

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 MINUTES AMENDED

Thursday, November 17, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL: Supervisor Street called Roll.

Present: Supervisor Gerianne Street, Clerk Leigh Gifford, Treasurer Cathy Sorry, and Trustees Dawn Zimmerman and Nicole Gibson. A quorum was established.

Absent: None.

Also Present:

Fife Lake Township Deputy Supervisor, Mr. Jeff Berthiaume
Fife Lake Village President, Mr. Dave McGough
Recording Secretary, Ms. Kay Held
Ms. Emily Escajeda, H&R Block

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Amendments - Additions:

Consent Calendar:

Add Special Meeting Minutes of 10-20-22
Add Closed Session Minutes of 10-27-22

Agenda

Under Reports, County Commissioner heading:

Commissioner Darryl Nelson's name should be corrected from the incorrect spelling of "Darrel"

Old Business:

Add "Elections"
Add "Fife Lake Committees"
Add: "Police Feasibility Committee Formation"

New Business:

Add: MTA Banquet

Other Changes:

Move "Audit" to first item in New Business
Move "Minutes" to Other Business

Board Action:

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gibson-Y, Street-Y, Sorrow-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Gifford-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Clerk Gifford read the purpose of the Consent Calendar to include: Fife Lake Township Regular Minutes of September 22, 2022, Closed Session Minutes of 10-27-22, Special Meeting Minutes of 10-20-22, Financial Report, Transfers and Bills to be Paid.

- Pull out Minutes of 10/27/22 and Special Meeting Minutes of 10/20/22 for corrections:
- Pull out Bills to be Paid for questions.

MINUTES CORRECTION:

From 10/20/22 Special Meeting Minutes:

Page 1 under "Also Present":

Correct "Tom McGough" to "Dave McGough"

Add Springfield Township Supervisor, Mr. Tom Gonyer

From 10/27/22 Regular Meeting Minutes:

Page 9, under "Snowplow Contract," last paragraph: delete phrase "of \$1million" in referencing insurance certificate requirement.

Bills to be Paid questions:

Ask Clerk Report stated receipts needed for: Menards \$107.03, Lowes \$25.40, and Village Market \$17.49. Clerk Gifford will investigate.

Crystal Lock & Supply Repairs was for new lock in the meeting room's small office, which is now being used exclusively for Elections. There was also work done to the front lobby entrance door's locking mechanism.

There was a question about a Record Eagle bill for \$382.20 and notation about an incorrect transfer. After discussion, it was explained by Ms. Emily Escajeda of H&R Block that it was a journal entry and related to the Audit.

There was a question about Budget to Actual: Legal for Cemetery of \$1,091.50. This was related to Audit.

Board Action:

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gifford-Y, Sorrow-Y, Gibson-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Street-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Gibson read aloud three pieces of correspondence received from Mr. Shane Lewis.

1st letter, 11/16/22, re: Expenditures and Police Millage: Mr. Lewis expressed his concern about expenditures that have been made with the public's money. He was concerned that the Township spent \$8,000 in attorney fees for counsel and attendance at two Closed Sessions to ultimately advise the same thing that a citizen previously told the Board what was required to be done by law. He questioned the new projector and screen installed in the meeting room; he has previously attended only one meeting where an adequate projector and screen were used and assumed that equipment would be available for use again.

He wrote that the last Police Millage was an increase yet it seems we had a surplus of citizen money that could have been used to decrease the millage. He questioned why the Board is willing to spend \$1,500 of public money to send out a questionnaire on the police matter; yet it remains unknown whether it is even feasible yet.

He inquired how much money is being wasted by failing to meet OMA posting requirements. He asked the Township to consider being more conservative with public monies.

He expressed praise toward Township Board Members Dawn Zimmerman, Leigh Ann Gifford and Cathy Sorrow for realizing the Township was not ready to move forward with its own Police Department.

2nd letter, 11/16/22, re: Milfoil:

Ms. Gibson began reading Mr. Lewis' second letter asking if the Township spent \$8,000 in attorney fees for information a citizen had already provided. This was the same portion of the first letter read aloud. In moving ahead in the letter, Mr. Lewis wrote in a previous meeting, the Supervisor stated the \$62k in Milfoil monies would be returned to the citizens. Is it truly \$62k or is it now in the neighborhood of \$54k?

3rd letter, (undated) re: Police Millage:

Ms. Gibson read aloud Mr. Lewis' third letter which listed three questions. 1) If there was already approximately \$250k available from the previous Police Millage, why did the Board ask for an increase? Would the remaining money not have reduced the amount needed? 2) The language of the last Police Millage stated it would go to the Grand Traverse County Sheriff. By law, the entity the money will go to must be stated in the millage. He asked is it then lawful then to spend that money on other than a CPO from the Grand Traverse County Sheriff? 3) Where did the previous millage state the money would go to? Can it be used for our own police department in Fife Lake?

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Ms. Linda Forwerck, 121 Boyd Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Ms. Forwerck stated a history of law enforcement in the community in the 1980's with increased out of control events and criminal activity. The Village Council chose to hire a seasonal policeman. Under then Village President Harry Voice, they invited Grand Traverse County Sheriff Barr to a Council meeting. Grand Traverse County donated a decommissioned police vehicle and the Village hired a seasonal police officer with no benefits. The Village police protection service proceeded for 4-5 years ultimately recruiting candidates from NMC's police training program. This soon became a stepping stone for our policemen. Then Grand Traverse County Undersheriff Joe Smith attended Village meetings as an intermediary with Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department in getting a Deputy position created to provide a shared County Deputy. This position covered Fife Lake and Kingsley. A Township millage was passed for police protection through the Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department, ultimately evolving into a Deputy dedicated to Fife Lake Township. A good relationship with the Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department has been key in providing ongoing police protection for Fife Lake.

Unknown:

An unknown individual approached and after identifying Supervisor Street, formally serving her.

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

Ms. Newell commented that while Supervisor Street and the Police Feasibility Committee have been working with people out of the area, she has been in contact with other Townships within Grand Traverse County. Out of the 12 Townships, she asked why they have not pulled out of contract policing. They answered "cost, liability and the 24/7 County support it offers." Another remark she received was "I don't understand why Fife Lake Township would want to start their own police department."

With the data collected, can anyone from the Board or Committee give an answer to why the Township needs their own police department? She asked the Board why they are allowing Supervisor Street and the Police Feasibility Committee the power to defund contract police protection and take away what the people of Fife Lake voted for.

Citizens have watched the Supervisor and Committee spend over a year looking at how do defund our CPO rather than work with the County to fill our needs. Why would the County even try to help if the FLT Supervisor is communicating "We still have a lot of work to do before we go out on our own." Was there a Board vote I wasn't aware of? This statement indicates you are going out on our own.

For more than two years she has listened about the former Pugsley property. Last month people expressed concerns about water, noise and the "County letting us down." Did any of the Board respond that Representative John Roth received grants for \$500k and will be working on language of the grant to share with you? Not one of you responded and you all knew that information. Where is the transparency?

Township Meeting Agendas have been left blank and we are told no communication with the county when in actuality we are not communicating with the county either. I believe Supervisor Street was told "the squeaky wheel gets the grease." Apparently we ran out of grease in 2020.

Trustee Zimmerman specifically asked if there were any candidates that replied to this position. In fact, there was a candidate in attendance during the Special Meeting/Hearing. He told a home owner about the police position opening in Fife Lake. Again, was there a Board vote I wasn't aware of?

The Committee has gone from "looking into costs" to "let's vote" so we can proceed by January 1, 2023 with our own police department because we have money.

In closing, she asked "Board Members, doesn't any of this not concern you?"

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

Ms. Leedy expressed serious concerns about some activities being taken on by the Fife Lake Township recently. The Special Assessment District for the Milfoil has been handled poorly, including several ineligible Closed Sessions by the Board that did not rise to the occasion of a reason for Closed Session.

Regarding the Police Committee and its activities, it seems this is a rogue Committee formed to serve at the Supervisor's pleasure to address personal issues and not following protocol. The Committee is not posting meeting agendas, times and dates, and is not providing proper documentation. She has a standing FOIA for all meeting notices and agendas. She has not received one document as part of any upcoming Committee meeting. She stated this letter/comment should be considered a renewal and notice of a FOIA request for all meeting notices including Committees for Fife Lake Township.

Much information to date has no source-the-budget, has no assumptions and is missing many cost centers; no true public engagement has been solicited when you have closed-door meetings. Her suspicion is that the public does not want to start a one-person police department that will cost more than the policing we have now. The Supervisor reported we have no policing coverage. Is the reason we have gone so long without a Deputy because they are hesitant to work for this Supervisor? It is sad that citizens cannot trust the information provided to us by our Township.

She has solicited from Grand Traverse County police coverage data in Fife Lake Township from March 1 through October 28, 2022. We have received 1,547 hours of time from the Sheriff's Department during that period. If we had our own police officer at 40 hours/week, we would have received 1,360 hours, minus the hours for training, time off, etc. (so, actually less coverage). The claim by the Supervisor that we do not have coverage is simply not true as we have received more than 40 hours/week of coverage.

There is a breakdown in communication, ethics and ways to handle Township business. The information provided by the Supervisor's office cannot be trusted.

Ms. Leedy is also giving public notice of a FOIA request that all sent messages by Supervisor Street from any email account address she has used relating to all Township business be sent to her electronically at lisaLeedy@gmail.com. In closing, she believes this will work itself out with the integrity of the rest of the Township Board Members.

GUESTS: None.

REPORTS:

County Commissioner, Mr. Darryl Nelson:

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 did not receive a report from Mr. Mike Berendsohn, EMS Director of Kalkaska Emergency Service.

Fire Chief Scott Tinker was not in attendance; Ms. Gibson provided a brief report in his absence:

There were 14 calls for service for the month.

Fife Lake Village – Village President Mr. David McGough:

President Dave McGough reported their next meeting is Monday, November 21 at 6:30. Mr. Tom Hempsted will be taking over as President. Mr. McGough will be present and will assist in the transition. Supervisor Street thanked him for his service and was joined by the public with a round of applause for him.

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

Ms. Gifford reported the last meeting was November 16, 2022. Compliance Officer Ray Ravary has returned to work following his workplace injury. He is down to two part-time staff. The new (used) pontoon boat will have a motor attached. The fencing project is nearly 100% complete.

She reiterated the FLAUA would like to be considered for ARPA funds from Fife Lake Township. They have submitted a formal letter of request for consideration. Springfield Township may be allotting \$25k from their ARPA funds for FLAUA. There are high dollar projects that will require maintenance in the future.

Supervisor Street noted she attended the FLAUA meeting.

Zoning Administrator – Mr. Robert Hall:

Absent – Supervisor Street read his report aloud in his absence. In addressing a Zoning Ordinance, he stated it is a high-priority task for the Township and that recent events have resulted in thoughts that parts of the Ordinance may not have incorporated published language in the past. He will continue to investigate this.

Regarding the Planning Commission, Township Board, Zoning Administrator, Planner and Attorney, he reported the FLAPC had concerns related to specific Commercial/Industrial properties, subsequently forwarding recommended corrective measures to the Township Board. He emphasized the need to work together on the process. Examples highlighted were considering who has access to the original zoning map template to make changes, whether the Ordinance should be done in-house or require it be done by the Planner. He asked if the Township and FLAPC have a relationship with a Planner. He also questioned if there is a book of Ordinances where chronological searches can be performed to verify validity of the Zoning Ordinance. The ultimate goal is to ensure all required statutory processes are followed.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) met November 7 to consider a Use variance request. It was brought to the attention of the ZBA that this Public Hearing was not posted on the website as required; therefore, the meeting was not held. A new Public Hearing date was scheduled for December 5, to be published in the Traverse City Record Eagle by November 19 and posted to the Township website.

Mr. Hall noted in his report he will not be in the office and is unavailable on November 21 due to a scheduled court hearing for another municipality.

Supervisor Street noted that Zoning Administrator Hall is preparing a draft of the Permit Fee Schedule. This will be reviewed by the Board in the near future.

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

Ms. Zimmerman reported the FLAPC met on November 1, 2022. She reported they worked on the Township Zoning Map. She expressed Board thanks to Ms. Lisa Leedy, FLAPC Vice Chair for her initiative in submitting an application for an ARPA grant through Grand Traverse County for a Joint Zoning Ordinance in the amount of \$18k which, if awarded, would go toward the Master Plan, legal notices, publications, etc.

There was a lengthy discussion about correspondence and communication between the Zoning Administrator and the Fife Lake Area Planning Commission regarding a better working together relationship. Their next Regular Meeting is rescheduled for Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Civic Center South – Ms. Gerianne Street:

Ms. Street reported the ice rink will be in operation this winter and will have a warming shed. They are still selling banners for business advertisements.

Village of Kingsley Manager, Mr. Dan Hawkins, is retiring. There is a new Village Manager who has taken his place. Fife Lake Township looks forward to working with her.

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

Absent – No Report.

Police Feasibility Committee:

Supervisor Gerianne Street addressed all in attendance. In responding to past comments, she stated the County has always had Deputies who love and want to come to Fife Lake. However, the Administration has been short of help AND unable to fulfill every community while maintaining their primary employee base. She stated she has been in contact with the County Sheriff's Department, something they can attest to. It has been stated that we are getting more coverage now than when we had a dedicated Community Police Officer (CPO). The Police Feasibility Committee has discussed this and believes there has been an increase in crime as we do not have a police presence here now; that is why they are here more. She does not know this to be fact; however, if law enforcement is here now more than when we had police coverage, something is going on.

There is the question of "Why?" The people of Fife Lake Township voted for police protection. We have been without a designated Community Police Officer for some time now, and several times. Having an officer is not a new idea. The "apples to apples" and "buck to buck" idea of having our own officer in hiring the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department has been discussed in the past.

Ms. Street stated to the group her "Why?" is to serve our residents and provide safety, security and welfare for them. When Grand Traverse County Prosecutor Noelle Moeggenberg attended one of the Police Feasibility Committee meetings, she asked if there was really that much crime in Fife Lake. The answer is yes, there is some crime, and it's increasing. Ms. Street explained to her that her concern is not only what has or has not happened, it is what could happen. We have an elementary school in the Township. With the increase in violence in schools, the thought of having our schoolchildren unprotected is unsettling. An intruder can cause a lot of damage in a short amount of time. People can be of the mindset that a tragedy could never happen here at Fife Lake; but she is sure the people at Sandy Hook, Columbine, and here in St. Louis, Michigan, never imagined their school could be subject to such violence.

She commented the issue of speeding through the Village is an ongoing one. There can be a high volume of foot traffic with the park and the beach with pedestrians crossing State Street. In conjunction with the Village, different methods have been tried; i.e., digital speed detectors, crosswalk cones. In looking at the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's CPO records, few tickets are issued for speeding yet most of the Officer's time is spent on road patrol. In issuing warnings and speeding tickets, some people argue we might scare away tourists. She believes our tourists want a safe place to visit. Residents will tell you they see frequent speeders on our main thoroughfare.

The next question she addressed was "If it's a good idea, why aren't other Townships doing it?" Other Townships in Grand Traverse County have had fewer interruptions in service of their County CPO. There are many Townships and Villages that have their own police officers, the closest being Manton and Kalkaska.

When it was said by a community member we were getting better service when the increase in answered calls in Fife Lake went from 19 to 30+ per month when we had no CPO tells me we have a greater need in police presence when we do not have a CPO.

She is sorry some residents feel she is responsible for Fife Lake Township not having a police officer and does not understand that sentiment. She has maintained very good relationships with many police officers and law enforcement representatives such as Messrs. Chris Oosse and Brandon Brinks. Many have wanted to come to our community; however, Sheriff Bensley did not feel he could provide a CPO to Fife Lake Township.

Supervisor Street reported there is very good news for Fife Lake Township. We will be getting a Community Police Officer next week. He is Grand Traverse County Deputy Ryan Colley. He has been with the Grand Traverse County Sheriff for eight years and prior to that served in Wayne County.

She believes the work of the Police Feasibility Committee is important. Supervisor Street thanked Ms. Deb Newell for the community policing booklet she provided to the Board. It will be a valuable resource whether we have a Grand Traverse County CPO or a Fife Lake Township Police Department.

Supervisor Street asked if any Committee Members had comments. Trustee Gibson commented she is not on the Police Feasibility Committee and referenced that Ms. Leedy and Mr. Lewis have brought up this subject. She would like the public to know that in the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) handbook, a Feasibility Committee is not under the same regulations of the Open Meetings Act, showing Mr. Lewis the paragraph from the MTA book. A Feasibility Committee has no ruling ability, no funding and no ruling authority. They only bring information to the Board. The Board makes any determinations. A Feasibility Committee is not subject to the Open Meetings Act. She would like to put this issue to rest now.

NEW BUSINESS:

AUDIT:

Ms. Emily Escajeda of H&R Block reported, stating the audit went well. There were a couple of takeaways from the audit findings. We need to make sure the budget is reviewed in May so it can be approved in June and that expenditures are not up and over from June into July. You cannot go back in time by looking at something in August.

Additionally, Transaction Reports sent with the Financials are difficult to read through sometimes. She would like to consider putting an actual line item on the Ask Clerk report so everyone knows exactly where it is going at the time it is approved. This would be more efficient as it takes extra time to look up line items. This is also more transparent.

Auditor Ryan Howell suggested everyone on the Board sees and approves financial items not just Emily, Whitney, Gerianne and Leigh Ann. Additional sets of eyes on financials are beneficial.

Clerk Gifford has requested that mileage expenses submitted should specify who and what the mileage expenses are for. More specific detail is helpful; for example, if it was for Education/Training, please also include what training. Monthly mileage expense reports seem to have an increased amount of mileage expenditures. Supervisor Street and Clerk Gifford discussed the Supervisor's recent mileage expenditures for her events at the MTA Summit and MI Infrastructure Asset Management Course.

Ms. Escajeda stated detail and line items on the time sheets are also helpful in properly posting expenditures and running reports.

End of year fiscal projects were time consuming for the Auditor to identify/verify expenditures as some things are pre-paid 50% up front and the rest later, upon completion. This gets especially messy when they are paid in different fiscal years. The Milfoil treatment is one of these.

Ms. Escajeda stated there are many, many line items required in the MTA Chart of Accounts number ID system. They will be instituting required changes in the future. It will be helpful for her and the Board to begin implementing things now. This will be further discussed.

Assistant Supervisor Jeff Berthiaume referenced the boat wash grant where we had to pay up front and received the grant later. Therefore, we need line items specific to the EGLE grant expenditures and income. He requested a Board Action to institute this change.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to create line items for EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) Grant income and expenditures for the boat wash station's money in and money out. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gifford-Y, Gibson-Y, Street-Y, Sorrow-Y, Zimmerman-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Ms. Escajeda referenced the Ask Clerk report regarding the need for line items specific to Elections Publications and Zoning Publications. None currently exist. This will help in tracking publications. She needs Board approval to add those two line items.

Board Action:

Ms. Gibson made a motion to add line items to the budget for Elections Publications and Zoning Publications. Ms. Street seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Zimmerman-Y, Gifford-Y, Gibson-Y, Street-Y, Sorrow-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Ms. Escajeda informed the Board she will be able to reduce audit costs some as the auditor trained her to pull in some reports online. Instead of the auditor doing corrective journal entries, she can put them in herself now.

The Board expressed their appreciation for Emily's expertise.

EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) Fish Habitat Grant:

Supervisor Street would like to apply for a grant to improve fish habitat. She has been in touch with Mr. Mark Tonello, Grand Traverse County Fish Biologist, non-profit organization Shoreline Restoration and MDOT. Mr. Tonello wrote a study on Fife Lake some years ago. She asked his opinion of portable fish habitats, and he stated studies show they would not improve the habitat. They discussed seawall restoration so there are native species on the shoreline. EGLE permits are required for this. Grant funds could be used to assist residents with the expense of shoreline restoration if they are interested. Another option is to restore the shoreline along the railroad tracks. She would use the meeting room projector system for shoreline restoration education for residents.

These funds are similar to the boat wash grant funds; the Township pays for it upfront and is reimbursed with grant monies.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion for authority to apply for a \$25k grant for an EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) Fish Habitat Grant. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Sorrow-Y, Gifford-Y, Street-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Gibson-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

If this is awarded, she will also invite Springfield Township to the educational sessions on shoreline restoration.

Tower on M-113:

Trustee Gibson read aloud a memo from Mr. Jason Torrey, Grand Traverse County 911 Dispatch Director regarding a tower agreement between Grand Traverse County and Fife Lake Township dating back to 1989. He stated there is an 80' self-supporting tower on FLT property near M-113 and Vans Lane that supported 911 and emergency communications for a long time. With the migration to an 800MHz state radio system, the County is no longer in need of this location and would like to terminate the lease agreement. He would also like to know if FLT has a need for the tower and/or shelter located there. If not, they would remove the items. They hold little financial value, but if the Township has a use, they would pursue a simple change of ownership.

Mr. Roger Gibson was recognized by the Board and asked his opinion about the tower. He is familiar with the property which was used to support three radio systems for the County. He stated it is obsolete technology now and very old. The small shelter building is made of concrete and has been vandalized for years. Based on the location and these factors, he suggested letting them tear it all down.

There was Board consensus regarding his suggestion. Supervisor Street will follow-up with Mr. Torrey about this.

Sewer Board Opening:

Supervisor Street stated the Fife Lake Area Utility Authority has two openings on its Board; one representative from each, Fife Lake Township and Springfield Township. Ms. Street would like to be considered for this Board to represent Fife Lake Township and asked for formal Board nomination.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to nominate herself to the Fife Lake Area Utility Authority (FLAUA), representing Fife Lake Township. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gifford-Y, Sorrow-Y, Street-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Gibson-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Marihuana

Mr. Phil Coulolias of Skybox Cannabis submitted a proposal for changes to the Fife Lake Marihuana Ordinance. Ms. Street read this aloud. He proposed two regulation changes and listed pros and cons to each.

Proposal #1 reads: To amend Sections of the Zoning Ordinance for Fife Lake Township Section 9.2 J (iv) and S (iv) and Section 10.2 (F) (iv), K (iv), I (iv) and N (iv) to allow marihuana retailers to operate a non-nuisance drive-thru and allow for curbside delivery and walk-up windows.

Proposal #2 reads: To amend Sections of the Zoning Ordinance for Fife Lake Township Section 9.2. J (iiii) and S (iii) and Section 10.2 F (iii), K (iii), I (iii) and N (iii) to allow for a closing time of 10:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Sunday.

There was Board discussion about each proposal as well as the pros/cons he outlined. They included increased customer conveniences, increased tax revenue for the Township, improved competition with surrounding townships as some of the pros; cons listed were potential traffic nuisances from a drive-thru and late night shenanigans. He goes into greater detail in the proposal. His document references an attached petition in favor of drive-thru service; it was not attached to the document Board Members received. Ms. Street believes it may be privileged information and is seeking input from Attorney Eberle.

Trustee Zimmerman made several comments. The Township Board does not have his petition and inquired who is eligible to sign it. Residents and non-residents may sign it. Regarding the Ordinance Section numbers and sub-sections in his proposal, the Board does not have that information in front of them tonight to verify accuracy. Additionally, the stated the hours of operation of the Kalkaska and Cadillac businesses Mr. Coulolias' listed are not correct.

She researched marihuana outlets in Kalkaska (8), Cadillac (2) and Traverse City (8) (TC only medical currently) and documented the hours of operation of these facilities for comparisons. She also researched the number of facilities with drive-thru, walk-up window and curbside service. Out of 18 facilities in the surrounding area, there are no drive-thrus, seven of them deliver and ten have curbside service.

Trustee Gibson expressed she is very opposed to a drive-thru option.

Under attorney advice, Ms. Street stated if this is something the Board would like the Planning Commission to review, we would forward it to them. They would be responsible for making an amended Ordinance and providing it to the Township Board. There was Board consensus to forward this matter to the Fife Lake Area Planning Committee.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments:

Supervisor Street announced that the rezoning amendment that was done last month needed to be done a bit differently. We do not have to hold two Public Hearings for it; the one Public Hearing with the Township Board was unnecessary.

Township attorney Dave Eberle would like us to direct the Planning Commission to re-hold the rezoning Special Hearing and make sure they had the Ordinance for the public; they only had the Resolution.

Zoning Administrator Hall said he would assist the Planning Commission. Supervisor Street encouraged the FLAPC to utilize both the MTA and their attorney as resources.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to direct the Fife Lake Area Planning Commission (FLAPC) to revisit the process of the rezoning of the Hayes industrial park with Zoning Administrator Hall and the Planning Commission's attorney to ensure it is completed correctly and according to statute. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Zimmerman-Y, Street-Y, Gibson-Y, Gifford-Y, Sorrow-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried

MTA Banquet:

Ms. Gifford had the pleasure of attending the MTA Banquet recently. She wanted everyone to know that several people were recognized for a job well done. They include Mr. Jeff Berthiaume, Mr. Tom Hempsted and Mr. Roger Gibson. Congratulations to them.

Note: A short break was taken at 7:40 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cemetery:

There was no report from Sexton Lisa Plamondon. Treasurer Sorrow stated the fall cleanup is done. Mr. Dave McGough put up Christmas wreaths at the Fife Lake Cemetery. She will be putting them up at Walton Cemetery this weekend. Assistant Township Supervisor Jeff Berthiaume had no updates this evening for the gate and bid for surrounding damage.

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

Supervisor Street stated the Board received drafts of documents we will be using for the new Special Assessment District (S.A.D.). It is her plan to have permanent parcel numbers listed shortly and the map in order to begin the first step of this

process next month for the new Special Assessment District. There have been legal fees regarding this situation; it is unfortunate but has been necessary. The excess monies will be refunded to citizens.

Resolution for Grand Traverse County Emergency Management Plan:

Supervisor Street read aloud a proposed Fife Lake Township Resolution regarding a Natural Mitigation Plan. She had also reviewed the Mitigation Plan, stating it contained a great deal of data. There was Board discussion.

Board Action:

Ms. Street made a motion to adopt a Fife Lake Township Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption Resolution (Resolution No. 2022-11 HazMit Plan). Ms. Zimmerman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Sorrow-Y, Gifford-Y, Street-Y, Gibson-Y, Zimmerman-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Tree Harvesting on M-113 Property:

In addition to Lutke Forest Product's input, one other individual responded but did not email her a price list. Ms. Street attempted to pursue five services. Lutke's informal comment was that we may have \$5,000 in timber there. The trees are mature and need to be harvested. There are 20+ acres of pines.

Ms. Gibson recognized Mr. Dar Zimmerman who suggested the Township contact the USDA to see where they steer us.

Ms. Zimmerman recognized Ms. Deb Newell who also suggested we work with the USDA as there are different perspectives between foresters and loggers in viewing how to manage and harvest wooded properties. She has experience working with the USDA through grant-based forest management programs and highly recommends them. Ms. Street also mentioned the Grand Traverse County Soil Conservation District as a resource.

There was Board consensus to table this subject to a later date.

Snowplow Contract:

A standardized request for quote was let out. Mr. Jamie Stocking informed Ms. Street that he withdrew his original bid as he cannot take on additional accounts at this time. Mr. Dave McGough spoke with him as well.

Board Action:

Ms. Street motion to contract Mr. Roger Gibson for snow plowing services per his previously submitted bid. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Ms. Gibson abstained from the vote.

Office Cleaning:

A Request for Quote was formally let out with specific expectations. One response was received from Ms. Anna DeBello.

Board Action:

Ms. Gifford made a motion to hire Ms. Anna DeBello to provide office cleaning services at the rate of \$200 every month. Services are to include vacuuming carpets, cleaning bathrooms (excluding the showers), windows, sills, common areas and surfaces. Individual offices are not included. Ms. Street seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Sorrow-Y, Gifford-Y, Street-Y, Gibson-Y, Zimmerman-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

She will be an employee of the Township.

Noise Ordinance:

Trustee Zimmerman stated the Committee has not met. Three months ago the Ordinance was discussed and there were questions about who would be trained to use the decibel measuring equipment, a recommendation to remove the Supervisor under enforcement and questions about hunters. Additional discussion needs to address the use of snowmobiles, motorcycles, ORVs, etc., specifying the definition of unreasonable noise, fee amounts, restricted times, and other details.

Committee Members were emailed both drafts of the proposed Ordinance and asked to review each. They preferred the content of the attorney-recommended, more involved version.

Ms. Zimmerman reported she provided a proposed Noise Ordinance to the Township Board. She has no new information; the Board now needs to provide direction.

Board Members agreed this needs to be reviewed in greater depth. This item was tabled to a later date. Ms. Zimmerman emphatically impressed upon Board Members to spend some time on this proposed document and not send it back to the Committee.

Police Feasibility Committee Formation:

Trustee Zimmerman announced she has prepared a lengthy comment to deliver. Regarding the Police Feasibility Committee, she questioned herself how to bring up what she wants to say and requested it be added to the Agenda.

As a Township Trustee, she has been trying to figure out the “Who, Why and When” about this Police Feasibility Committee. She pulled and read over one year’s worth of Board Minutes to try to learn this.

The November 18, 2021 Board Minutes included a recommendation from Township Attorney David Eberle regarding forming Committees. It referenced the Building Committee and Supervisor Street’s suggestion to develop a Building Committee to explore and develop different options for a space on the 40 acres owned on M-113. There is no timeline for building any prospective new Township Hall. The following people volunteered to be on the Committee: Roger and Nicole Gibson, Cathy Sorrow and Tom Rookus. Attorney Eberle recommended the development of a Resolution in creating a Building Committee to define the purpose, rules, designated authority, scope of service, etc. He recommended this for all Committees Fife Lake Township may have for best practice and consistency. He will devise proposed Resolutions to cover existing Committees.

On the Township’s Outstanding Task List from August 26, 2021, to March, 2022, Board Minutes, “Police Committee Research” is listed under Township Trustee Nicole Gibson. Her question to Trustee Gibson is “who was involved in the research and if you were on the Committee, did you meet monthly during those seven months?” Ms. Gibson stated she was not on the Committee nor was she involved with any Committee meetings. Supervisor Street also replied originally Roger and Nicole Gibson were going to be on the Committee, but it was decided that was not a good idea.

Ms. Zimmerman continued; on the January 27, 2022, Outstanding Task List it states “Police Committee Research: Committee hoping to meet next week. Gerianne has a book with instructions on forming a committee.” This is where she has concerns. The Board changed in 2020 with two new Members: Supervisor Gerianne Street and Trustee Nicole Gibson.

Included in the February 24, 2022, Township Minutes, Supervisor Street is referring to a Public Police Committee that was formed in approximately 2018 and had not met in recent years. The following is excerpted from those Minutes: “She and Mr. Denny Curado had recent discussions about reforming the Committee to consider forming a Police Feasibility Study to present to the Board. Prior Committee Members include Mr. Terry Street, Ms. Elizabeth Pearson and Mr. Dave McGough. Presently, Ms. Gerianne Street and Mr. Roger Gibson would like to be on a Committee and possibly Mr. Denny Curado.

Trustee Gibson stated to the Board and members of the public attending that she would like to clear up some things that were brought up at Citizen Comment. She wanted to make it known to all attendees and the public that Deputy Derek Reed is doing a phenomenal job. She clarified the Committee looking into our police presence or possibly forming a police department has nothing to do with his ability and performance. It is solely related to the amount of taxpayer money we are sending to Grand Traverse County and concerns about the rate. Deputy Reed is an outstanding officer and if there are any changes, she would hope he is the first applicant. This discussion has nothing to do with Deputy Reed and everything to do with expense.

Fife Lake Township pays Grand Traverse County almost \$100k a year for an officer who is on-site less than 40 hours per week. This situation and discussion is about what we need coverage for, what is feasible and what Grand Traverse County is providing us. All Board Members spoke very highly about the performance of Deputy Reed.

If approved, these Committee meetings will be unpaid, effective 2/24/22.

Board Action was then taken: Ms. Street made a motion to reinstate the Police Committee appointing Messrs. Roger Gibson, Denny Curado and David McGough as well as Ms. Gerianne Street. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.” That motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

Ms. Zimmerman continued.

The public needs to know that the Committee that was formed in 2018 had a different purpose than the current Police Feasibility Committee. The one from 2018 was formed to keep the lines of communication flowing between the Township’s County Deputy, Village and Township Boards. The Committee would give the Deputy direction on hours, purchases to make his job easier (footwear for property checks) and speeding sign machines, discuss coverage for events and activities, and bounce ideas off each other for better communication and protection for our community. The Committee met every month and reported back to the Board. Ms. Zimmerman assumes this Committee ended in 2020 when the Board changed and asked if Board members know differently. Ms. Street believes it was due to the Covid pandemic.

In Supervisor Street’s report, she failed to list one Committee Member; Deputy Eric Meiers, from the Grand Traverse County Sheriff’s Department. He was our CPO at the time. Supervisor Street made a motion to reinstate the Police Committee, which would only consist of one Member, Village President Dave McGough, as all other Members were gone due to the elections and the loss of our CPO. How do you reinstate a Committee of one? Additionally, Supervisor Street cannot make a motion to reinstate if the purpose of that Committee has changed, and it did change. It went from working with the County, Township Deputy Meiers, and the Village and Township Boards to possibly forming a Township police department. These are two different purposes and agendas. A motion should have been made to form a new “Police Feasibility Committee” and clearly define its purpose, etc., following Attorney Eberle’s recommendation. Upon its passing, the Township would then need to motion to vote on applications to the Board for recommendation to this committee. This is a Board decision.

Ms. Zimmerman then read from the MTA Handbook on Advisory Committees: A Township Board may appoint Advisory Committees to collect information, make recommendations and participate in Township programs. Purely Advisory Committees that do not include a quorum of the Township Board or other public body are not subject to the Open Meetings Act (OMA).

Needless to say, the Township Board approved Supervisor Street’s wording in a motion the way it was presented. Please note again that it was stated in the February Board Minutes that the meetings would be unpaid, effective 2/24/22. That is when this Committee was officially reinstated.

At this point in Trustee Zimmerman’s research, the Police Feasibility Committee is now considered a “non-conforming Advisory Committee.” In the April 28, 2022 Minutes, it states a letter of intent from Mr. Roger Gibson was received and read aloud by Supervisor Street. Ms. Zimmerman could not locate a copy of this letter, which should have been attached to the approved Minutes. Those Minutes contained the following information: “A Letter of Intent was received from Mr. Roger Gibson, as required, expressing his interest in volunteering to investigate the prospective development of a Township Police Department. Ms. Street read his letter aloud which outlined his relevant experience and knowledge.”

Also included in the same month’s meeting under Police Committee, Mr. Roger Gibson gave the following report: “From the initial suggestion of developing a Township Police Department, Mr. Gibson had an immediate desire to become involved with what started as an idea and has grown in significance. The FLT Police Committee is currently comprised of Mr. Gibson, Mr. Jeff Berthiaume, Ms. Gerianne Street, and Mr. Dave McGough. While this is still in a developmental stage, it would be a great thing for our community, and we would be able to better control and manage our policing.

He stated Clearwater Township in Kalkaska County is in the process of developing a police department; their millage proposal is on the election next week. He is contact with their Township Supervisor and invited to talk with their Police Commissioner on May 10. He looks forward to the discussion and exchange of information to bring to the Committee.”

It should be noted that in the same meeting, a Letter of Intent to participate on the Committee was presented as well as a Police Committee report based on his involvement. That is conflicting. Also, Deputy Supervisor Jeff Berthiaume, was included in this non-conforming Committee report dated April 28, 2022, but the Township Board had not approved him being a part of it until May 26, 2022. Supervisor Street cannot appoint Members to an Advisory Committee regardless if they are considered volunteer. The Township Board appoints.

She also wanted the public to note that Townships Rapid City and Clearwater in Kalkaska to which Mr. Gibson referred about a police millage proposal failed: 133 Yes to 427 No. Next, this non-conforming Police Feasibility Committee had conducted a series of meetings, before the February 24 meeting. A survey went out on social media, there was travel to

other Townships, a Town Hall meeting was held, as well as a Special Township Board Meeting for public input concerning a proposed Fife Lake Township Police Department.

Ms. Zimmerman referenced a November, 2021 date where it was stated Police Feasibility discussion was initiated. By whom? Remember her earlier statement about the recommendation from Township Attorney David Eberle that for best practice and consistency, a Committee's purpose must be defined, have rules in place and designated authority, etc., as previously stated.

In February, 2022, the Committee was not approved according to the MTA Rules and Regulations, and the Township Attorney's recommendation.

In September, 2022, a survey was sent out on social media. The Board did authorize the survey and for it to be distributed via social media; however, it did not approve the content before it went live.

In September, 2022, a Town Hall meeting was held at the library. It was a non-conforming Committee, ok'd by the Board to hold the meeting at the library; however, neither the Committee nor its Members were approved according to the MTA Rules and Regulations, and the Township Attorney's recommendation.

In September, 2022, the Township approved the scheduling of a Public Hearing to be held on October 20, 2022. This Public Hearing included a PowerPoint presentation. Prior to this, the Board should have approved the presentation. Board Members were given information for the first time that evening. The presentation was not approved before the public saw it. Please remember this is still a non-conforming Advisory Committee that reports to the Board.

Next, regarding the questionable, unauthorized expenditures by this non-conforming Police Committee, Supervisor Street's undated timesheet (assumed to be February, 2022), under the Meetings Attended line was an entry for attending a Police Committee meeting on February 11, 2022 for which she was paid \$45. Trustee Zimmerman reiterated this non-conforming Police Feasibility Committee was not approved until February 24, 2022. Supervisor Street's timesheet dated October 18, 2022 under the Other Reimbursement line included an entry for a Village Market expenditure on September 15, 2022, in the amount of \$8.55 and a Sam's Club expenditure on September 14, 2022, for \$58.52. This totaled \$67.07 for refreshments for the Town Hall Meeting. The purchase for refreshments was not approved by the Board. Advisory Committees report to the Board.

Mr. Roger Gibson, husband of FLT Board Trustee Nicole Gibson was included on a QuickBooks report as receiving mileage reimbursement from July 19, 2022, in the amount of \$53.57. These are unapproved expenditures for travel to and from Gerrish Township Police Department in Roscommon to meet with the Police Chief. The Advisory Committee reports to the Board. Twice in the Township Minutes it has been stated that this non-conforming Committee is on a volunteer basis and meetings are unpaid.

In conclusion:

Only one member was left on this Police Committee; Village President Dave McGough. Is one person considered a Committee? This was formed under false pretenses.

The Committee should not have been reinstated because the purpose of each was vastly different as referenced earlier.

Township Attorney David Eberle's recommendations were disregarded by the Supervisor as were MTA Regulations.

It is not a diverse Committee as per the U.S. Department of Justice and wasn't voted on as a Committee. It seems as though Members appeared randomly. All Members are Township/Village Officials with the exception of local business owner Mr. Roger Gibson.

This non-conforming Police Feasibility Committee has overstepped its authority and needs to be dissolved.

Trustee Zimmerman thanked the Township Board for hearing her concerns.

Board Members provided Ms. Zimmerman with feedback.

Supervisor Street responded she doesn't believe she was ever paid for a Police Committee meeting. She believes she may have put it on the timesheet with Clerk Gifford subsequently telling her it was not a paid meeting. Clerk Gifford recalled

that she called Ms. Street, informing her that the Township did not have this Committee, with Ms. Street replying that we did and are paid for it. Ms. Street responded that was ok and would repay the amount to the Township.

Ms. Street spoke to the Board explaining when she first started in the role of Supervisor, she saw what the former Supervisor was paid for and at the time was not aware of this as she is paid for Lake Shore Drive Committee meetings. She has no problem repaying this incorrect entry for one meeting. There was no malicious intent.

Supervisor Street stated she received letters from individuals that they wished to be on the Committee. Trustee Zimmerman pointed out that functions happened out of sequence according to the dates she provided in her comment. Mr. Berthiaume was already working on the Committee before the Board approved it. She acknowledged that she was a Member of the Board that ultimately approved it. As a Trustee, she is seeing things that have not been done properly.

Trustee Gibson interjected, asking Ms. Zimmerman if she was aware of how many things have been out of sequence in these meetings lately and agrees there are a lot of things not handled properly by this Board. Ms. Gibson accused Ms. Zimmerman of throwing stones; to which Ms. Zimmerman replied she was not. Their disagreement escalated.

Ms. Gibson continued, stating there have been so many things that go on in this Township and that she is sick of it. She was elected to this Board to help and all she has seen is negativity, fighting, and back-stabbing. There are so many different Committees that Ms. Zimmerman could have pointed out and why has she not. Ms. Zimmerman replied this report took her three days to prepare.

As a Board Member, Ms. Zimmerman is trying to understand how we got from one point to another. Ms. Street stated she brought those individuals to the Board; Ms. Zimmerman reiterated work was already being performed before the Committee was authorized. She is not saying it is not her fault; recognizing that she is part of the Board. Her intent is not to lay individual blame for errors, including herself. This Committee was not handled properly and needs to be dissolved.

Clerk Gifford asked if there were Resolutions approved for any of the Committees. As far as she is aware, Supervisor Street does not believe there are. A list of Committees was identified. They include:

- Road Ending and Public Access Committee
- Noise Ordinance Committee
- Building Committee
- Marihuana Committee (former)
- Police Feasibility Committee

Ms. Street took offence to Ms. Zimmerman's reference of "our lovely Police Feasibility Committee" in creating the list of Committees, saying it was degrading and people had spent time working on it.

Clerk Gifford suggested the Board follow the advice of the Township Attorney and develop Resolutions to define the purpose, rules, designated authority, scope of work, etc., (as outlined by Ms. Zimmerman earlier), and implement a Resolution for any Committee. He recommended this for any new and existing Committees.

Trustee Gibson is following Ms. Zimmerman's lead and is asking that all Committees be dissolved then. If we dissolve the Police Feasibility Committee, we should do it with all Committees then and follow the same process.

Trustee Zimmerman stated her opinion here tonight is as a Township Board Member, representing the community and not one's personal agenda. She is here for the Township.

There was Board consensus to table this subject to a later date.

There was additional discussion regarding the Town Hall meeting refreshments expenditures. Ms. Street stated she did check with the MTA to see if it was an allowable expense. Also, Michael of MTA Legal Council was consulted via speakerphone, and stated it was permissible. There was disagreement about this.

Treasurer Sorrow suggested we move forward and dissolve all of these Committees to stop this and start over. Board Members agreed.

Supervisor Street stated we had a Marihuana Committee with Mr. Tom Hempsted as the Marihuana Administrator. With the elections, he has not had much time available for that. She would like to reinstate the Marihuana Committee.

Supervisor Street will consult with Attorney Eberle and ask him to prepare these draft Resolutions as he previously stated he could do. These will be on next month's Agenda.

Trustee Zimmerman specifically requested her comment/report be included in these Meeting Minutes.

Board Action:

Ms. Gibson made a motion to dissolve any and all Committees and Advisory Committees that have not been brought before this Board via a Resolution from the Fife Lake Township attorney. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Zimmerman-Y, Gifford-Y, Sorrow-Y, Street-Y, Gibson-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Proposed Resolutions for all Committees will be reviewed for approval at next month's meeting.

Elections:

Clerk Gifford provided local election results. Mr. Tom Hempsted is the new Fife Lake Village President. Newly elected Village Council Trustees are Mr. Mike Tornow, Mr. Mike Perpich and Ms. Tawni Deike. All School Board winners were write-ins.

She reported there was a very good turnout in Fife Lake Township and other townships, with approximately 80% of our registered voters voting. She had a great team of Elections Inspectors and everything went well. She appreciated everyone's consideration in not scheduling any meetings or activities at the Township Hall that day.

Minutes:

Supervisor Street informed the public that in the last group distribution of the Board meeting packets, a copy of the Closed Session Minutes of 10/27/22 were improperly distributed to the Township Board; however, also inadvertently distributed to two non-Board members. This mistake was an oversight as these individuals are always on the regular distribution for meeting packets. As in the past and moving forward, Closed Session Minutes are to be hand distributed for review/approval and returned to Board Members during a Board meeting.

Ms. Street read aloud Attorney General Opinion 7061 of 2000 outlining the potential legal ramifications of such events. Township Attorney Eberle wrote letters to the individuals who received these Closed Session Minutes and asked to both destroy/delete the materials and not discuss their contents as Closed Sessions are private.

Supervisor Street spoke with MTA Attorney Catherine Mullhaupt regarding OMA requirements for the publication of meeting minutes. She noted she has asked for meeting minutes to be provided in a more timely matter, stating she has mentioned this before. In reviewing an excerpt of the Open Meetings Act 267 of 1976, it states draft minutes be made available for public inspection, if requested, within eight business days of a meeting and approved minutes be made available within five business days after the meeting at which they are approved.

In conversation, Ms. Street noted that a draft copy is to be posted on the website within eight business days and the approved version within five business days of approval. Clerk Gifford replied draft minutes are not posted or published; only approved minutes. As former Recording Secretary, she had checked these facts. She forwards only approved minutes to Mark to post to the website. Ms. Street asked her to look into this to verify.

Fife Lake Committees: Not addressed, but addressed in above discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Zimmerman stated a quote by Wendi Jade: "an environment that is not safe to disagree in is not an environment focused on growth; it is an environment focused on control." Ms. Street reiterated a previous comment she made that was "If we didn't have conflict, we wouldn't be doing our job."

Ms. Zimmerman read a prepared statement thanking Ms. Kay Held, Fife Lake Township Board Recording Secretary, for keeping such excellent minutes. She specifically stated that her Minutes are such that anyone can read through them and clearly understand what went on during that particular meeting. There was a positive verbal response from Board Members and members of the public (with a round of applause). This Recording Secretary appreciated the comment and response.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

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

Ms. Newell stated her comment was prepared before the news of the incoming CPO. Her subject is "On the Job Training." She referenced a Traverse City Record Eagle article of June 2, 2022, titled "National Police Shortage Felt in Grand Traverse County." Sheriff Bensley, Nate Alger, and Gail Kurowski, Director of NMC Police Academy reported about recruitment and retention challenges they have been experiencing. She encouraged everyone to look up the article.

She quoted Sheriff Bensley from that article: "Everyone is looking for cops and whoever has the best deal, they're going to get the officers. There are no guarantees of longevity, Deputies are members of the Police Officers Association of Michigan. The three-year contract expires in 2023."

She continued, reporting the officer shortage is being felt nationwide, not just locally or statewide. The NMC Police Academy program has been redesigned and will be offering two academies per year rather than one. This starts Fall, 2023, with the program being one year in length.

Her take from the article considers whether there could be opportunity for Fife Lake Township to work with the County to start a pilot program for "On the Job Training" while working under a County umbrella and not via a 3-year CPO contract. She specified a full range of enforcement and prevention responsibilities they would perform that would meet their qualifications while having 24-hour support from the County. This could be a huge savings for the community and we could be proud that the Township made a difference in the growth and potential of this officer.

"On the Job Training" is possible and would take communication among the Commissioner, Supervisor and Sheriff Department. The deputy would still report to the County while serving as the point of contact in Fife Lake Township. FLT would also work closely with the officer's direct reports to ensure goals and objectives are being met.

Ms. Newell stated she has 29 years of training in problem solving skills, with some project work taking years only to find it would not be effective. The Board should look at all opportunities, not just focus on an end result like starting their own police department.

In closing, she expressed dissatisfaction that Mr. Berthiaume was allowed to come into the non-conforming Police Feasibility Committee and express things. She was not and has asked. She asked for times and dates of the meetings and was given nothing. Ms. Street replied she was unaware of her request.

Mr. Roger Gibson, 10880 Twin Pines Drive, Fife Lake, MI 49663:

Mr. Gibson referenced the Milfoil, stating there are a lot of invasive species in the lakes nowadays. The property owners and people who use the lake really need to get behind protecting the lake from those species because if owners lose the lake, their house is worth nothing.

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

Ms. Leedy thanked Ms. Newell for her great research and suggestions, she thanked the Board for being willing to fix the issues, she also thanked Clerk Gifford for running a great election, and she thanked Ms. Zimmerman for all her work on this subject.

She found it interesting the Supervisor scolded Ms. Zimmerman for making a comment about the Committee and how Ms. Street then called out Clerk Gifford regarding the error about distribution of the minutes.

She pointed out that the Supervisor said she shared the MTA Banquet information with the Planning Commission; none of the Planning Commissioners knew about it. It was Ms. Leedy who brought it to the attention of the FLAPC; however, by that time it was too late to RSVP to the event. Moving forward, it would be nice to be included in that.

Regarding the rezoning issue, the FLAPC did consult their attorney, who gave them a different recommendation than what they followed. Supervisor Street insisted they follow the Township Attorney's process; subsequently they followed exactly what the FLT Attorney told them to do at the Planning Commission level. It was a map amendment, not text amendment. There seems to be a disconnect between the information that is getting to the attorney and the actual reality.

Regarding the Supervisor's mileage that was brought up, she wonders why she didn't go to Boyne City versus Muskegon as it would have been closer and saved some money. She stated she finds it interesting as soon as the Supervisor is called

out, she blames a past administration or someone else along the way during this entire meeting, and has never once taken responsibility during this meeting for any errors she may have made.

Some of this may be irrelevant as all Committees were just dissolved, but in moving forward the Committee doesn't have to post things, have the community involved, or notice them. However, Ms. Leedy has an outstanding FOIA request for all meetings and all committees, so you did have to meet that threshold for those of us who have asked. She asked why you wouldn't want the community on board so that we are working together. The current process is building adversary and a brick wall between the Board's conference table and the public seating with distrustful actions. She believes this falls on the Supervisor more than anyone else as it is her leadership creating this.

She continued, stating ask yourself why other townships don't have the same interruptions in their CPO program. They have all had disruptions at one time or another; however, maybe it is due to the leadership here because we've never had this long of a gap in our CPO coverage. The Supervisor cited she thinks crime is higher now, and that's why there are more hours put into the policing. Ms. Leedy just reviewed the past several years of police reports, and that's not true. Criminal activity is always a bit more in the summer and she believes you are seeing the summertime statistics.

As far as saying you want someone here to do policing, stop guessing about whether you want speed control, crime control, etc., what do you want managed and what is the real problem? That's where a real committee would come into effect.

Ms. Leedy's three minutes for Citizen Comment were up. She continued to speak.

Supervisor Street called Ms. Leedy Out of Order.

Mr. Shane Lewis – yielded his 3 minutes to Ms. Lisa Leedy

It was determined this is allowable and has been allowed in the past. Supervisor Street asked Ms. Leedy to not attack her personally.

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

Ms. Leedy stated the Supervisor talks a lot about privileged documents that were referred to. The Board has held several Closed Sessions that did not rise to the threshold for them. She suggested the Board do some research on that as a Schedule of Fees prepared by the Zoning Administrator or the Zoning Administrator's Report are not privileged documents and should be made available to the public. That is where this wall is getting built between the Board and the community because they are not sharing information and not making things transparent. They are not being good community builders, they are building walls instead.

Mr. Shane Lewis, 11744 East State Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633 (allowed his 2 minutes of 3 that were yielded):

Mr. Lewis remarked "enough already" and asked to stop the adversarial activity; we are all citizens here. He was displeased with Supervisor Street's "stab" at Clerk Gifford's mistake in distribution of the Closed Session Minutes, when she said she "hoped it wasn't intentional." Mr. Lewis said he hopes Ms. Street's remarks "aren't intentional."

There was a heated verbal disagreement between Mr. Lewis and Trustee Gibson after he stated for a long time, every time he says something, most of it true, the Board chooses to go a different way and Ms. Gibson personally attacks him. She responded not to personally attack her. Their verbal disagreement continued and escalated.

Board Action:

Supervisor Street made an abrupt motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gibson-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Street-Y, Sorrow-Y, Gifford-Y. 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m. All remaining items on the Agenda are tabled to next month.

OUTSTANDING TASK LIST: Tabled due to early adjournment.

Submitted by: Kay Z. Held, Recording Secretary