

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD  
WORK SESSION  
NOVEMBER 8, 2021  
ADOPTED MINUTES  
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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The work session of the Charter Township of Superior Board was called to order by the Supervisor Ken Schwartz at 4:39 p.m. on November 8, 2021, at the Superior Township Hall, 3040 North Prospect, Superior Township, Michigan.

**2. ROLL CALL**

The members present were Supervisor Ken Schwartz, Clerk Lynette Findley, Treasurer Brenda McKinney, Trustee Lisa Lewis, Trustee Bernice Lindke, and Trustee Rhonda McGill.

Absent: Trustee Nancy Caviston

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT/ DISCUSSION AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS**

Supervisor Schwartz asked the board and public to introduce themselves. The following people attended the work session:

Pat Dahl  
Kelly Goolsby  
Carolyn Gregory  
Marsha Moore  
Maurice Robinson  
Victor Liu  
Jan Piert  
Margy Long, Washtenaw Intermediate School District  
Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Administrator  
Mary Burton, Utilities Administrator  
George Tsakoff, OHM Township engineering consultant

Supervisor Schwartz explained the background of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The board has until December 31, 2024, until they must obligate the funds. The Township is receiving \$1.5 million and has already received half of this funding. The funding has a separate budget. He explained how the funds can be allocated and what the funds cannot be allocated on. The funds cannot be used on funding pensions or prior debt that did not happen because of COVID-19.

Jan Piert would like to see the funds spent on the qualified census track in the Sycamore Meadows and Danbury Park Manor. She voiced her opinion on her interpretation of how the funds can be spent and the flexibility of spending the funds in the qualified census track areas. She believes it should be used on the communities that were hit the hardest by the pandemic.

Supervisor Schwartz stated there is a little flexibility for the money to be used on the qualified census track which includes the Sycamore Meadows, Danbury Park Manor, Washington Square, Harvest Lane, and Autumn Woods area.

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Victor Liu voiced his opinion on using the funds on the people who need it the most. He believes a community center would benefit the community. As the former Dean of Learning Resources of Washtenaw Community College, he knows how impactful it is for a child to be born in a certain zip code. He believes a community center with the right programming would benefit this area.

Marsha Moore presented her concerns about the MacArthur Blvd area and the lack of cross walks to Fireman's Park.

Supervisor Schwartz explained the grants have been secured to get a crosswalk on MacArthur Blvd. and Harris Rd. through Treasurer McKinney efforts of receiving a \$150,000.00 grant through the State of Michigan for construction. Clerk Findley has secured a \$35,000.00 grant for planning services for the crosswalk. Clerk Findley stated there will be three community meetings to plan for this cross walk.

Kelly Goolsby, Community Health worker for the Sycamore Meadows/Danbury Park Manor area, believes the funds should be used on broadband for the MacArthur Blvd area. She believes every household with children K-12<sup>th</sup> grade should have free Wi-Fi. She witnessed ten children trying to use one hotspot to complete their virtual schooling last year.

Treasurer McKinney asked if Comcast helped with resources on Wi-Fi. Ms. Goolsby explained Comcast offered a \$9.95/month package for households that qualified for EBT, but the speed of the Wi-Fi was not strong enough to stream their virtual schooling for the children.

Trustee Lindke explained the children need to be able to use the library computers, but the Library has been closed due to the pandemic.

There is broadband available in the Sycamore Meadows/Danbury Park Manor, but the monthly services are not affordable for low-income families.

Supervisor Schwartz explained he has been in communication with the County and Comcast in regards to broadband services in Washtenaw County. There are communities on the west side of Washtenaw County that need access to broadband. Trustee Lindke asked about the \$800,000.00 the County has allotted for accessibility. Supervisor Schwartz stated Ricky Jefferson, County Commissioner District 6, would be able to assist. He stated Mr. Jefferson was invited to tonight's meeting.

Jan Piert voiced her opinion on internet being a human necessity and should be accessible to all.

Supervisor Schwartz suggested going to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners meetings.

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Clerk Findley asked if there was a way to get the Ypsilanti District Library Superior Township branch opened. Supervisor Schwartz stated he would talk to Lisa Hoenig, Director, and get back to everyone about this.

Marsha Moore voiced her support for additional park structures at Fireman's Park.

Treasurer McKinney stated she would like to use the money for fixing the sidewalks in the areas that qualify such as Washington Square.

Trustee Lindke would like the Board to ask the public whether they would like to see sidewalks fixed or speed bumps added. The public voiced their opinions and stated they would like to see both completed.

Supervisor Schwartz stated OHM already has a database on the sidewalks in the whole Township.

Carolyn Gregory asked if the funds could be spent on speedbumps. Supervisor Schwartz stated if we could pay for it, the Township would but it still has to be permitted by the residents. Supervisor Schwartz mailed Ms. Gregory and Mr. Jerry Clifton information on getting the Washtenaw County Road Commission started on a road study for Stephens Drive. Trustee McGill and Trustee Lindke attended the Washtenaw County Road Commission meeting to help advocate for the residents in Washington Square.

Supervisor Schwartz stated he asked the Sheriff's Department about getting a report on the speeding on Stephens Drive.

Supervisor Schwartz explained Sycamore Meadows, Danbury Park Manor, and St. Joseph Hospital pay for Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department services which is one reason a deputy stays in that area. He stated he will have a report for the Board next week regarding the Sheriff's stops.

The residents explained about the unsafe conditions surrounding guns at Sycamore Meadows. There was discussion about the criminal activity and unsafe conditions in the MacArthur Blvd. area.

Supervisor Schwartz explained the funding could be spent on anti-violence or violence prevention. The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department is promoting the License Plate Reader (LPR) program. He would like to see the Township purchase this program for \$2,400.00 per camera per year.

Mr. Jerry Clifton asked a question about a drain issue that he has been having at his residence on Pine Court. Supervisor Schwartz stated he would come out to see the drain.

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Supervisor Schwartz stated one water main in the Township is made of asbestos concrete cement which is not a good material. There is data on the systems in the Township. There are no lead lines in the Township. There are some manholes in the Township that need repair.

Clerk Findley voiced her concerns about using the American Rescue Plan Act funds to repair things in the Township which have been discussed previously for funding prior to the pandemic.

Supervisor Schwartz explained the rate payers in the water and sewer district would have to pay for the repairs.

Trustee Lindke asked what the Township could do with the unrestricted funds in the proprietary fund. She would like to have a working session to show the public how the different funds work.

George Tsakoff explained typically every five years the Township has OHM do a Capital Improvement Plan (C.I.P) to look at the Township's public water and sewer system. The last C.I.P. was completed in 2017 where the Clark Road Pump Station replacement was top priority. The Clark Road Pump Station is being funded through a state revolving fund loan which is a long-term low-rate loan. The manholes and pipe rehabilitation were taken off the Clark Road Pump Station project due to the costs of the project. The Harvest Lane sewer is another project that needs to be considered. The structure of this sewer has had some issues in the past. This is where the sewer collapse took place last year. The water main pipe is already in the C.I.P. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) recommends eight inches minimum size for proper pressure and flow. Because of the asbestos in the pipe (drinking water), it can be dangerous to replace it. There is about 600 feet on Clark Road which ranked high on the C.I.P. A lot of the other projects in the C.I.P. are more of a five-to-ten-year outlook.

Jan Piert asked where the manholes are located. George explained they are in the whole Utility district in the southside of the Township

Clerk Findley shared the results from the Washtenaw County survey regarding the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Clerk Findley voiced her opinion on wanting to see a theme with how the Township will spend these funds related to supporting the needs of Sycamore Meadows and Danbury Park Manor.

Trustee McGill shared she would like to see an impact outcome when spending these funds.

Trustee Lewis explained she sees a theme amongst the public and would like to work on the safety in the Township. Trustee Lewis asked Supervisor Schwartz how soon these projects can get started.

Mr. Jerry Clifton voiced his concerns about the speeding in Washington Square and the safety of the residents.

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Supervisor Schwartz stated a considerable portion of the funds should be spent on the Utility Department. In 2017, the Township spent close to a million dollars on a new water main which improved the water quality and water pressure. He explained that sealing the manholes wouldn't be very expensive.

Juan Bradford would love to see a fitness trail with exercise equipment at Fireman's Park for youth and adults. There is a health and wellness disparity in the Sycamore Meadow and Danbury Park Manor area. The tennis courts at Community Park have been redone. Supervisor Schwartz suggested getting lighting at the tennis courts due to the tennis lessons that are now taking place there. Supervisor Schwartz also suggested providing a concrete shed to store Parks & Recreation equipment. Community Park has improved over the past two years but continues to be underutilized. Marsha Moore explained residents do not go to Community Park because of the dark and loose dogs running around.

Jan Piert asked if the Township has thought about a splash pad at Fireman's Park. Juan Bradford explained that splash pads are expensive to install and maintain.

Clerk Findley voiced she believes there are projects that have been identified that could be easily taken to the Board before the end of the year.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 6:17 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Findley, Clerk

Kenneth Schwartz, Supervisor