

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD
WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 20, 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 4:36 p.m. on December 20, 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

- Jan Piert, resident on Anns Way, asked the Board if this work session could be an open discussion like the previous work session was.
- Roderick Casey, Ypsilanti Township resident, is observing to get insight before Ypsilanti Township goes through this process.
- Gail Summerhill, Ypsilanti Township resident, here to observe and explained she would like the ARPA funds to be spent on the people it was intended to be spent on.
- Lavada Jefferson Weathers, Ypsilanti Township resident, addressed the Board about turning Cheney Elementary School into a community center for Superior Township and naming it after Johnny B. Cheney who was the first black teacher in Willow Run Community Schools.
- Trustee Lindke asked for clarification on what Ms. Weathers was asking. She asked that Cheney Elementary be made into a community center.
- Supervisor Schwartz stated in 2015, the Township Board made an offer to the schools to buy Cheney Elementary, and they wanted to sell it for the market price. Ms. Weathers stated she can assure Supervisor Schwartz that Ypsilanti Community Schools is ready to sell the property to the Township. Supervisor Schwartz explained the process of building a new community center and that remodeling Cheney Elementary could move fast.
- Treasurer McKinney stated there are 12-acres at the corner of Harris Rd. and Geddes Rd. to put a new community center.
- Ms. Piert asked how soon this could all be done. She suggested allocated the ARPA funds to this community center.
- Treasurer McKinney voiced her support of not leaving out Arbor Woods and Westridge. Ms. Piert stated she is not forgetting those communities, but people do not know where those mobile home parks are, but they do know where Sycamore Meadows and Danbury Park Manor are.
- Clerk Findley stated the next move should be sending a letter to the Ypsilanti Community Schools Superintendent. Supervisor Schwartz stated he will send the letter by email. Trustee Lindke would like the letter to be sent out by the whole board. Clerk Findley

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stated the community center is needed in this community, and this needs to be acted upon quickly.

- Supervisor Schwartz commented on the \$50 million bond. Cheney Elementary is securing the bond.
- Ms. Piert explained that Kathy Wyatt is working on a plan to bring in the County as a partner for the community center.
- Ms. Summerhill addressed her concerns around why the community doesn't show up to meetings and why they don't understand what the Board of Trustees does.
- Supervisor Schwartz explained the Township's efforts for outreach to the Sycamore Meadows and Danbury Park Manor.
- Clerk Findley stated the results of the Master Plan Committee survey were skewed. She explained the results showed the community was not interested in diversity as it relates to housing. She stated she spoke up for those who were not able to be at the meeting.
- Ms. Piert explained to be able to get information through surveys, you must sit with them and coach them through the survey. She praised Kelly Goolsby for her efforts with the County's survey regarding ARPA funds.
- Trustee McGill stated she ran for office because she wants to listen to the people and what they want.
- Trustee Lindke wants to propose a resolution tonight to spend 100% of the ARPA funds on the qualified census tract. Clerk Findley stated she would support this. Treasurer McKinney asked for clarification on this resolution.
- Ms. Piert stated she strongly opposes the resolution going to the Board tonight regarding the Bromley Park bike path.
- Ms. Summerhill stated ARPA funding should be spent on the people who are hurting the most. She explained the Ypsi Can I Share website has done a great job explaining that the Board of Trustees work for the people of the community.
- Supervisor Schwartz stated the Board agrees to send a letter to Ypsilanti Community Schools inquiring about the Cheney Elementary School. Supervisor Schwartz stated he will have to oppose the resolution regarding spending 100% of the ARPA funds on the qualified census tract. He would like to replace the air filtration system in the Township Hall.
- Ms. Summerhill explained the funds were intended to be spent on the people in need in our community.
- Trustee McGill stated she would like to use the money for the people impacted by COVID-19. She asked Clerk Findley how many people come into the Township Hall to vote and how often they do. She expressed her interest in using the funds in the southside of the Township. She stated we must do better.
- Trische Duckworth addressed the Board and stated that the community needs to be heard and the ARPA funds need to be spent on the MacArthur Blvd area. She stated the ARPA funds were intended to be spent on the disenfranchised communities. She asked for Supervisor Schwartz look her in her eyes when she talks.

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- Supervisor Schwartz asked what Washtenaw County is doing with the ARPA funds. Ms. Summerhill addressed her concerns with the County spending their funds and how the COVID-19 vaccine was administrated.
- Ms. Piert stated Washtenaw County was given \$71 million, and they added \$30 million of their own money to the pot to be able to spend money differently. The first resolution was for broadband infrastructure for the western side of the County, weatherization, and daycare program in response to Ann Arbor Public Schools closing their daycare. They hired Peter Lindeman, Communications and Operations Manager for the County, who has helped get communications out to the public and establish listening sessions for the ARPA funds. The County has then proposed allocating the money specifically to the 48197 and 48198 areas. Ms. Piert stated County Administrator Dill would like to see a joint task force in using the County funds and Township funds to build a community center.
- Clerk Findley stated the County allocations could be combined with the Township's.
- There was discussion regarding what the old Willow Run High School is being used for currently. Supervisor Schwartz stated Sheriff Clayton has always proposed the idea of no big recreation center and do small community centers in the different communities.
- Ms. Summerhill asked if the letter for Ypsilanti Community Schools could be sent out tomorrow (12/21/2021) by noon.
- Ms. Piert asked the Board if we could fix the flooding at Fireman's Park. She would like to focus on the Township being a community.
- Ms. Duckworth asked if the Township could get involved with fixing up Sycamore Meadows. Supervisor Schwartz explained the process on how to keep the owners of Sycamore Meadows accountable. He explained there is an ordinance in place.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Findley, Clerk

Kenneth Schwartz, Supervisor