment fund. She also shared a Call to Action from the American Ambulance Association. The AAA is asking all EMS providers to contact their U.S. Senators and Representatives requesting them to cosponsor H.R.1666 and S.1673.
	8. Fire Authority: Bailey reported that the Fire Authority voted to approve the building of a new structure behind the main building. The materials will cost approximately $30,000, but the labor will be provided for free from the Michigan National Guard.
	9. Accounts Payable: Sargent, (Net meter [roof top Solar] credit for June was $17.75). Sargent moved to approve the accounts payable. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patti Sargent - Yes, Deb Harris - Yes, Laura Anderson – Yes, George Dufresne – Yes, & Ronald Bailey -Yes. Accounts payable has been approved.
8. Other Business or Correspondence:
	1. Bailey received an email from Jon Howell about beautifying Hubbard Cemetery. He would like to plant, water, and maintain some trees, while working with Sexton Jeremy Degen on placement of said trees. He requested $1,000 to purchase the trees. Harris reported that we don’t have extra money in our cemetery budget for trees, but we could move money from a different line item, such as Sports and Shorts, since no one from WRT attended this summer. Harris moved to move $1,000 from Sports and Shorts to Cemetery Maintenance. Anderson seconded. Roll call vote: Patti Sargent - Yes, Deb Harris - Yes, Laura Anderson – Yes, George Dufresne – Yes, & Ronald Bailey -Yes. The motion stands approved. Bailey moved to provide up to $1,000 to Jon Howell to purchase trees for Hubbard Cemetery upon consultation with Sextant Degen. Harris seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patti Sargent - Yes, Deb Harris - Yes, Laura Anderson – Yes, George Dufresne – Yes, & Ronald Bailey -Yes.
	2. Sargent was notified that some septic systems have been installed in critical dunes with health department approval but not EGLE approval, that we are aware of.
9. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.
	1. Jon Howell, WRT Resident. Howell reported that he has had a verbal complaint from a resident about a neighbor that had their septic put in on an easement that is on their property.
10. Adjournment: Sargent moved to adjourn. Anderson seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The meeting stands adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Goericke, Deputy Clerk.

Patti Sargent, Clerk