

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 15, 2020
ADOPTED MINUTES
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1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Board was called to order by the Supervisor Ken Schwartz at 7:15 p.m. on June 15, 2020 on a Zoom Virtual Board Meeting.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Schwartz led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

3. ROLL CALL

The members present were Nancy Caviston, Lynette Findley, Meghan Winslow, Lisa Lewis, Brenda McKinney, Ken Schwartz, and Alex Williams.

Absent: None

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Williams supported by Lewis, to adopt the agenda with the addition of adding: Provision D under New Business: Stamford Road Bids

Supervisor Schwartz apologized for this being added late but stated that he just received them today.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 18, 2020

It was moved by Caviston supported by Williams, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of May 18, 2020 with the correction of the vote for the Professional Group, a Belfor Company was not unanimous.

The motion carried by unanimous vote to the amended minutes.

6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

A. CITIZEN COMMENTS

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Bill McFarlane brought a couple concerns to the board's attention. Recently he observed one of the candidates for Clerk's election signs and the Township's logo is on it. Bill stated that after being involved in township government for 27 years, he has heard of these things in the past either in the Township's magazine or when he was at the road commission, there was discussion about whether you can use the road commission's logos on campaign documents. He stated he knows it is not appropriate to use the Township's logo on campaign signs and he cannot call the MTA anymore because he is no longer a member. McFarlane stated he did call the state and after speaking to them, they were referring him to enforcement and complaints. He left a message with enforcement and complaints. He stated he is pretty certain that there is a violation to use the township logo on campaign signs. Bill stated he thinks this is an issue for the township's sake to make sure that the township is in a good position. He asked that the Supervisor contact the Township attorney to get a legal position paper about this. Bill stated he also contacted the County, but they never called him back. He spoke with one lady who said it was not alright and that she would have Ed Golembiewski call him back. Ed has not called Bill back. Bill stated that in 27 years in township government, this has come up before and that it is a campaign election violation and he is pretty certain about it. Bill said that he thinks the township should get a legal position from their attorney to verify that.

Bill stated that he has another concern. Recently, he learned there has not been a synopsis the Township Supervisor could review, sign off, and post on the webpage since Dave Phillips left. Bill stated he is pretty certain that under the Charter Township Act, it is required. Bill said that he has a copy of the Township policy, which states that in compliance of section 42.8 of the Charter Township Act which calls for synopses to be reviewed by the Supervisor and if he agrees, signs, and posted on the web. Bill mentioned the Board policy was adopted by the board which he doesn't remember when, but it states specifically in compliance with the section 42.8 of the Charter Township Act of 359 in 1947, the Superior Charter Township Board shall, not may, publish by posting all notices, ordinances, and synopsis of meetings which the method of publications is required by law. Bill stated he is pretty certain there has been a violation of not providing the Supervisor with a synopsis to sign off on and post it. Bill said again, he asks that the Supervisor contact the Township attorney and get a review paper from him stating the legality. McFarlane stated these are two things for the Township's protection that should be looked into. Bill thanked the board for allowing him to participate in this new technology.

Clerk, Lynette Findley raised her hand to participate. Findley stated she will respond to both of those concerns. Findley stated that she is getting a little bit frustrated with what is going on, and that she knows exactly what it is going on. She further stated she had brought to Bill McFarlane and Meghan McFarlane attention the concerns she has with certain issues with the Township. She stated for a person to run against her, is generally not normal to do because it is the incumbent. If you go back in history, generally people do not run against the person who is the incumbent of the same party, but Findley said

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that she understands exactly why Meghan is on the platform and running against her. Findley stated she is not in violation of any policies or Township rules. Findley stated “a picture was used that should not have been used for Meghan’s campaign literature that she sent out to everyone in the Township. That picture is a violation if you say I am in violation.” She says that is the Township picture that the Township paid for. Secondly, Findley made a comment in reference to the synopses. Findley stated she was informed by MTA that if we do full acknowledgment of the minutes that a synopsis was not necessary. Findley further questioned Bill as to why he was bringing this to the attention of the board, while his daughter is running against me at this late date. It should have been brought to my attention much earlier and by the Supervisor if it is such a major issue. Clerk Findley stated she wanted to be on the record as we are discussing these concerns. Findley stated “that she is fed up with what is going on and I know exactly what is going on. And in a minute, I am going to say exactly why it is going on, but I am going to stop right now because eventually it is going to come out.”

Trustee, Meghan Winslow stated “the rules, duties, and laws in my opinion it doesn’t matter when things come out. It is a matter of if it is our responsibility to make sure that the elected officials, the board, and any other person pertaining to this is following the law. And if they are not following the law, then we need to bring it to the board’s attention.” Winslow stated that she did not think that the resident Bill McFarlane was going after anyone. He is just a very vocal person that likes to bring everything to the board. As you know, when he was in office, he would probably give too much information. Winslow stated she does not think this is a personal attack on anyone. It is just a matter of the rules are the rules and the laws are the laws.

Clerk Findley stated she has no problems with that, her concern was if these were such major issues, why were they not brought to her attention prior to Bill McFarlane’s daughter running against her? She said, it is that simple, and that she did not have any more comments regarding that the matter. She ended by saying “this is a political plan and I am tired of all of the nasty politics. Nasty politics have been lodged against me for a couple years and I am fed up with it. I am done”.

Trustee Winslow states “Are you done Lynette? Are you finished?”

Supervisor Schwartz stated in response, he did bring this to Lynette’s attention when she first got elected. Lynette did contact the MTA and the MTA told her that if the minutes are posted online then the synopsis did not have to be done.

Trustee Winslow stated she tried contacting the MTA today and Rodrick Green was still listed on the MTA’s website. Meghan was not listed on the website, but a Trustee that recently moved, their address was updated. She further stated she was not sure if the Trustee updated his own information or if there is a person at the Township that is responsible for reporting this information to the MTA. Today was the first day she was personally able to access the information from the MTA. Winslow said she knows they

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send newsletters and different materials to Trustees and today she started receiving the information.

Findley stated in response that she sent Meghan's information to the MTA when she (Meghan) first became a member and she has the documentation. Findley stated she is not going to deliberate with Meghan and run a political campaign at a board meeting. Clerk Findley stated she wished we could get to the agenda and that if Meghan wanted to debate her at any time, and not her dad, (Bill McFarlane), she would be more than willing to do so. Trustee Winslow stated there really is nothing to debate. Clerk Findley stated there are a lot of things to debate. Winslow stated again that she is just saying that the MTA did not have her information until today. Findley stated that she sent it in, and she has proof of it.

Supervisor Schwartz stated this is something we can deal with not at a meeting. Supervisor Schwartz closed citizen participation.

7. PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

8. REPORTS

A. SUPERVISOR REPORT

Supervisor Schwartz reported on the following:

- Today was the first day we were back to work. We had a meeting last Wednesday with the staff which included utilities and parks, everyone except the fire department. We are following the Washtenaw County Department of Public Health protocol which we are now open for public service between 9am-4pm, but the staff reports from 8:30am-4:30pm. The staff checks in by taking their temperature and filling out a check chart that lists Covid-19 symptoms. If you answer yes to any question, then you must go home. We are then putting the staffs' questionnaires in a secure file. We close the doors at 4pm then the staff sanitizes their workstations. It worked well today, and we probably had 10-12 walk-ins. People are helpful at this point, and we have not received any negativity from the public. We do require the staff to wear masks and maintain a 6-foot distance between each other, so we are complying.
- There was a complaint that came in today regarding what is going on in our community but also the whole country and world. A resident sent in a complaint about an uncomfortable situation in her neighborhood. Supervisor Schwartz responded to that and sent all board members a copy of his response. Supervisor Schwartz also cc'd Sheriff Clayton on this issue. We know that tensions are higher because of what happened in our neighboring community (Ypsilanti Township) on

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May 25, 2020 with a deputy and a citizen. Supervisor Schwartz suggests that if anyone approaches an elected official and has an issue with anything happening with the Sheriff's Department or with our Fire Department that it is brought to the Clerk, Treasurer, or Supervisor's attention. If it is a Sheriff's situation, then we will refer it to Sheriff Jerry Clayton; and if it is a Fire Department situation then we will refer it to the board. We have not had any major situations in the Township and hopefully things will be calm and cool from this time on. Supervisor Schwartz stated that we need to be sensitized to what it is going on.

- Sewer break has been fixed and repaired. We have several outstanding bills that we received late last week and today that we will bring to the July Board Meeting. We currently have over \$600,000 in outstanding bills. We have about 70 pages of documentation. Supervisor Schwartz is meeting with Ricky Harding and Mary Burton tomorrow to review these documents before we pay it. Hopefully, we can have this resolved by July. Supervisor Schwartz did file a claim through the insurance company. The claim has not been denied, so we may have coverage. The total cost to the township is going to be well in excess of \$1.2 million for this sewer break. We will have more on this in the July meeting.
- As a result of the sewer break, there are road improvements to Stamford Rd that need to be done. The two competing bids were sent to the board members. Supervisor Schwartz and George Tsakoff talked about it but have not had a chance to review the documents. It looks like the bids are very similar, but the Navel bid had a little more of a right-a-way repair than the Hutch bid. George thought that the Hutch bid would be better, but we do not know that for fact till George can look at it. The road has been closed since March 23 or 24, 2020. It is not a busy road, but it has caused a detour that has been posted. A lot of people have not been inconvenienced. The only ones that have been inconvenienced are the ones that live on the corner of Dawn & Stamford. Their backyard has caved in and their fence has been wrecked. We will have to make some corrections there. One of the churches on Stamford suffered damages to their parking lot. One of the contractors is going to take care of that because they were told not to take their heavy equipment over the parking lot. We are looking at a low seven figure damage. Hopefully, we can get some of the money back.
- It looks like there is going to be some budget constraints in next year's budget. Most likely what will be targeted for the Township is going to be the revenue sharing. They are talking between a 20-30% decrease in that for next year. We will start working on the budget in July. We should be getting some revenue estimates from Lansing on that. Even if we do not get them, Supervisor Schwartz is going to assume there is going to be a one-third loss. We do have plenty of money in the reserves, so we will be able to cover whatever is lost in revenue sharing. It may not be for several years that we are going to be \$250,000-\$400,000 short.
- John Rintamaki is retiring from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately. We will post on the website the opening on the ZBA and see if we can find a replacement.

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- Dixboro Farmer's Market opened a couple weeks ago. Supervisor Schwartz stated he saw Clerk Findley there last week. There was about 350 people that came through. They have about seven vendors out there.

B. DEPARTMENT REPORTS: BUILDING DEPARTMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENT, ORDINANCE OFFICER REPORT, PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES, SHERIFF'S REPORT

It was moved by McKinney supported by Lewis, that the Superior Township Board receive all reports.

Trustee Williams had a comment to make informing the board about the discussion going on in the Park Commission minutes regarding transferring the Schock Park property to the control of the board. It is in the Old Business. I think the minutes describe it well. Supervisor Schwartz asked Trustee Williams to explain a little more. Trustee Williams explained there has been some ongoing discussion in the Park Commission that Schock Park, which is where the Old Township Hall and the maintenance shed stands and that it is not really used as a park. It was originally a grant or purchase many years ago. The idea at the time was to use it as an expansion of the Township Hall property. The Park Commission thinks it may be worthwhile to say the Township Hall is responsible to maintain and develop it, but they would still be interested in knowing what is happening with the Schock Park.

Supervisor Schwartz is glad they are considering this. He suggested that maybe we should get some gates for the two entrances and might bring this to the board in the July meeting. The gates would be open during the day. Supervisor Schwartz said he would contact the chair of the Park Commission and discuss this with her.

The reports were adopted by unanimous vote.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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11. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION 2020-14, WCRC ROAD IMPROVEMENTS,

Supervisor Schwartz explained that he has suggested to do Gale Road in part because we got the traffic counts on Gale Road. It is the busiest gravel road that we have in the Township. There is a lot of cut through traffic. The drainage on Gale Road was completed last year, so it makes sense to build off that. He is also suggesting that they do Deering Street off McArthur Ave. There is a drain that has been out of commission for at least two or three years. We are going to have to portion off the cost of Stamford Road repair between the general funds and utility funds. Some of the repairs are due to the sewer break and some are not. There may be a third agreement for road work come July.

The following resolution was moved by Findley supported by McKinney.

Trustee Williams made a comment that LeForge just north of Geddes Road is turning to sand and suggested that we should look at that also. There are only two houses on that road and might be why we have not had any complaints about it.

**SUPERIOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN
SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP AND THE WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
FOR 2020 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2020-14**

DATE: JUNE 15, 2020

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this 15th day of June 2020 by and between the Board of Superior Charter Township (the “Township”) and the Board of Washtenaw County Road Commissioners (the “Road Commission”)

WHEREAS, both parties desire improvements of local roads located within Superior Township; and

WHEREAS, included within their 2020 Annual Meeting report, the Road Commission has provided the Township with a list of proposed road improvement: and

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WHEREAS, the Township has historically contributed funds to the Road Commission for improvement of the local roads; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Township approves the Road Commission to complete following road improvement projects in 2020:

1. **TOWNSHIP-WIDE LIMESTONE RESURFACING**: work to include the application of 1,000 tons of 23a limestone with associated dust control on various local roads within the township. Locations to be determined by the Township Supervisor and District Foreman.

Estimated project cost: \$21,100.00

2. **DEERING STREET, STEPHENS DRIVE TO MACARTHUR BOULEVARD**: work to include milling the existing pavement, structure adjustments, the placement of 2' HMA resurfacing, ADA sidewalk upgrades, aggregate shoulders, and associated project restoration.

Estimated project cost: \$ 61,900.00

3. **MOTT ROAD, RIDGE ROAD TO WAYNE COUNTY LINE**: work to include sealcoating. This is the proposed township share project with Ypsilanti Township

Estimated total project cost: \$17,500.00

Estimated project cost to Superior Township: \$8,750.00

4. **GALE ROAD, VREELAND ROAD TO PAVED APPROACH AT CHERRY HILL ROAD**: work to include shaping the existing surface, the application of 4' (C.I.P.) of 23a limestone (approximately 2,200 tons) with associated dust control and project restoration.

Estimated project cost: \$46,400.00

NOW, THERFORE, the total cost of the road improvements is **\$138,150.00**. Estimated amount to be paid by Superior Township under this agreement during 2020 is **\$78,767.47**.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the township approves the Superior Township Supervisor to sign the necessary agreements to secure funds for the road improvements that will be debited from G.L. 466-866.

The resolution carried by unanimous vote.

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B. Michigan Townships Association (MTA) Annual Dues June 2020 – July 2021

The motion was moved by Lewis supported by Caviston.

Trustee Winslow asked about if the board has considered getting an online subscription for MTA. The Township already gets the online subscription.

The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

C. Huron River Watershed Council Dues 2020

The motion was moved by McKinney supported by Lewis.

Supervisor Schwartz commented that the township does count on them for a lot especially with development issues up stream.

The motion was carried by unanimous vote

D. Stamford Road Bids

Supervisor Schwartz proposed the board should go with the Hutch bid, so long as George Tsakoff gives us a written statement that this is an apple to apples bid. If there are any issues Supervisor Schwartz will bring it to the July meeting and discuss it there. Motion on allowing the Administrative Staff the authority to approve the bids after receipt by OHM. If the bid review is not comparable then the bids will be brought back to the July board. The bids do include a bike lane that we did not have before and some landscaping.

The motion was moved by McKinney supported by Caviston.

The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

12. BILLS for PAYMENT and RECORD of DISBURSEMENTS

It was moved by McKinney supported by Caviston, to receive bills for payment and record of disbursements.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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13. PLEAS and PETITIONS

- Clerk Lynette Findley stated “that as Clerk, I am not perfect, but I do my job and do it well. I work well with the board overall as a whole. What is going on in our country has impacted me to no end. What bothers me that out of more than 1,240 Township Clerks and another 280 City Clerks, you can count on two hands how many black women are in that number. I feel attacked there too, and I am just going to be upfront and let you know because I have done my job. For people to do what is going on now, I feel extra attacked. So, I am going through some things that I should not be going through and with these race relations it is compounded for me as it relates to all these other things going on across the nation. Meghan, I have known for a while now that you used your Township picture. I have had your campaign literature for over a month, I think. I was not going to say anything about you using that picture. I do not believe in running a dirty campaign, and I am not going to start doing it now. My 60 signs compared to your however many, and I know it is a lot of them with your picture on there does not even compare to my signs that are up. I just wanted to say that. I am tired and have an election to run. I do not really have a lot of time to run a campaign. My goal is to run a successful election. That is my plea and my petition.”

14. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by McKinney supported by Lewis, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Findley, Clerk

Kenneth Schwartz, Supervisor