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 as written, Goericke supported. All in favor. Agenda approved as written.
2. Approval of December 10, 2024, Township Board meeting minutes. Anderson moved to approve the December 10, 2024, meeting minutes as written. Harris supported the motion to approve. All in favor none opposed. The minutes are approved as written.
3. Public comment: Public comments are limited to 3 minutes each. none
4. Special Order of Business: (Comments by Board Members). none
5. Old (Unfinished) Business:
	1. Consumer’s Easement. There has been correspondence between Consumers Energy and the Township Attorney. Attorney Bloom will review and respond. This will be addressed in the February meeting. This easement is across the Township’s Tennis Court Property for a power line to a new residential property on Indian Bay Road.
	2. BS&A. This is a question of continuing with QuickBooks for payroll and accounting or moving to BS&A. The cost analysis will be presented at the February meeting. Clerk Goericke reported on how many local jurisdictions are currently using BS&A. The Township uses BS&A for taxes and property accessing now.
6. New Business:
7. Maintenance Position. Keith Ramthun submitted a letter of interest. There is a vacancy as the previous maintenance person moved away. Harris moved to hire Mr. Ramthun for the Maintenance position. Kriesel supported the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Mr. Ramthum is approved to be the White River Township Maintenance person.
8. Planning Commission Applicant, Denise Eilers. To fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission, Denise Eilers has submitted a letter of interest. She is present at this meeting. Anderson moved to approve Denise Eilers for the position on the Planning Commission. Harris supported the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Welcome Denise Eilers to the Planning Commission.
9. Election grant. Clerk Goericke reported there is a Grant available through the State of Michigan for $1000. This grant will be reimbursment for election supplies such as ballot bags, signs, security, etc.. The Township must spend $1000.00 to be reimbursed for the expenses.
10. Board of Review. There will be vacancies in the Board of Review this next year. Joseph Schulze and William Bergerson have both submitted letters of interest to the Township Board. Goericke moved to appoint and approve William Bergerson to the Board of Review. Harris supported the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Welcome William Bergerson to the Board of Review.

Harris moved to approve Joseph Schulze to the Board of Review. Goericke supported the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Wecome Joseph Schulze to the Board of Review.

1. Short Term Rental Ordinance Amendment. The Short Term Rental Ordinance Amendment was reviewed by the Planning Commission and approved during a public hearing. Karen McClain of the Planning Commission presented the Township Board details of the public hearing. It is now before the Board for discussion and approval. Goericke moved to approve and add amendement 3.46 to the Zoning Ordinance Book of White River Township. Harris supported the motion. Roll call voted: Anderson – yes, Harris – yes, Kriesel – yes, Goericke – yes, Bailey – yes. The Short Term Rental Ordinance Amendment 3.46 will be intergrated into the Zoning Ordinance Book. A Police Power stand alone ordinance is the next piece to be put into place, and a list will be compiled for those that would like to get on the Rental Registry. There will be 55 available rental permits total for the Township.
2. Reports:
	1. Financial December 2024 report: Kriesel - Noted
	2. Zoning: Howell/Schmiege: There have been 13 calls, 7 pending new builds from nonresidents.
	3. Solid Waste: Harris; no report
	4. CEIC / recent meetings: Anderson. Last meeting was on Jan 2, 2025, there will be a press release to explain what developments are being made. The Land Conservancy is looking into conservation of some of the Chemours property.
	5. Recycling: Goericke. Nothing to report.
	6. Planning Commission. Don Kline: Reporting for Don Kline is Karen McClain. Work on the Master Plan continues as does the work on the Recreational Plan. Stephen Niezgoda reported on the Town Hall meeting addressing the Bike Trail and Recreational plans. Harris stated that to get grants from the DNR or EGLE there must be a Current Recreational plan in place. Williams and Works knows how to put this document together to meet the criteria for the grants that we may need for bike paths and other recreational needs. Williams and Works will cost $11,500.00 for a completed Recreational Plan.
	7. White Lake Ambulance Authority: Anderson. Response times at or under 8 minutes.
	8. Fire Authority: Bailey, there will be a new roof placed on the Fire Barn in the Spring.
	9. Accounts Payable: Goericke (Net meter [roof top Solar] the December bill was reduced by 0.79).

**Budget Amendments** - Goericke moved to move $60.00 from Contingency to Tennis Courts, $10,000.00 from Attorney fees to Township Board, and $8,000.00 from Attorney fees to Planning Commission. Anderson supported the motion. Roll call vote: Anderson – yes, Harris – yes, Kriesel – yes, Goericke – yes, Bailey – yes. Amendments to the budget approved.

Goericke moved to approve the accounts to be paid. Anderson supported the motion. Roll call voted: Anderson – yes, Harris – yes, Kriesel – yes, Goericke – yes, Bailey – yes. Accounts payable is approved.

1. Other Business or Correspondence: There has been a letter regarding the lawsuit by eighty townships to retain and regain zoning jurisdiction. The judge denied putting a stay on all proposed building of large-scale solar arrays until a legal verdict is reached between the State and Local Jurisdictions but did allow the lawsuit between the State of Michigan and local zoning to go forward.

There will be a meeting between Lakeside Solar and Township officials on January 21, 2025.

1. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.

Stephen Niezgoda of Sunset Lane questioned what property is considered by the Land Conservancy. The property is on White Lake in the Long Point area.

Mike Vargo of Lost Valley Road asked if Lakeside Solar was the same as National Grid Renewables. Bailey explained that Lakeside Solar was a subsidiary of National Grid Renewable.

William Bergerson of West Old Channel Trail stated he was pleased the attorney costs were less than expected. Concerned about language of single-family use in the Short-Term Rental Ordinance.

Denise Eilers of North Old Channel Trail questioned how the Township presented fifty-five as the number of Short-term rentals. The Planning Commission did a search of rentals on the internet and found fifty-five in the White River Township.

1. Adjournment: Goericke moved to adjourn at 8:29 PM. Anderson supported the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Sargent, Deputy Clerk

Julie Goericke, Clerk