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 at the White River Township Hall.

Roll Call: Ronald Bailey Supervisor, Julie Goericke Clerk, Mary Kriesel Treasurer, Laura Anderson Trustee & Deb Harris Trustee: all present.

1. Approval of Agenda: Anderson moved to approve the agenda with an addition of Old Business 5. E. Consumers Energy Easement. Harris supported the approval of the agenda. All members vote to approve. Agenda approved.
2. Approval of January 14, 2025, Township Board Meeting minutes and January 29, 2025, Special Township Board Meeting minutes. Harris moved to approve the White River Township Board Meeting minutes of January 14, 2025. Kriesel supported the motion to approve. All members vote to approve. January 14, 2025, minutes approved. Harris moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 29,2025. Goericke supported the motion. All members vote to approve. Special Meeting minutes are approved.
3. Public comment: Public comments are limited to 3 minutes each.
   1. Beth Pickard of North Old Channel Trail stated 5 new homes are going in near her without having had a public hearing. She stated that there are trees being removed, and foundations being dug out without permits. She stated that nearby homes can be affected by erosion and flooding.
   2. Kim Cyr- Muskegon County Commissioner, brought 3 copies of the new Muskegon County 2025 Visitors Guide.
   3. Tracy Boyles of the Muskegon County Health Department introduced herself and another person from the department.
   4. Jim Rose, North Old Channel Trail, wants to know how the Federal freeze of grants will affect White River Township, the Muskegon County Conservation Grants and CEIC. They all depend on the grants that are funded by the Federal Government.
4. Special Order of Business: (Comments by Board Members)
   1. Supervisor Bailey reported on the special meeting of January 29, 2025, regarding the lawsuits between Wackernagel vs White River Township on the Referendum of the Solar Ordinance. White River Township prevailed in the Circuit Court because the petition did not acquire enough signatures to have the Ordinance put to a vote during an election. The decision was appealed and White River Township sued for Court Costs. The White River Township Board voted to dismiss the suit after the attorney for Wackernagel asked for all suits to be dismissed. The Township spent approximately $50,000.00 on this lawsuit, and though they will not recoup any money, the Circuit Court ruling will stand with White River Township prevailing.
   2. February 6, 2025, William Schmiege and Ron Bailey met with Lake Side Solar for 45 minutes. White River Township identified a place for Solar in the Renewable Energy Overlay in the Chemours Property that Lake Side Solar disagrees with. Lake Side Solar will call for a public meeting to explain to the public what they plan to do with Solar Energy and they will have experts to explain various functions of the project.
5. Old (Unfinished) Business:
   1. Senior Allocation: the Senior Allocation was discussed. Harris moved to spend the Senior Allocation of $11,852.00 on the Viking Athletic Center, $8,000.00 for memberships, White Lake Senior Center, $800.00 for memberships, AgeWell Services, $2,052.00 for Safe Seniors Program and Meals on Wheels, and $1,000.00 for the Farmer’s Market Vouchers worth $5.00 each to be used at the Montague Farmer’s Market. Anderson supported the motion. Roll call vote: Harris – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Kriesel – Yes, Goericke – Yes, Bailey – Yes. The spending of the Senior Millage Allocation was approved.
   2. Williams & Works: Master Plan and Rec Plan. Work is in progress. Goericke will send letters to neighboring municipalities notifying them of our ongoing work in this area.
   3. Election Grant items. The Township must spend $1,000.00 to get $1,000.00 back through the election security grant of the State of Michigan. Plans on what to spend the money on were discussed.
   4. BS&A Comparison with Quick Books. Kriesel explained there would be a set up cost and training cost but would bring the township in line with other neighboring townships. This will be discussed at the March 11, 2025, meeting.
   5. Consumers Energy Easement. The power lines would cross township property on Indian Bay Road (Tennis Courts Property) to a new home across the street. Goericke moved to approve the Easement as approved by the Township attorney. Kriesel supported the motion. All members in favor, none opposed. The Consumers Energy Easement has been approved.
6. New Business:
7. Budget Work Session (After tonight‘s Township Board Meeting)
8. ESTA Earned Sick Time Act. February 21, 2025. Who would be included in this was discussed. This would not affect elected or appointed officials.
9. Board of Review in March. There will be 3 (Three) notices in 3 consecutive issues of the White Lake Beacon. The Board of Review will be held on March 12 from 1-4pm and 6-9pm, and March 13, 2025 from 9am to 3pm.
10. White River Township licensing ordinance was presented to the board members to review and will be discussed again at the Township Board meeting on March 11, 2025.
11. Reports:
    1. Financial January 2025 report: Kriesel Noted.
    2. Zoning: Howell/Schmiege. Schmiege reported that 17 new building sites have been approved. 4 are under review, some building and/or construction has been started without the necessary reviews and permits. The Township attempts to be nice by notifying the builders of required permits but if ignored, citations will be issued. Many questions have been fielded if property is buildable. Howell reported that there was a court action for a property not in compliance with the township ordinance regarding junk cars and garbage in the yard. However, the homeowner passed away. Howell will continue to monitor the junk situation which must be cleaned up.
    3. Solid Waste: Harris. The transfer station will be closed for inclement weather if Whitehall Schools are closed. Pride Days for White River Township are in May.
    4. CEIC / recent meetings: Anderson: CEIC is mourning the loss of one of its members, David Roodvoets. His memorial will be Feb 22, 2025, at the Ferry Memorial Church in Montague. Work will continue on the bike path and Chemours clean up. White Lake Association will place a smart buoy in White Lake and is looking for youth to get engaged with their work.
    5. Recycling: Goericke. No meetings
    6. Planning Commission. Lauren Wackernagel, work continues with Williams and Works on the Master Plan and Recreational Plan for the Township. A special meeting with Williams and Works will be held March 13, 2025, at 6:30, the public is invited to attend. Welcome to Denise Eilers as a new member of the PZC.
    7. White Lake Ambulance Authority: Anderson: the Audit was clean and will be discussed at the next meeting. Response time is longer when the roads are icy, and weather is inclement.
    8. Fire Authority: Bailey: $120,000.00 was allocated to purchase new equipment to fight brush fires and replace old vehicles.
    9. Accounts Payable: Goericke (Net meter [roof top Solar] the January bill was reduced by 0.90). Kriesel moved to move $157.55 from Parks and Rec. to cemetery to cover expenses. Harris supported the motion. Roll call vote: Harris – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Kriesel – Yes, Goericke – Yes, Bailey – Yes. The motion to move $157.55 was approved. Goericke moved to approve the accounts payable. Anderson supported the motion. Roll call vote: Harris – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Kriesel – Yes, Goericke – Yes, Bailey – Yes. Accounts payable was approved.
12. Other Business or Correspondence: none
13. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.
    1. Paul Schroeder of Chase Road stated that Bill Wagner of Grant Township has passed away. Also, there are 3 Grants in question with the Federal Grant Freeze that will affect the Muskegon County Conservation district.
    2. Bill Schmiege Zoning Administrator mentioned writing or calling the Michigan Representatives in support of bills 4027 and 4028 that would return the zoning approval power regarding renewable energy to the local municipalities. Please call your representatives.
    3. Jim Rose of North Old Channel Trail asked how the Federal Government Grant Freeze would affect property taxes, as many services depend on Federal Grant money such as schools, fire departments, ambulance services, libraries, hospitals, etc.
14. Adjournment: Goericke moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm. Anderson supported the motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patti Sargent, Deputy Clerk.

Julie Goericke, Clerk.