

FIFE LAKE TOWNSHIP

Fife Lake Township Hall, 134 Morgan Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633
231-879-3963 Phone / 231-879-3146 Fax

Regular Meeting **APPROVED AMENDED MINUTES** Thursday, October 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Gerianne Street called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL: Clerk Gifford called Roll.

Present: Supervisor Gerianne Street, Clerk Leigh Gifford, and Trustee Dawn Zimmerman. A quorum was established.

Absent: Treasurer Cathy Sorrow and Trustee Nicole Gibson.

Also Present:

Fife Lake Township Deputy Supervisor, Mr. Jeff Berthiaume
Fife Lake Township Deputy Clerk, Mr. Tom Hempsted
Fife Lake Chamber of Commerce President, Mr. Stan Patrick
Fife Lake Village President, Mr. Dave McGough
Recording Secretary, Ms. Kay Held

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Amendments - Additions:

Other Business:

Add: Moment of Silence for Betty Ingersoll
Add: Election

Old Business:

Add: FOIAs
Remove: Fife Lake Township Police

Reports:

Change heading of "Fife Lake Township Police" to "Police Feasibility Committee." Move this section to "Reports"

Other Changes:

Under Reports: Change "Sheriff Department – Vacant" heading; remove word "Vacant"
Change "Special Hearing" to "Public Hearing"

New Business:

"Zoning Map" – clarify heading to read "Ordinance to Rezone Aforementioned Parcels - FLAPC Resolution 2022-01"

Note: Trustee Gibson arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Ms. Zimmerman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Gifford-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Street-Y. 3-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Ms. Gibson abstained from voting due to arrival mid-discussion.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Ms. Gibson removed herself from the snowplow bid discussion and decision section.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Clerk Gifford read the purpose of the Consent Calendar to include: Fife Lake Township Regular Minutes of September 22, 2022, Financial Report, Transfers and Bills to be Paid.

2 bills to add:

Brown Electric Service

\$175 for overhead electric

\$2009.76 for boat wash station electric

There was inquiry and clarification made about invoices from Roger Gibson (boat wash & stone), DNL Home & Lawn Care, and Grand Traverse County MTT/BOOR (Board of Review) and CDM Mobile Shredding (should be billed under Office Supplies). The DNL Home & Lawn Care was for installation of all road end and access signs; it should come from ARPA funds.

MINUTES CORRECTION:

In the 9/22/22 Minutes:

Page 5, third paragraph from bottom, last sentence – change “The FLT Board has no knowledge” to “The FLAPC Board has no knowledge ...”

Page 6, last section heading – Correct “Fife Lake Township Police” heading to read “Police Feasibility Committee” at all occurrences in this section and anywhere in the document.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended. Ms. Zimmerman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gibson-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Street-Y, Gifford-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Supervisor Street received and read aloud a letter from Ms. Mary Ellen Dilley to Board Members regarding her concerns about Zoning Administrator Bob Hall. She stated her displeasure with correspondence Mr. Hall wrote about the Fife Lake Area Planning Commission. She consistently attends meetings within the Township and has personally heard Board Members ask for his attendance and/or communication with the FLAPC. She referenced residents’ frustrations regarding the Walton Junction situation, the American Legion tent, the Marijuana topic, and Mr. Hall’s lack of or conflicting information. She commended the Board Members for their tireless efforts she has witnessed.

Ms. Street referenced correspondence from Ms. Dede Weaver regarding the lights at the American Legion. The lights have since been turned down.

Ms. Street read aloud a letter received from Ms. Debbie Rodriguez filing a formal complaint on the opening and closing of her sister’s gravesite at Walton Cemetery. She shared concerns about the cost and not being aware of it, that she was not informed when her sister’s grave would be opened, that her mother’s gravesite was poorly treated with sand and soil placed upon it with no protective covering, and that the individual opening the grave had no respect for the deceased. She asked if defacing graves was standard practice at Fife Lake Cemetery as well. Additionally, she feels that Walton Cemetery is badly neglected.

A letter was received from Ms. Cathy Albro, stating she was running for the Michigan House Representative, District 104.

Trustee Zimmerman referenced two emails the Board received from Mr. Jay Saksewski, Superintendent of the Grand Traverse County Road Commission. It was written to Fire Chief Scott Tinker regarding a \$560 bill for fire suppression they received from Fire Recovery USA, LLC. In his attempts to dispute the charges, he expressed frustration in not reaching anyone via Fire Department phone and why a Road Commission employee was invoiced for a roadside fire. To date, no response has been received and he considers the matter closed. Chief Tinker was present at tonight’s meeting and responded that a Road Commission lawn mower started a grass fire and this situation was being resolved through the

insurance company prior to the date of Mr. Saksewski's correspondence. Supervisor Street asked him to keep the lines of communication open with Mr. Saksewski. Regarding the telephone number (231-879-4009) Mr. Saksewski stated was out of service, Chief Tinker stated the Township planned to roll that number over to his cell phone and asked if they would do so.

Trustee Zimmerman received an email from Ms. Deb Newell with an enclosure packet entitled "Guidelines for Starting and Operating a Police Department." It was prepared by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. This publication was distributed to the Township Board and Police Feasibility Committee. Ms. Zimmerman stated it was very informative. Their website includes sample surveys.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Ms. Deb Newell, 8927 Wil-Pet Drive, Fife Lake, MI 49633

Upon review of the Police Feasibility Committee's PowerPoint presentation during the Public Hearing, out of the 13 Townships, who has gone out on their own with a Police Department? None. Not Garfield Township, ranked #1 in size with a population of 19,743, not #6 Paradise-Kingsley-Mayfield with 7,947 and not Green Lake Township with 6,703. Fife Lake Village/Township is ranked #11 in size, with 2,141 residents.

If running your own department was a cost savings and a need for control with better crime prevention, don't you think at least one of these townships would have branched out and formed its police department? Why are you going down this path? The Committee had wanted a vote tonight to go forward with this. Why in such a hurry?

Shouldn't we be forming better relationships with the County to help them understand our needs and working on negotiating and understanding a better a contract for the future? We have the data for the Community Police Officer's (CPO) time and activity; however, we do not have those other officers' data to look at an average of how much time is actually spent in our township.

What happened to the "understand phase?" It sounds like the Committee is jumping to the "hire phase." Why in such a rush? Why do we need local control? Control of what or whom? The Committee stated in its online survey results that FLT residents supported this idea. Only 30 residents filled it out. What about the other 2,111 residents? The survey was about Grand Traverse County – nothing about forming our own police department or being in favor of a Special Assessment District, which was mentioned here tonight. On hiring, why does the Committee feel they would be more successful than the County? She stated she would pause here and continue her comment later at the second Citizen Comment section.

Ms. Mary Ellen Dilley, 8611 East Sparling Road, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Ms. Dilley stated she and her husband are PARC members (Pugsley Area Residents Conservancy) and Township residents. She is here tonight to support her neighbors' quality of life issues stemming from the Sheriff Department's Regional Training Facility that was expanded after the Pugsley facility closed. A Noise Ordinance was drafted and passed by this Board. Due to it being improperly posted, which should not have occurred and she questions some motives regarding this, the Ordinance has been left in limbo. Conflict of Interest issues were raised over this situation because apparently you cannot be a Board Member, a citizen and a concerned neighbor at the same time. The Michigan State Police conducted an investigation of past and present Board Members, but in the end no fault was found. She stated she was investigated for her PARC membership and knowing Terry and Gerianne Street.

She and her husband live on East Sparling Road. They were notified last summer that after 24 years of service due to technical omissions that were found, their services would be discontinued. The Township Attorney did not feel it was a Township matter and they are on their own. She states this as criteria for the fact that Township government should be responsive to all residents' concerns whether it is for lots of people or a few people. The Sheriff's action to pre-empt a location that is convenient and special to them both in prestige and accomplishment has made living in that area very hard to bear with excessive noise, pollution and traffic.

The threats from the Sheriff that they now have plans to make more additions to this facility will make matters even worse. All residents of Fife Lake Township deserve peace in their homes to not have to fight an agency they support with their tax dollars. We all deserve representation and action from our officials.

Ms. Mary Borbolla, 6851 Walton Road, Kingsley, MI 49633:

She questions why the area doesn't have a Noise Ordinance, not just because of Pugsley. In the summer, there are parties going on. It gets loud in different areas. We have nothing to back that. She is in favor of a Noise Ordinance to help alleviate problems including continuous shooting. It is very disturbing. We can't have families over in the summer. It is rapid

shooting, multiple guns, day and night. They don't inform residents of their schedule and we don't know for certain who is using the facility for shooting. It is hunting season and they are still shooting. She understands the DNR has stipulations during hunting season about; the Sheriff does not have to follow that. Bring up and pass a Noise Ordinance not only for the Pugsley area residents but for everyone.

Ms. Vanessa Roush, 10336 Hodge Road, (city not given on comment form):

She learned the Police Department receives money to work on the shooting range. Residents should have a say where that money goes. They have been shooting into a sand bank for 20+ years. All of that lead is going into the sand and ultimately into the water, with no barrier to catch the lead. She is extremely concerned about lead in the water in the future. She used to work at the prison and knows there is no barrier. We have excellent water in the area. Eventually her water will be poisonous to drink. If Police get this funding, residents should be involved in where that money is going.

Mr. Terry Street, 8100 Hodge Road, Kingsley, MI 49649:

He agrees with what Mary Ellen, Mary and Vanessa said. Most Townships have a Noise Ordinance. This was previously worked on by a team. The Board passed it. Why/how has it been rescinded? He urged the Board to revisit this. They tried to tailor the Ordinance to everyone in the Township not just the Pugsley area. At least an Ordinance gives you guidance.

How are you going to deal with noise problems? The gun range is out of control. He lives two miles from it. Two days ago he thought a neighbor next door was banging a hammer. He urged every person in this room to go out there at 1:00 p.m. They would be shocked. He stated Cathy Sorrow (Board Treasurer) hears it 5-6 miles away. It affects a lot of homes. There are concerns about home sales. The County Commissioners told the Sheriff's Department to work with residents. The Sheriff, City Police, Tribal Police and Police Academy all shoot at the gun range. It was previously one day/week with no problems. How could the keepers of our peace disturb our peace so much?

Mr. Shane Lewis, 11744 East State Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

He expressed empathy with what residents are going through regarding the noise of the gun range.

With regard to the State Police investigation, he believed there were some Open Meetings Act (OMA) violations. Regarding the gun range, it is his understanding that \$600-800k in grant monies were shut down that would have been used in noise mitigation and upgrades.

The reason he did this was because he went to a meeting of the group being talked about. They talked about two things; one was to get the Township to fight their lawsuit.

Supervisor Street interjected that this was never said. Clerk Gifford stated she is prohibited from responding, and that she was unable to reply to Ms. Dilley.

Mr. Lewis continued. The figure mentioned to start the lawsuit was \$60k and a Noise Nuisance Ordinance is needed to do that. It should not be worded in a way that would target the gun range. Four days later the Noise Nuisance Ordinance was mentioned and there was no reference to the amount of money it would cost to start a lawsuit.

He has some OSHA studies and experience with sound measurement. He was accepted to help draft it. Three of the people who were at the meeting about the Noise Nuisance were on the Board. In that first meeting, one of the gentlemen said "you're going to pay to fight our lawsuit." He believes that is a big problem. He just wants transparency for the people. If there is going to be a Noise Nuisance Ordinance, fine. But lay it all out for the people to understand.

Lastly, he did some research and the figures he went through regarding the police vehicle, fuel, and prospective costs, the Committee's budget seems to be \$17,953 short. Copies are available.

Mr. Josh Rothwell, 108 Pierce Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Mr. Rothwell is the Superintendent of Forest Area Schools. They have a non-homestead millage coming up on November 8. This only affects businesses and people owning second homes in the district. It is not focused on primary homeowners or renters. Typically, a non-homestead millage levies 18 mils. In our district, the property values have increased substantially compared to the inflation rate which has caused a Headlee rollback from 18 mils to 16.624 mils. At this rate, it will generate \$92,867 less than at the full 18 mils. Therefore, they are attempting a six-year millage restoration to return it to 18 mils. Visit www.forestarea.org with any questions or for additional information.

Ms. Beth Pack, 7253 Cedar Road, Traverse City, MI 49686:

Ms. Pack is running for TCAPS School Board. She believes we need to work extra hard to make up for lost time over COVID. This has not been as fully discussed as she believes is warranted. Improvements can be made in Reading, Writing, History, Logic and Science to benefit kids and the community at large. She supports collaboration between parents and teachers and is interested in collaboration between TCAPS and the community it serves. She is a retired critical care nurse and nurse instructor. She also spent four years working with kids at Interlochen Summer Camp.

Mr. Mark Kalfian, 8788 Cedar Ridge Lane, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

His concern is why would we increase the cost of policing if Grand Traverse County can cover our policing needs? The money projected to be spent on funding a police department could be better utilized to improve some aspect of schools, improve senior services, make Fife Lake a more attractive place to live, etc. Residents pay county taxes which cover policing from the county. Why incur more expenses within our own community when it could be used toward something else in the community?

Supervisor Street insisted on responding to Mr. Shane Lewis' earlier comment. She stated if anyone wants to see the State Police report instigated by Mr. Lewis, it can be FOIAed. The results of the report show there were No Findings with the Fife Lake Township Board, herself or Mr. Terry Street. Further, there were quite a few people who are in this room tonight that were at the same meeting Mr. Lewis was at. They know what was said. Some of them were even investigated by the State Police. She encouraged anyone interested to seek the truth.

Clerk Gifford responded to Ms. Mary Ellen Dille, informing and assuring her there was no intent for the Noise Ordinance to not be published properly. She did not receive a clean copy with the changes from the attorney, who always sends it to her with the header verbiage. Subsequently it did not make it to publication in the newspaper within the required timeframe. There were no intentional reasons for the oversight on publication timing.

GUESTS: None.

REPORTS:

County Commissioner, Mr. Rob Henschell:

Absent – No report.

Sheriff Department:

Absent – No report.

Ambulance/Fire/Emergency Planning – Ms. Nicole Gibson, Chief Scott Tinker.

Ms. Nicole Gibson reported on EMS:

Ms. Gibson received a report from Mr. Mike Berendsohn, EMS Director of Kalkaska Emergency Service.

There were 18 calls for service in Fife Lake Township and 13 calls for service in Springfield Township. The fifth truck is now staffed. They are going to start working on implementing a sixth truck in the area. ALS and PALS trainings are coming up in December. Mr. Berendsohn told her he got a proper invoice to the Clerk for the toilet.

Chief Scott Tinker was called away during the meeting; Ms. Gibson reported in his absence:

There were 12 calls for service for the month. They were: 6 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 1 Structure Fire, 1 Child Stuck in Swing, 1 Tree Blocking, 1 Wild Fire and 2 Fire Alarms.

Fife Lake Village – Village President Mr. David McGough:

President Dave McGough reported they did not have their meeting; no report. Ms. Street congratulated him on serving six years as Village President. His term will be ending at the end of the year.

Fife Lake Area Utility Authority (FLAUA) – Ms. Leigh Gifford:

Ms. Gifford reported the last meeting was October 19. A quality, used pontoon was purchased and is being retrofitted for specific needs on the pond. Everything is on track operationally and fiscally. Compliance Officer Ravary is recovering from his workplace injury. He now only has two part-time staff; they continue to work on the fencing project. They remain interested in any ARPA funds from the Township. Supervisor Street stated gave him a Grand Traverse County ARPA request packet, which is due by 10/31. She will touch base with him on it.

Zoning Administrator – Mr. Robert Hall:

Absent – No Report.

Fife Lake Area Planning Commission (FLAPC) – Ms. Dawn Zimmerman:

Ms. Zimmerman reported the FLAPC met on October 11, 2022. They primarily focused on the review of the Township zoning maps. They also worked on the Master Plan. They held a Special Meeting with Public Hearing on October 25 and approved the map correction and rezoning of the two parcels for the Hayes and Bear Tracks (Cintas) properties, correcting the parcels from Commercial to Industrial zoned. There was no public comment made. They submitted a Resolution for Amendment consideration and adoption by the Township this evening.

Their next Regular Meeting is rescheduled for Tuesday, November 1 instead of November 8 due to the election. The time remains the same at 6:30 p.m.

Civic Center South – Ms. Gerianne Street:

Ms. Street reported they are still considering writing grants. They have a great need for parking and asphalt. Civic Center South is very thankful to Hayes Manufacturing for the donated security cameras. Unrelated to Civic Center South, but very big news - Kingsley received a \$1 million grant for improvements to Brownson Park! There will be many changes coming.

Lake Shore Drive – Messrs. Mike Kattreh and/or Greg Sova:

Absent – No Report. Ms. Street stated they have contacted the Grand Traverse County Road Commission several times. The County has not yet confirmed whether Lake Shore Drive is on the docket next year for repair or replacement.

Police Feasibility Committee:

Supervisor Street reported the Committee met earlier today, 10/27/22. There was discussion about putting a questionnaire in with the tax bill. Clerk Gifford suggested sending it out separately, not with the tax bill so that it gets better attention. The Committee hopes for a good response. The mailing costs with an SASE would be approximately \$1,500 sent to 1,400 adult residents. The expense would come from the Police Fund. A similar survey on the marihuana efforts yielded approximately 200 responses when it was sent out with the tax bill. It was suggested sending the mailing after the election. The Police Feasibility Committee would like direction from the FLT Board. Trustee Zimmerman suggested the Committee look through the police packet Ms. Newell provided as well as the sample surveys on their website to aid in creating a survey. The Township Board requested review and approval of the survey before it is sent out.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR FLT ZONING MAP (rezone the parcels located at 6881 U.S. 131 (parcel 04-001-008-02) and 6875 U.S. 131 (parcel 04-001-008-05):

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Fife Lake Township Zoning Map. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Zimmerman-Y, Gibson-Y, Street-Y, Gifford-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Note: The Public Hearing was opened at 7:11 p.m.

There were no Public Comments.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to close the Public Hearing for the Fife Lake Township Zoning Map and return to the Open Session of the Public Meeting. Ms. Zimmerman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gibson-Y, Gifford-Y, Street-Y, Zimmerman-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Note: The Public Hearing was closed at 7:12 p.m. The Board returned to Open Session of the Public Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grand Traverse County Emergency Management Coordinator – Gregg Bird:

Mr. Bird introduced himself to the group. Grand Traverse County Emergency Management has renewed their Natural Hazardous Mitigation Plan which was FEMA-approved and adopted by the County. There is an option for each municipality in the County to adopt the plan, with no financial obligation.

This was a two-year process with open public meetings. They worked with municipal officers and public safety agencies to look at top natural hazards: Flooding, Wind Storms, Wild Fire Abatement & Risk, and Winter Weather. Ironically, they argued against the State of Michigan removing Tornadoes from the risk list; two weeks later Gaylord was hit with an EF3 tornado. The State agreed to include tornadoes in the plan.

The Fife Lake representative on the planning team was Fire Chief Tinker. Mr. Bird sent a copy to the Township; it is also viewable online at www.gtcountymi.gov/em. There is an option for municipalities in the County to adopt the plan. It is good for five years. Pre-disaster mitigation grant funds are available, and there is help with MDOT and the Road Commission. Fife Lake Road will be regraded and repaved; there is a grant available for upgraded culverts. A new grant is available called Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC); it helps with sewage lines, storm water abatement & management, etc.

A sample Resolution is available. The plan is effective through 2027. The Board can review and adopt it at any time if they choose. Ms. Street stated they will review and consider adopting the Resolution.

Assessor Quarterly Report:

Assessors Dawn Kuhns and Jessica Marvin were present for a quarterly presentation. They will be finalizing new construction completions.

Equalized Assessed Values from the County: Agricultural: 18.7% increase, Commercial: 6.8% increase, Industrial: 6.8% increase, Residential: 21.5% increase. These figures do not affect taxable values.

Ms. Kuhns explained the Eagle View imaging system the County is using. They are currently flying the entire county. The system has high altitude imaging, 360 degree capabilities in 3" and 6" resolution. They plan to fly two times in the next six years. There are also benefits to EMS. The County hopes for Townships to partner with them. The cost is \$1,131/year over the next six years. The State may become involved in cost sharing. They encourage the Townships to consider participating in this program.

Ordinance to Rezone Aforementioned Parcels - FLAPC Resolution 2022-01:

Rezone the parcels located at 6881 U.S. 131 (Parcel 04-001-008-02) and 6875 U.S. 131 (Parcel 04-001-008-05):

Supervisor Street read aloud a portion of the Fife Lake Area Planning Commission Resolution #2022-01 as stated in below motion.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion Fife Lake Township support Resolution 2022-01 recommendation of the Fife Lake Area Planning Commission regarding an Ordinance to rezone the parcels located at 6881 U.S. 131 (Parcel 04-001-008-02) and 6875 U.S. 131 (Parcel 04-001-008-05) to Industrial to correct an error in the Township Zoning Map that shows the parcels zoned Commercial by amending Article 3, Section 3.2 entitled "Map" and the accompanying map titled "Zoning Map of Fife Lake Township, Grand Traverse County, Michigan" to reflect the rezoning.

Ms. Gifford seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gibson-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Street-Y, Gifford-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Hayes Manufacturing President Ms. Penny Challender expressed thanks to the Fife Lake Area Planning Commission and the Fife Lake Township Board for their efforts in resolving this matter in a timely matter. It is much appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cemetery:

Supervisor Street read Sexton Lisa Plamondon's report aloud. The logging operation is nearly complete. She has been reviewing cemetery layouts and will present ideas to the Board. She would like the Board to consider closing the east/west road at the back of the existing grave area as there are graves under that road.

Ms. Plamondon expressed there have been several altercations with Mrs. Forwerck and Mr. Kelley regarding concerns graves were being driven over to open new graves. She stated she was confronted by Mrs. Forwerck prior to the opening

of the Voice grave with loud verbal comments during the service. There are ordinance violations with the Forwerck grave that should be resolved, but without conflict. Additionally, she was verbally bullied by Mr. Kelley. She has no issues with him installing monuments; however, he needs to comply with the same rules other monument companies follow. There has been conflict since she began as Sexton and feels as though she needs to take a witness with her any time she works in the cemetery.

Special care was given to Mrs. Voice's grave, filling in tire marks from the vault trailer and seeding the soil. Fall cleanup has been completed for both cemeteries. There are problems with improperly placed urns; she would ultimately like to bring things into compliance. This will make mowing and trimming easier and result in a well kempt cemetery.

Water systems have been drained and winterized at both cemeteries. Hydrants have also been serviced.

Township Deputy Supervisor Jeff Berthiaume reported the cemetery gates are ready to be installed mid-November. Ms. Sorrow had asked for a repair quote on tree-damaged gates around the perimeter.

Milfoil Special Assessment District (S.A.D.):

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to go into closed session to hear attorney opinion on the Milfoil Special Assessment District. Ms. Zimmerman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Gibson-Y, Street-Y, Gifford-Y, Zimmerman-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Note: Members of the public were asked to vacate the meeting room.

Note: The Board went into Closed Session at 7:36 p.m.

Note: Members of the public were re-admitted to continue the Open Session of the Public Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made motion to reopen the Open Session of the Public Meeting. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Gibson-Y, Street-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Gifford-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Note: The Open Session of the Public Meeting re-opened at 8:01 p.m.

Supervisor Street informed the public the Board held a Closed Session to hear the attorney opinion regarding the Invasive Aquatic Species Special Assessment District (S.A.D.). She explained the Township inherited this, and it had multiple rollovers through the years. Costs years ago were higher as the condition of the lake was so poor. There is currently an excess of approximately \$62k. Legally, the township is not able to retain those funds, and it would be impossible to determine exactly to whom refunds should be made as this has been from many years ago. They will need to determine the best way to resolve this.

Board Action:

Ms. Gibson made a motion to instruct Supervisor Street to work with the Township Attorney to develop a course of action to determine how to refund excess Milfoil Special Assessment District (S.A.D.) funds pursuant to PA 188 until the new S.A.D. is established. Ms. Street seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Gifford-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Gibson-Y, Street-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Supervisor Street assured the public that a plan of action will be in place to take care of the weeds in the lake next summer.

Tree Harvesting on M-113 Property:

No additional estimates have been received; Lutke Forest Products informally estimated that we have about \$5,000 in trees. Ms. Sorrow has a list of prospective people who may be interested. There was Board consensus to pursue additional quotes.

County ARPA Requests:

The deadline to submit ARPA requests from the County is 10/31/22. A packet was given to Mr. Ray Ravary of Fife Lake Utility Authority. She indicated the Township's biggest issue is the fire barn roof. Estimates to paint it are \$20k and replacement \$90k. The life expectancy for painting is 20 years. The Board understands this roof is in very rough shape and is at least 30 years old. There is Board consensus to request \$90k in ARPA funds from the County with a Township self-funding contribution of \$20k toward the fire barn roof project.

The Board recognized Ms. Marilyn Hayes who asked if any of the funds could be used for the Library as they are making plans for a new addition. The Library would need to submit a request to the County.

The Board recognized Ms. Deb Newell. She stated her husband has a question about the DNR Boat Launch dock, which is not very sturdy or long enough. This should be a Village request.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to include internal self-funding in the amount of \$20k in the Grand Traverse County ARPA application for the fire barn roof fund request. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Street-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Gifford-Y, Gibson-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Snowplow Contract:

Ms. Gibson recused herself from this discussion and any action taken due to a conflict of interest.

To date, two snow plowing bids were submitted to the Township before a request for quote was put out. They are from Mr. Jamie Stocking and Mr. Roger Gibson.

Ms. Gifford has concerns whether the formal bid process has been followed properly with regard to expenditure amounts, Board purchasing authority without bids, specifications for request for purchase and sealed bids. There was Board discussion and review of the existing bid policy. Subsequently, there was consensus to implement the proper bid procedure for snow plowing service.

Additional discussion determined each of the quotes submitted varied in services listed by the provider. The Board will specify services to be quoted for consistency and fair bid review; i.e., snow plowing, snow removal, sand/salt, hand shoveling and proof of liability insurance.

Clerk Gifford recognized Ms. Marilyn Hayes who asked if the Township has a bid policy on record, why is the Board not following it? She suggested if the Board does not like the structure of it, to change it.

Clerk Gifford recognized Mr. Shane Lewis who noted the bids may not be complete because the Township did not specify what services they are requesting.

Ms. Gifford will compile a list of bid specifications and publish it on the Township website, Fife Lake Community Connections, and the physical building. We will not be posting in the newspaper due to excessive cost.

Ms. Zimmerman requested a copy of Mr. Gibson's certificate of liability insurance. Clerk Gifford confirmed she had received this.

Office Cleaning:

Ms. Gifford has one interested candidate. Any individual hired would be a Township employee. Per Board discussion, Ms. Gifford will create a list of responsibilities; i.e., windows, sills, bathrooms (excluding shower), vacuum, surfaces in common areas. This will be bid out via the same bid process as the snow plowing contract.

FOIAs:

Regarding prior discussions about a fee for FOIA requests, Ms. Gifford spoke with the MTA. The Township cannot render a \$25 base fee for FOIA requests. They may charge for time, copies and storage devices. The Township Board does not allow the use of outside storage devices. According to MTA, FOIA requests may be made in written, verbal or electronic format.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Moment of Silence for Betty Ingersoll:

Supervisor Street recognized Ms. Betty Ingersoll, who recently passed away. She was a Fife Lake Township Trustee for over 20 years, a member of the Michigan Township Association, and active on the Board of Review, Cemetery Committee, Board of Appeals and Fife Lake Area Utility Authority. A moment of silence from the Board and members of the public was given in remembrance of Ms. Ingersoll.

Election:

Ms. Gifford presented a list of Election Inspectors and alternates for Board approval. She stated Township Deputy Clerk Tom Hempsted is on the ballot for another position. He may be in the building; however, not active in election operations. She also provided a newspaper style Voters Guide put out by Grand Traverse County as an election information source.

The required Public Accuracy test was performed on election equipment. Election setup will take place on Monday, November 7. The conference room will be locked.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to approve the presented list of Election Inspectors for the November 8, 2022, General Election. Ms. Zimmerman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Gibson-Y, Gifford-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Street-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

MTA Costs: There was a fee for a live class Ms. Zimmerman attended in Gaylord. They are free if you wait for the recorded version to be posted online.

Other: Trustee Zimmerman asked for an update on Marihuana facilities and how they are doing. She suggested Township Board members make an effort to tour the facilities and become familiar with them. Ms. Street stated she was informed a facility collected \$20k in sales taxes in one month. There was Board agreement to visit sites.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Ms. Deb Newell, 8927 Wil-Pet Drive, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

In continuing her prior comment, Ms. Newell asked what the Police Committee's plans are if the deputy is temporarily unable to perform his duties for 1-6 months. What kind of debt would that put on the Township? What about coverage for vacation, personal and sick time, FMLA, and turnover? This is only part of a true business plan. There is much more she would like to get into; however, six minutes of combined citizen comment are not enough to provide for comments, transparency or community integrity.

If she were a banker listening to their proposal for a business loan, she would deny it based on lack of detail and information and tell them to do more work – facts, not feelings – and to work the entire process front to back and back to front.

She stated "Board Members – I will repeat – this is in your hands. Do what is best for Fife Lake Township and its residents." She is still left with a question of "Why?" The community needs to be aware that the County has not billed us the \$23,188.47 per quarter since we have not had a deputy in the community. Sometimes a committee gets stuck in its own agenda, and they lose sight. The Police Feasibility Committee needs to be open to outside input in an open meeting. Residents can offer value. Six minutes of comment is not enough. Her mother put in over 40 years serving this community in various roles. Thank you for honoring her. She was for the people. They treasured her opinion, as she did theirs.

She asks this Board and Feasibility Committee to be open to community input. Just because you have the funds, doesn't mean you must spend them. Work the process.

Ms. Lisa Leedy, 125 Morgan Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633

Regarding the fire barn roof, she suggests considering the possibility of a rubber roof; energy credits are available which may make it worthwhile to look into.

Regarding the FOIA policy, when providing meeting materials; i.e., packets and minutes, you cannot charge for that. If charging for time, the fee must be based off of the lowest paid employee, not elected official.

She does not understand what is going on with the cemetery situation as she is not involved. However, regarding the cemetery confrontation read from the Sexton's report, she (Ms. Leedy) attended Mrs. Voice's funeral. She was the first attendee at the graveside service. There were also two cemetery staff. The next people to arrive were Linda Forwerck and

her brother. They spoke with Ms. Leedy the entire time. There was no confrontation or comments made. She was one of the last to leave. There was no engagement as described in the Sexton's letter. She is willing to answer any questions.

Lastly, she supports the comments of Ms. Deb Newell.

Mr. Shane Lewis, 11744 East State Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Mr. Lewis stated he also supports the comments of Ms. Deb Newell. Why spend this kind of money? Based on the Committee's presentation, we are getting the same number of calls and coverage from the County. Your presentation reported an annual expense of \$83,000. He reviewed the spreadsheet with a current year budget of \$121,000. His calculations from it come to \$134,000/year. That is \$50k more a year than we are averaging right now. Why would you even think about doing this?

Regarding the survey mailing you are planning, are you even at that stage? And you are going to spend \$1,500 on it?

He looked up the website of the packet provided by Ms. Newell. Regarding fuel costs and time operating a vehicle (moving and idling), your projected expense for gasoline of \$22,286 is way off. His calculation is \$40,333.

Secondly, he again asked where his response is from the FOIA request he made last year for an audio recording from and FLAPC meeting. Supervisor Street stated it does not exist; there was no Zoom recording. If we did have it, we no longer have it. Ms. Gifford stated it was not recorded on our device. Mr. Lewis asked the Board to at least answer the FOIA request stating there was no recording.

Note: Recording Secretary Kay Held inquired about the posted dates for the November and December Fife Lake Township meetings. Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, they will each be held one week earlier, on Thursday, November 17, and Thursday, December 15. Clerk Gifford will double check the posted dates and correct them on the posting (if necessary). They do need to be changed on the website.

OUTSTANDING TASK LIST:

The Outstanding Task List was reviewed. New tasks were added throughout the meeting and completed items removed.

Trustee Zimmerman reported the Road End/Public Access Improvement Committee met on October 7. They met with Dave of DNL Lawn Care and went to all of the sites to show him where sign installations were to be placed. He sent her photos on October 11 after installing them, and they look very good. Their next meeting is October 31, at 10 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Street made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Gifford seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Zimmerman-Y, Gifford-Y, Street-Y, Gibson-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Submitted by: Kay Z. Held, Recording Secretary