

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 31, 2022
ADOPTED MINUTES
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1. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Charter Township of Superior Board was called to order by the Supervisor Ken Schwartz at 12:00 p.m. on May 31, 2022, 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, Trustee Rhonda McGill, and Trustee Nancy Caviston.

Absent: None

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Trustee McGill supported by Trustee Lewis, to adopt the agenda.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

A. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Pastor Larry Davis, Stamford Dr, born and raised in the Township. He stated he took Treasurer Brenda McKinney door-to-door. He shared that he put his word out for Brenda McKinney years ago. He also shared that Trustee Lisa Lewis has been trained to do the Treasurer's job.
- Irma Golden, lives at 1585 Sheffield and owns 1588 Sheffield, addressed the Board in reference to equity and fairness. She asked the Board why the meeting was scheduled at 12:00 p.m. She also stated she brought her grandson's because she feels it is necessary to have them learn how the Township works. She would like the residents to know about the positions when they are available.
- Brenda Baker, Ashton Ct., addressed the optics and fairness of having the special meeting the day after a holiday weekend during business hours. She stated these "backroom shenanigans" seem to happen every ten years in the Township. She stated an example of these shenanigans from the nineties. She quoted an MLive article which talked about the fifteen-year plan for Trustee Lewis to take over for Treasurer McKinney. She questioned the comment about not being able to continue Township business if a Treasurer is not appointed immediately.
- Jan Piert, 2172 Anns Way, stated what is happening in the Township is unethical. She stated this is not democratic or transparent. She would like there to be an open process. Ms. Piert stated she was present at the meeting where Trustee Lewis was appointed Deputy Treasurer and at that time it was discussed what

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would happen when Treasurer McKinney retired. It was also asked if there would be an open process.

- Debby Mitchell-Covington, 1664 Savannah Ct., thanked Treasurer McKinney for her years of service. She voiced her concern about the transparency of the process. She stated that when the resignation was announced would have been the perfect time to accept the resignation letter or not. She would strongly encourage the Board to temporarily appoint a Treasurer.
- Trische Duckworth stated she is here about fairness and justice. She stated Supervisor Schwartz is reigning dictator over the decisions of the Township. She commented that what is being proposed is unethical. She commented on Supervisor Schwartz trying to pit Black folks against one another. She stated Supervisor Schwartz stated on the phone that “Lynette and her cronies are trying to take the vote”. She stated this has nothing to do with Treasurer McKinney and Trustee Lewis, but it has everything to do with a white man who wants to stay in control of the vote of this Board. Ms. Duckworth continued to express her concerns with Supervisor Schwartz trying to dictate what happens with the Board. She continued to state Supervisor Schwartz was the problem with not being transparent.
- Nahid Sanii-Yahyai stated she is representing on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Commission and provided her support for the agenda items. She stated she has not talked with every Park Commissioner but believes they are all in agreement. She stated when it comes to emergency meetings, you must set up the date as soon as possible. She commented not needing to reach out to others when you already have a qualified candidate. Ms. Sanii-Yahyai also stated she does not think Supervisor Schwartz is racist.
- Bill Secrest, 8615 Cherry Hill Rd., stated he respects everyone’s opinion and wanting a democratic process. He stated his support for Treasurer McKinney staying on the Board as Trustee. He also commented that Supervisor Schwartz is not a dictator.
- A resident commented that he has lived in Superior Township for seventeen years. He stated he does not believe Supervisor Schwartz is racist. He commented on the diversity of the Board.
- Morand Piert, 2172 Anns Way, voiced his support for a transparent process.
- Gail Summerhill stated this is not personal. She stated this is about education. She commented her concern is fairness. Her group is Ypsi Can I Share which is about giving information to those who are purposefully excluded. She commented her thoughts on this being about education.
- Debby Mitchell-Covington stated the topic is not about an individual, but the topic of racism and what it means needs to be part of a healing process for the whole country. Racism is not about whether you are a nice person or not. It is about a system or systems that are put in place to perpetuate the benefit of white people over black people and other disadvantaged groups. There needs to be conversations about racism and how it manifests. There needs to be education on racism. It is not about an individual. She stated 95% of white people have bought

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- into a system of racism because they had no choice, but they have a choice to not perpetuate it. The Township should be aggressive and progressive on this subject.
- Pastor Larry Davis commented on dealing with racism his whole life and worked against it his whole life.

Supervisor Schwartz stated he tried to set the Board meeting on Thursday last week but was not able to get a full Board attendance. He stated this time of the meeting was when the whole Board was available. He commented if a Treasurer is not appointed today then payroll and check signing stops. Supervisor Schwartz stated in 2015 Clerk Findley was appointed to the Planning Commission without going to the public. He stated there have been many positions appointed without going to the public. Supervisor Schwartz stated at the May 16, 2022, meeting that any of the trustees could have made a motion for a process.

Clerk Findley stated Supervisor Schwartz should not be lying. Clerk Findley stated she proposed a meeting time of 5 p.m. on May 31, 2022.

Trustee Lindke stated she has many emails to Supervisor Schwartz regarding the process of replacing the Treasurer.

Supervisor Schwartz stated the rules of procedure of the Township do not require public notice of vacant positions. The only requirement is the person being replaced cannot vote for the reappointment. He does not see a fundamental fairness but does see a fairness issue. He tried to get a meeting set up for the week prior but could not get a full Board. Supervisor Schwartz stated the American Rescue Fund Act funds resolution was not a public decision. The community center committee was not public decision, and the committee was handpicked.

Clerk Findley stated this is her fifth year and she only had support from one Trustee until 2020. There were two people who made all the decisions for the entire Board. If you go back through the minutes, you will see Clerk Findley's concerns and issues. She stated she sent emails to the Board of what was going on that should not have been going on. She commented that the public should come inside her world to see the atmosphere that she has to work in. She stated there was an email asking Treasurer McKinney for her letter of resignation prior to the May 16, 2022, meeting. The letter has to be accepted by the Board. Clerk Findley stated there should not be any fear if Trustee Lewis is so highly qualified. She stated there are comments that Supervisor Schwartz has made regarding race. She said there are many emails to reflect everything you would want to know. She stated Supervisor Schwartz was in her office and said, "all those people over there need to pull themselves up by their bootstraps." She stated look at where all the money is going over the years. Clerk Findley stated she was re-elected because she is looking out for all the people. These new people came into the Board to do the right thing.

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Trustee McGill asked how the Board even got here. She stated she met Treasurer McKinney before she even became a resident of the Township. She stated she goes to church with Trustee Lewis and cares about them both. As a resident, she is ashamed. As a black woman, she is appalled. She stated nothing is worth this much pain. Trustee McGill stated she has worked hard and decided to run for office during a pandemic. She knocked on doors and asked people what they want. She stated if you keep doing the same thing, you will get the same results. She refuses to do the same thing. She stated the residents and employees of the Township deserves representation of the Board. She stated this is not about Trustee Lewis or Treasurer McKinney, it is about fairness, transparency, and a process. She explained the community center committee does not have to have a lot of transparency. She stated it is a committee not a board. She stated Supervisor Schwartz has a lot of history, but the future is not about history. She stated she is here for the people not politics. Trustee McGill wants to see a process for everything in the Township.

Trustee Lindke stated she appreciated Trustee McGill's comments and appreciates Treasurer McKinney's service. She stated this is not about people, but it is about a process.

Treasurer McKinney stated she has to retire, and the Board knows that.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. MOTION TO RECEIVE BRENDA MCKINNEY'S WRITTEN RESIGNATION AS SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP TREASURER EFFECTIVE MAY 31, 2022

The motion was moved by Trustee Lewis, supported by no one.

The motion did not pass.

~~B. MOTION TO INTERVIEW AND TO APPROVE OR DENY LISA LEWIS TO ASSUME THE OFFICE OF TOWNSHIP TREASURER BEGINNING ON JUNE 1, 2022~~

~~C. MOTION TO INTERVIEW AND APPROVE OR DENY BRENDA MCKINNEY TO ASSUME THE OFFICE OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE BEGINNING ON JUNE 1, 2022~~

The motion was moved by Clerk Findley supported by Trustee Lindke to set a special meeting on June 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. and the Clerk be responsible for posting the Treasurer's position in MLive and the website.

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7. ADJOURMENT

It was moved by Trustee McGill, supported by Clerk Findley, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Findley, Clerk

Kenneth Schwartz, Supervisor