

**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**

**Thursday, September 28, 2023, 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.

**Present:**

Supervisor Gerianne Street, Clerk Leigh Gifford, and Trustees Dawn Zimmerman and Nicole Gibson. A quorum was established.

**Absent:** Treasurer Cathy Sorrow

**Also Present:**

Fife Lake Township Deputy Supervisor, Jeff Berthiaume  
Fife Lake Chamber Vice President and DDA Representative Stan Patrick  
Grand Traverse County Commissioner, Darryl Nelson  
Grand Traverse County Deputy, Chris Whetstone  
Recording Secretary, Kay Held

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Amendments to Agenda:

Add to Reports:

Cemetery Report  
Township Deputy Supervisor Berthiaume, Boat Wash Station Report

Add to New Business:

Election  
Mr. Paul Johnson, Walton Junction Sportsman’s Club

Add to Old Business:

Sexton Contract  
Memorial Donation Ideas  
Roundabout Light Poles

**Board Action:**

Ms. Zimmerman made a motion to accept the Agenda as amended. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** No conflict.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Clerk Gifford read the purpose of the Consent Calendar to include: Fife Lake Township Regular Minutes of August 24, 2023, Financial Report, Transfers and Bills to be Paid.

Clerk Gifford requested Time Sheets be pulled from Bills to be Paid on the Consent Calendar.

Supervisor Street inquired of Clerk Gifford why the Balance Sheet in the Financials is dated 6/30/23. Clerk Gifford will look into this with H&R Block's Emily Escajeda to determine whether the date at the top is incorrect or if the wrong document was included in the packet.

In the Financial Report, Supervisor Street clarified the actual cost for the DTE gas meter was \$1,878 rather than the previously reported \$2,000-4,000 expense.

Trustee Zimmerman inquired about the monthly and quarterly GFL invoices. Clerk Gifford stated the Township Hall GFL service is monthly; the quarterly invoice is for the Boat Launch.

Supervisor Street inquired about the 9/16/23 expense of \$614.85 for the Traverse City Record Eagle. Clerk Gifford stated it was for the Amended Marihuana publication.

Trustee Zimmerman inquired about the postage expense to H&R Block. Clerk Gifford stated it is for postage to mail statements of those bills not paid online. Additionally, Zoning Administrator Bob Hall asked for his check statements to be mailed to him.

Trustee Zimmerman inquired about the fee entitled State Bad Driver. The Board recognized Ms. Lisa Leedy, who noted it may be a driver's license subscription reporting when a Township employee receives a citation or if a license is suspended/revoked. Clerk Gifford will look into this.

Amendments to 8/24/23 Regular Meeting Minutes:

Page 2: - Last item under Correspondence referring to the citizen offer of a \$1,200 memorial donation", it read: "A letter was *received with* a \$1,200 donation...." This should be corrected to read: "A letter was received *offering* a \$1,200 donation..."

Page 4: Under Civic Center South Report. The correct bank balance should be reported at "\$27,161.35", not "\$12,244," as initially provided.

Page 6: Under "Road Name off Hodge Road," 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. Remove last sentence entirely that read "She has also recently received a copy of a survey conducted by Mitchell & Associates."

Page 9: Under Citizen Comment, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph under Ms. Mary Ellen Dille's comment, sentence #2: the word "a" is missing between the words "from" and "Planning." It should read: ".....letter from a Planning Commissioner...."

**Board Action:**

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

VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

Clerk Gifford distributed Time Sheets to the Board for review.

**Board Action:**

Ms. Gibson made a motion to approve Time Sheets as presented. Ms. Gifford seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**CITIZEN COMMENT:**

Mr. John Strobridge, 508 East State Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Mr. Strobridge stated he has been a member of the Weed Treatment Committee that was established in perpetuity 17 years ago. He was involved in both lake treatments this past season, and the Milfoil is under control thanks to the follow-up treatment of July 27. He continued that Savin should be complimented on their performance given the funding challenges of the Assessment District. Savin absorbed the cost of the secondary treatment when there was no money in the fund, demonstrating a commitment to this community and the 10-year contract they signed with the Township in 2022. The

invitation by Supervisor Street to a different lake treatment company for a weed survey was against the Weed Committee recommendations. Milfoil challenges will not be known until next spring.

Mr. Fred Joles, 11728 East State Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Mr. Joles thanked Supervisor Street for her service to the Township. He proceeded to name her "accomplishments" of placement of posted entrances to designated lake accesses, the unenforced wash station at the Village access beach area that nobody uses, and renaming of Keffer Road. He addressed the spending of thousands of lake access dollars by local citizens because they happen to live within the Special Assessment District just because she could. Aware of PA 188 of 1954's amendment stating there should not be more than a 5% balance of the original levy, he noted he had asked about this multiple times, and if she could tell him the amount of weeds there would be next Spring, he would live with the amount. Unable to do so, that's why there was a greater than 5% balance. She got a Police Millage passed -- to what result? He closed, saying she has succeeded in providing Fife Lake Township with her best effort thus far by tendering her resignation.

Mr. Stan Patrick, 11752 East State Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Mr. Patrick expressed thanks to Supervisor Street for her work on the Township Board and wished her the very best in her future.

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

Ms. Dilley stated the community is losing an asset. Supervisor Street has always done her best to benefit Township residents. She thanked her for her service and regrets she must end her job due to unnecessary stresses and attitudes surrounding her. She has many supporters and friends sad to see this happen. She brought fairness that was needed and should not have ended in this resignation. Her contributions will be missed.

**GUESTS:** None.

**REPORTS:**

**County Commissioner, Mr. Darryl Nelson:**

Commissioner Nelson report Grand Traverse County

The Grand Traverse Pavilions has a deficit of \$4.7m to the County. The County is covering payroll. Money has been approved by the Federal government. The County is looking at long-term viability of GT Pavilions, not selling or closing it. He was appointed to a team to determine a plan for future viability of this community asset. The Commission is in the process of strategic planning. There are five new Board Members this year.

Commissioner Nelson stated it had been a pleasure to work with Supervisor Street and wished her well. He addressed others in the room, stating standing up for public service takes guts. He believes Fife Lake is a great community due to people like her and the rest of the people in the room who make it work. He also extended thanks to anyone in this community who make it thrive.

**Sheriff Department - Grand Traverse County Deputy Whetstone, Fife Lake Township Community Police Officer (CPO):**

Deputy Whetstone reported he has been conducting traffic enforcement in the Village and Township with numerous traffic stops and directed saturation patrols.

A residential Narcotics search warrant was executed by TNT, Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office Investigative Services Division and himself, the Fife Lake Community Police Officer. The following were seized: 30.5 grams of Methamphetamine, 16.3 grams of Fentanyl, 11.1 grams of Cocaine/Crack, 2 grams of LSD, 5.1 grams of Psilocybin Mushrooms and an outstanding Colt AR-15. This residence was being surveilled by him and multiple entities, with the support of the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office including a Captain.

A Felony Warrant arrest was executed in Walton Junction. He conducted a joint Traffic Enforcement Detail in conjunction with the Michigan State Police resulting in a statewide misdemeanor arrest.

He encouraged members of the public to contact him about suspicious activity. He also asked part-time residents to reach out to him for off-season property checks and for residents to check on their elderly residents who do not leave for the season.

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

**Ms. Nicole Gibson:**

Ms. Gibson reported there was no quorum last month as there was no meeting. A report from EMS Director, Mr. Mike Berendsohn stated there were 11 calls for service in Fife Lake and 14 calls for service in Springfield Township. The old ambulance was sold for \$45k. They are waiting on radios for the new 40 Alpha 6 that has been delivered. The new Zoll monitor has been delivered. All trucks are ALS equipped. ACLS and PALS refresher courses were held September 21. A neonatal program was started, offering specialists for neonatal babies.

Supervisor Street inquired about her previous alternate member request. Ms. Gibson stated the EMS Board comprises Fife Lake Township and Springfield Township Board Members or Residents (two from each). With only four members on the Board, sometimes there isn't a quorum. They are seeking an alternate member from each, Fife Lake Township and Springfield Township, to serve on the Board. Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at the Fife Lake Township Hall at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Street asked for a copy of the By-Laws.

**Chief Scott Tinker:**

Absent. No report.

**Fife Lake Village – Village President Mr. Tom Hempsted:**

Absent – No Report.

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

Clerk Gifford reported the FLAUA meeting was held 8/16/23. There is a duck and geese problem on the property. The last hay cutting has taken place. Compliance Officer Ravary has two part-time employees who have been very productive. The Board will be conducting a rate review study; there has been no rate increase in six years. It is anticipated there will be a rate increase. Preliminary information will be distributed to system users in the monthly bills.

**Zoning Administrator – Mr. Robert Hall:**

Absent. Zoning Administrator Hall had submitted his report for the meeting packet.

See attached document list.

Supervisor Street reported Zoning Administrator Hall has notified the Township he will be discontinuing his services effective October 30, 2023. He is willing to assist on a fee-based, as-needed basis through November 30, 2023.

Ms. Street stated that since he is not currently under contract, the Township pay him for actual hours worked versus the regular monthly invoiced amount.

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

Ms. Zimmerman reported the Planning Commission met on September 12, 2023.

The By-Laws were adopted with changes. They approved a Checklist for Site Plan Review/Land for Special Use Applications for Agenda requests. The Conditional Zoning Map change request in the Village is on hold until more monies are deposited in the escrow account. Subsequently the Public Hearing scheduled for that matter was cancelled.

Master Plan edits were sent to Williams & Works; revisions should be returned in approximately three weeks. The Board adopted the FLAPC Calendar.

On September 11, 2023, the Zoning Administrator identified in a letter to the Commissioners an application for a Special Land Use Permit. The Commission provided him with the process checklist mentioned above for him to advise the applicant how to move his application forward.

The Board worked on Existing and Future Zoning Maps. Four or five Planners will be attending a Citizen Planner training program beginning October 4, for six consecutive Wednesdays at East Bay Township.

Ms. Street asked about the cost for the training. Ms. Zimmerman believes it is approximately \$200 per person and that the PAR Plan absorbs some of that expense.

The FLAPC next Regular Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall.

**Civic Center South – Ms. Gerianne Street:**

Ms. Street reported the Board met on September 14, 2023. They are winterizing the water for the restrooms and concessions. Last year there were some issues with freezing; they will ensure it is done correctly to avoid any additional expenses.

Ms. Pam Frank spoke about the pickleball court restoration. Ms. Nancy Gasiewicz is willing to write a grant for the pickleball courts. She is also working on a grant for the Fife Lake pickleball courts. She is donating her time to do so. There is property coming up for sale adjacent to Civic Center South. Chair Jetter will be gathering information on it; there are no plans to purchase the property.

Tree Removal and the Service Drive were both tabled. Split rail fencing will be installed to control parking. There is no word on the grant yet.

Ms. Stephanie Bugai will be holding a "How to Show Your Dog" program on October 7 and 8.

**Cemetery Report:**

In Treasurer Sorrow's absence, Supervisor Street indicated the Cemetery Report is in the meeting packet. She noted it is a partial report due to copying errors.

There are three benches (one at Walton Cemetery and two at Fife Lake Cemetery) that need to be repaired at an anticipated cost of \$200. Trustee Zimmerman suggested remnants of the 4x4 survey posts that were cut might be used for repair of the benches. Trustee Gibson will check with Mr. Roger Gibson who contracted the job whether those remnants are available.

Ms. Zimmerman inquired whether the cemetery cleanup was for compost or cemetery décor. She may have a source to take the compost. Ms. Street will call the Sexton to find out whether or not there is compost material from the cemeteries.

**Board Action;**

**Township Deputy Supervisor Berthiaume, Boat Wash Station Report:**

Mr. Berthiaume reported he and Village President Tom Hempsted installed the Boat Wash Station signage. They also painted the asphalt with stenciled information. He also installed a "No Parking" sign as well as the free DNR signage. He distributed pictures and expenditures to the Board.

The estimated cost was \$850.56. The actual expense was \$699.04. The Township's portion is \$279.62.

He presented the same report to Fife Lake Village and Springfield Township indicating their costs of \$279.62 and \$139.81, respectively. The reciprocating municipalities had agreed to cost sharing on this project. He asked Clerk Gifford to invoice the Village and Springfield Township.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Audit Letter:**

Supervisor Street directed the Board to the letter from the Township's Auditor in the meeting packet. It is an informational letter advising about the upcoming audit, which is scheduled to begin September 18, 2023.

**Alternate Member for FLAUA:**

Supervisor Street stated she will also be resigning from the Fife Lake Area Utility Authority (FLAUA) Board. She stated Ms. Pam Lawrence is willing to step into this vacancy; her application was in the meeting packet.

Clerk Gifford noted that Supervisor Street needs to submit a letter of resignation to the FLAUA Board.

Trustee Zimmerman stated the Township Board needs to follow procedure and post for the FLAUA Board opening; this opening is not appointed by the Supervisor.

Clerk Gifford will post for two vacancies; the Fife Lake Area Utility Authority (FLAUA) Board Member and the Fife Lake Emergency Services Authority Alternate Board Member. She will post these openings on the Township website, billboard on the outside of the Township Hall building and on Fife Lake Connections. Trustee Gibson stated Springfield Township will handle posting for an EMS Board Alternate themselves.

**Supervisor Vacancy:**

Supervisor Street inquired how the Township Board is planning to proceed with filling the Supervisor vacancy. The Board has 45 days from the Supervisor's resignation date of September 30, 2023. An interim appointment will need to be made by November 14.

Board Members discussed scheduling a Special Meeting to review the process for hiring an Interim Supervisor; i.e., process for posting, publication and the interview/selection process. MTA guidelines for the process were also discussed. Applications will be forwarded to all current Board Members.

Clerk Gifford has posted for the Township Supervisor and Zoning Administrator positions.

**Board Action:**

Ms. Zimmerman made a motion to schedule a Special Meeting to discuss the process for appointing an Interim Township Supervisor and hiring a Zoning Administrator for the posted positions. The Special Meeting will be Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Gifford-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Gibson-Y. 3-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Supervisor Street abstained from voting.

**Note: The Board agreed to switch the order of "Mr. Paul Johnson" and the "Election" Agenda items.**

**Mr. Paul Johnson, Walton Junction Sportsman's Club:**

Mr. Paul Johnson introduced himself as President of the Walton Junction Sportsman's Club. It has been in existence since 1967. He previously spoke with Grand Traverse County Commissioner Darryl Nelson who suggested Mr. Johnson speak to the Board at the Township meeting.

He is asking for the Township's municipal support for the Sportsman's Club application for 2% Tribe money to help bring their facilities back up. Mr. Johnson explained that prior to the pandemic, the Sportsman's Club held fundraising events, raised fish, taught hunter safety, held monthly breakfasts and had a strong membership. As a result of the two-year Covid shutdown, they lost members and the ability to operate and conduct fundraisers while continuing to pay normal expenses. They had \$12k on hand and had to spend \$8k on a badly needed roof. The facility needs new furnaces at an expense of \$10k for equipment; labor will be donated. Labor will also be donated to repair the well. They would like to bring back their programs and services. There is no hunter safety program in Grand Traverse, Wexford, Manistee, Benzie, Leelanau or Antrim Counties. Pre-Covid the Club had 200 members; currently there are 97 members. They cannot afford the improvements based on membership dues alone.

The Club needs the signature from a Township Board member in order to submit their \$10k request to the Tribe. He is meeting with someone October 11 to help write the grant, which is due to the County by October 30.

His contact information is:

Paul Johnson

231.463.9407 cell

Email: Waltonjunctionsportsmanclub.org

**Board Summary:**

Ms. Street made a motion that Fife Lake Township be the supporting municipality for the Walton Junction Sportsman's Club 2% grant application to the Tribe. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**Election:**

**Resolution:**

Clerk Gifford directed the Board to the proposed Resolution in the packet on early voting nine days before elections. There are three of these elections next year. Many Townships are partnering with another Township, which helps in reducing labor costs. An additional tabulator would be needed. The Clerk explained that anyone in Fife Lake Township could vote in Paradise Township nine days prior to the election; they may also request Absentee Voter ballots. The Fife Lake Township office will be open for voting on Election Day and the Saturday prior.

The sample Resolution in the packet was a Paradise Township titled document. The Clerk will determine the correct document for the Board's approval. This topic will be tabled to the October meeting.

Clerk Gifford referred the Board to the Model Agreement for Election Services also in the packet for informational purposes. It will serve as an agreement between Paradise and Fife Lake Townships.

The Township will also need to authorize the purchase of an additional Tabulator.

**Election Workers:**

Clerk Gifford distributed a list of Election Inspectors for the November 7, 2023, Special Election for approval. There were corrections noted. Ms. Gifford doesn't believe all of the workers will be needed. An AV Board will not be used for this election.

**Board Action:**

Ms. Street made a motion to approve the submitted list of Election Workers for the November 7, 2023, Special Election, with noted corrections. Ms. Zimmerman seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

Early Voting – this item was discussed above with the Resolution item.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Hunting on Township Land:**

Supervisor Street was approached by someone to hunt on Township land in the back of the cemetery property. After speaking with the MTA and the Township Attorney, they advised that no hunting be allowed due to liability. "No Hunting" signs need to be placed on the property.

Trustee Zimmerman will ask Deputy Whetstone to accompany her on a site visit to the Township-owned property on M-113 regarding a tree stand there to look for any identification on the stand. It will need to be removed.

Supervisor Street and Deputy Supervisor Berthiaume will purchase and place the "No Hunting" signs on the property.

**Zoning Administrator:**

Board Members referred to Zoning Administrator Hall's correspondence indicating his discontinuation of services. They discussed compensation for his remaining office days; Mr. Hall indicated he will be out of the country October 6-17, which includes two of the five remaining Monday office days.

**Board Action:**

Ms. Zimmerman made a motion that for the month of October, the Zoning Administrator's wage be prorated as he will be out of the country for two of the five remaining Mondays. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

Clerk Gifford will instruct H&R Block's Emily Escajeda to prorate payment based on actual days worked through October 30.

**Fire Barn Garage Doors:**

No information has been received yet from Chief Tinker for the Fire Barn garage doors. Clerk Gifford will follow-up with Chief Tinker on his list of specific repair needs for these doors. This item will be addressed at the October meeting.

**Milfoil Contract:**

Supervisor Street stated Mr. Savin of Savin Lake Services would like to speak with her. She will communicate with him via email for documentation purposes. Deputy Supervisor Berthiaume toured the lake with a different lake treatment service to survey the status of the lake and Milfoil. He will provide a report to the Board. Three additional individuals were invited to attend; however, could not make it.

The Township Attorney previously informed the Township that the contract is “ambiguous” and that a judge would likely request the parties resolve it themselves. The current contract states either party can cancel in December, by January 1. Savin had asked for an additional \$27k for the first treatment and an additional \$7k for the second treatment this past summer. There was Board discussion last month on this topic, fees and whether to consider another provider. This item was tabled to next month’s Agenda.

**Logging on Township Property (M-113):**

Supervisor Street has contacted two foresters; however, has not heard back yet from either. She has heard from loggers who would like to submit bids. One company dropped off brochures.

This item was tabled to next month’s Agenda.

**Behind Hall Cleanup (Closed Bids):**

Clerk Gifford presented the Sealed Bids received for Behind the Township Hall Cleanup, restating how and when Closed Bids should properly be opened.

There was discussion and disagreement between Supervisor Street and Clerk Gifford regarding a former situation in how sealed bids were handled and when they were opened. Supervisor Street stated Clerk Gifford instructed her Recording Secretary to gather them, who gave them to Deputy Supervisor Berthiaume. Therefore, they never entered into an elected official’s hands. Ms. Gifford stated they are to be opened publicly, at the meeting, at the point in time where they are on the Agenda. They are not to be opened in an office.

Deputy Supervisor Jeff Berthiaume then approached the Board conference table with raised voice and aggressively interjected into the conversation, stating this has already been discussed and they have gone over and over it. It was his turn to talk. He had apologized for what happened and it’s beating a dead horse now. Clerk Gifford disagreed and said this was the first time they have talked about it. He was called Out of Order by Trustee Zimmerman. Supervisor Street motioned to Mr. Berthiaume to stop and quiet down. Mr. Berthiaume stated making the copies makes the proceedings go by faster. Ms. Street stated he understands now that is not the process. The situation was contentious.

Clerk Gifford referenced and distributed the Township’s Policy on opening Sealed Bids. Ms. Street and Ms. Gifford continued disagreeing, reiterating their version of events.

Clerk Gifford opened each sealed bid and read them aloud:

**Bid #1:**

From Mr. Roger Gibson. His Certificate of Liability Insurance was included in the bid, dated 7/21/23. The cost will be capped at \$2,600. He stated the area behind the Township Hall and Fire/EMS building has trees growing and affecting the building foundation. Trees are over hanging the roof. He will remove all trees (possibly 100, of all sizes and descriptions). He will also pull out and remove stumps, and level the ground with materials on-site.

**Bid #2:**

From Mr. Roger Gibson. The same bid was submitted; however, now dated 9/19/23.

Deputy Supervisor Berthiaume was asked to make copies of the bid(s) for individual Board Members to review. Contentious comments continued from Mr. Berthiaume. He will make copies so the Board Members can read it for themselves rather than Clerk Gifford reading them aloud. Ms. Street and Ms. Gifford continued disagreement about the previous bids being opened before the meeting.

There was additional discussion and disagreement about how the sealed bid process was followed in June for the roofing project, but not in July for the cemetery expansion project.

Trustee Gibson recused herself from this discussion and vote to avoid any conflict of interest.

Supervisor Street stated there is still a core log that we have available that could maybe be put in there to help. The Board discussed the need for erosion control, which is not a part of Mr. Gibson’s bid.

**Board Action:**

Ms. Street made a motion to accept Mr. Roger Gibson’s bid for a maximum of \$2,600 to cut trees and remove stumps at the back of the Fire Barn and Township Hall. Ms. Gifford seconded the motion.



**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Zimmerman-Y, Street-Y, Gifford-Y. 3-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Trustee Gibson abstained from the vote.

**Sexton Contract:**

Supervisor Street distributed a proof of the revisions to the Sexton's contract that were discussed at last month's meeting. There was Board discussion whether the Sexton is considered an employee or a contractor. They agreed this is an At-Will Employment Agreement, not a Contract. There were several additional changes/corrections.

**Board Action:**

Ms. Street made a motion to accept the FLT Cemetery Sexton At-Will Employment Agreement with the discussed changes. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Zimmerman-Y, Street-Y, Gifford-N, Gibson-Y. 3-Yes, 1-No. Motion carried.

Supervisor Street will make the additional changes and forward a digital copy to Clerk Gifford for execution.

**Memorial Donation Ideas:**

This subject was previously discussed, with a resident offering a \$1,200 memorial donation on behalf of a family member who had passed away. The donor asked that it be used for something that will benefit the community.

Supervisor Street referenced an existing round cement slab with a rectangle tabletop at the boat launch. She suggested putting the table at Lot 82 and purchasing a round table for the boat launch.

Trustee Zimmerman suggested a handicap accessible table that is maintenance-free. Ms. Street believes it would be approximately \$1,200 and warrantied for life. Ms. Zimmerman noted that Lot 82 is often wet and may not be accessible-friendly. Additionally, Lot 82 is deeded access to a resident. She would prefer to focus on something lakeside and downtown.

There was discussion if something is placed on Village property, that permission be sought from the Village.

This item was tabled to the October meeting pending additional information.

**Roundabout Light Poles:**

This topic was previously discussed and no additional light to be held in inventory will be purchased at this time.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Clerk Gifford noted to the Board that with two of the Township offices becoming vacant, they are in need of a deep cleaning and detail, including windows. The current Cleaner for the Township Hall has quoted \$50 per office, at a total of \$150.

**Board Action:**

Ms. Zimmerman made a motion to contract Ms. Anna DeBello to provide a deep clean to each of the three offices in the Township Hall at a cost of \$50 for each office, totaling \$150. Ms. Gifford seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**Fish Habitat:**

Supervisor Street stated the Township is on the DNR website list for the Fish Habitat Grant. Pre-approval deadline is October 30, 2023. Ms. Street is familiar with the document and volunteered to write the grant application.

There was Board discussion. Island residents Sinkle and McConkie have agreed to allow some of their property to be used for a fish habitat. Clerk Gifford would like written permission.

Trustee Zimmerman referred to a previous Special Meeting about the prospective fish habitat. Subsequently, there was a lot of social media discussion regarding many things that happen at the Township level that part-time lakefront property owners may not be aware of. Absentee lakeside owners need and want to be informed. She suggested a Committee might be formed and a lake management report be provided with current information.

Supervisor Street stated there were approximately a dozen lake, Railroad and DNR professionals present evaluating this idea. Ms. Gibson would like a Lake Committee. Ms. Street stated 21k walleye fry are put in the lake annually with no habitat for them to survive due to many seawalls. Much groundwork has been done, permissions have been granted from MDOT, the DNR, the Railroad, and island owners, and many lakefront property owners were in support of it.

**Board Action:**

Ms. Gibson made a motion to authorize Supervisor Street to write a grant for a Fish Habitat. Ms. Street seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Zimmerman-N, Street-Y, Gifford-N, Gibson-Y. 2-Yes, 2-No. Motion failed.

**Supervisor:**

There was Board discussion about the Supervisor's exit and related procedures.

Trustee Zimmerman referenced the following items to be returned and provided to the Township:

All keys, fobs, passwords, Supervisor email login information and voicemail access code, laptops/computers, and any other Township property or access codes.

She inquired about the Fife Lake Connections site, a private group site where Township postings are made, where Ms. Street is the administrator of the site. Ms. Street stated she may need to shut it down and will work with the Township's IT person. All access information should also be provided to him.

Ms. Zimmerman stated some personal cell phones have access to the camera feed of the Township Hall. That access needs to be removed from hers or Mr. Berthiaume's phones. Ms. Street stated they do not have this access via personal cell phone.

Ms. Street is willing to help the new Supervisor.

Ms. Gifford inquired who has keys. Ms. Street stated she has hers and Amanda Scott's former key; Jeff Berthiaume and Sexton Plamondon each have keys.

Per Supervisor Street's resignation letter, the effective date and time of her resignation are Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

The Zoning Administrator's last date of service is Monday, October 30, 2023.

Clerk Gifford will meet with Supervisor Street on 9/30/23 at 4:00 p.m. to facilitate the Supervisor's exit and relinquishment of Township property and pass codes. Any like items of the Deputy Supervisor are also expected at that time.

**CITIZEN COMMENT:**

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

Ms. Dilley acknowledged and thanked Deputy Supervisor Jeff Berthiaume for his contributions to the Township and the many hours he has put in on multiple projects.

Mr. Marv Radtke, 3855 Mason Road, Grawn, MI 49637:

Mr. Radtke relayed good wishes to Supervisor Street from East Bay Township Supervisor Beth Friend, who could not be at tonight's meeting in person.

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

Regarding the Fish Habitat Grant, Ms. Leedy suggested the possibility of conducting a survey of lakefront property owners to solicit their feedback.

She offered her congratulations and thanks to the Sheriff's Department for their work on the drug bust.

She was pleased to hear about the neonatal unit with EMS and relayed a story where Mr. and Mrs. Gibson responded to her home in frigid winter weather where a child in her care had stopped breathing. That child is now 16 years old. She expressed thanks to them again.

Mr. Dave McGough, 514 Bates, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Mr. McGough stated anyone who has attended these meetings has known since Supervisor Street was sworn in that this night was coming. He applauded her for continuing to do the job, despite grief from Board Members and some audience members. He believes the right thing to do is for one of the four remaining qualified Board Members to step up in the interim then hold an election, allowing the public to vote next year. He believes some people already know who is going to be appointed.

During his last two years in office as Fife Lake Village President, he appreciated working with the Supervisor. He respects her decision. She should walk out with her head held high. He also wished her a return to health.

Supervisor Street thanked everyone for coming. Even though everyone has not always agreed on things, conflict is good as long as it is handled like adults. If everyone thought the same, it would be a very boring world.

**OUTSTANDING TASK LIST:**

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

Trustee Zimmerman referenced an article from Township Focus regarding Election task timelines. She also read an article on the records retention.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Board Action:**

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

VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

**Submitted by: Kay Z. Held, Recording Secretary**