

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, July 27, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Clerk Gifford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Gifford announced to a gathering of the public exceeding 150 people that this is the Township’s Regular Meeting; however, Board Members here learned 24 hours ago of one of the Agenda items which has resulted in a great deal of the public interest. The 47-person capacity of the meeting room will not accommodate a group of this size. The meeting will be opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Agenda approval. The Board will then recess the proceedings in order to move into the adjacent Fire Barn.

Many thanks to Chief Tinker and the Fire Department for making the Fire Barn available on such short notice.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Action:

In the absence of Supervisor Street, Ms. Zimmerman made a motion for Clerk Leigh Gifford to chair this evening’s Board meeting. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Clerk Gifford called Roll.

Present:

Clerk Leigh Gifford, Treasurer Cathy Sorrow and Trustees Dawn Zimmerman and Nicole Gibson. A quorum was established.

Absent:

Supervisor Gerianne Street.

Also Present:

- Fife Lake Township Deputy Supervisor, Mr. Jeff Berthiaume
- Fife Lake Village President, Mr. Tom Hempsted
- Fife Lake Chamber of Commerce President, Ms. Debbie McCool
- Fife Lake Chamber Vice President and DDA Representative, Mr. Stan Patrick
- Fife Chief, Mr. Scott Tinker
- Recording Secretary, Ms. Kay Held

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Amendments to Agenda:

Correct time of the meeting in the heading from “6:30 p.m.” to “6:00 p.m.”

Move from New Business to Other Business:

Exodus Place – Robb Munger

Move to New Business from Old Business:

- Road End Access Posts
- Boat Wash Station Software

Add to New Business:
Naming of Keffer Road
Lake Committee Boat Wash Signs

Board Action:

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Fire Chief Scott Tinker made announcements to the public regarding the recess to the Fire Barn. He and his crew are aware of the meeting arrangements and have pulled the trucks outside. In the event of a fire call, he advised people to calmly move to the front of the building for crew to access their gear. He asked people to use caution as there are a few wet spots on the floor from washing the trucks earlier.

Members of the public were asked to take their chairs with them to the Fire Barn.

Board Action:

Ms. Zimmerman made a motion to recess the meeting at this time and relocate to the Fire Barn in order to accommodate the large capacity crowd. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.

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

NOTE: The meeting recessed at 6:11 p.m. to relocate to the adjoining Fife Lake Township Fire Barn.

Clerk Gifford reiterated to the public the procedure for this evening's meeting and that the Board will be conducting their regular Township business, followed by Mr. Robb Munger's statements. She asked that those making remarks about this topic during Public Comment please hold their comments until the second Public Comment section immediately following Mr. Munger on the Agenda.

Clerk Gifford impressed to the public that if this project advances, proper procedure relating to the proposed Exodus Place project at the former Pugsley Correctional Facility will be followed. The Fife Lake Area Planning Commission would receive and review a complete application packet, and there would be Public Hearings and other informational meetings to inform and accommodate the public.

Board Action:

Ms. Gibson made a motion to reconvene the Fife Lake Township Regular Meeting. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

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

NOTE: The meeting reconvened at 6:19 p.m. in the Fire Lake Township Fire Barn.

Clerk Gifford repeated the revised order of the Agenda to members of the public who may not have heard it in the meeting room.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Trustee Gibson recused herself from the following New Business items:

- Back of Building Clean Up
- Road End Access Posts

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Trustee Gibson read the purpose of the Consent Calendar to include: Fife Lake Township Regular Minutes of June 22, 2023, Fife Lake Township Special Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2023, Fife Lake Township Special Minutes of July 13, 2023, Financial Report, Transfers and Bills to be Paid.

Board Action:

Ms. Gibson made a motion to pull Bills to be Paid. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

An invoice from the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office for 4th of July coverage in the amount of \$1,680 was added to the Bills to be Paid.

Trustee Zimmerman referenced the Ask Clerk report and payment to Levi Ankerson for the roofing project. No invoice has been received yet and is required before payment can be approved.

Trustee Zimmerman referred to a recent policy that was implemented that non-recurring expenses/contracted services are not to be approved until after completion of the work. Hamberg Fence Co, Helsel's Tree Service and Savin Lake expenses should be listed in the "Bills Received – To Approve" portion of the Accounts Payable Report.

Mr. Fred Joles referenced his previous comment asking if the Milfoil monies are included in the report. Clerk Gifford stated she spoke with H&R Block's Emily Escajeda and because it's currently at a zero it does not show up on the report, but is accounted for. He would like to know if the line item for Milfoil is in the newly adopted Township budget. Ms. Gifford replied Supervisor Street is not here this evening with that information. She believes it is all in order.

Clerk Gifford distributed Time Sheets to the Board for review.

Board Action:

Ms. Sorrow made a motion to approve Time Sheets. Ms. Zimmerman seconded the motion

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Sorrow-Y, Gifford-Y, Zimmerman-Y, Gibson-Y. Motion carried.

Amendments to 6/22/23 Regular Meeting Minutes:

None.

Amendments to 6/27/23 Special Meeting Minutes:

None.

Amendments to 7/13/23 Special Meeting Minutes:

None.

Board Action:

Ms. Gibson made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, minus the Bills to be Paid. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk Gifford reported several items of Correspondence have been received pertaining to Exodus Place/Mr. Robb Munger . They will be attached with the approved Minutes.

Correspondence related to Milfoil was also received and will go to the Supervisor.

Please see attached Correspondence.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Clerk Gifford again asked that due to the high turnout of tonight's meeting pertaining to the Exodus Place discussion by Mr. Robb Munger, that comments related to that matter be presented at the second Public Comment, after Mr. Munger speaks.

Ms. Sue Sensenbaugh-Padgett, 8995 Oak Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Ms. Sensenbaugh-Padgett expressed her concern with the continuing problems at Walton Junction including drug issues. The Township has paid over \$10k and has a lien on one property; however, the owner continues to bring more junk onto the property. There's an additional trailer there, a tent that has been there for two months where a gentlemen had a fatal overdose, an old double wide trailer that has been brought onto the property with no Land Use permit, and at least two homes that have extreme amounts of junk, trailers, boats, etc. One trailer that was removed has been returned to the property. She is concerned the Township is behind in taking care of these issues.

GUESTS: None.

REPORTS:

County Commissioner, Mr. Darryl Nelson:

Absent – No Report.

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

Fife Lake Township's new Community Police Officer (CPO) Deputy Christopher "Chris" Whetstone introduced himself to the public and provided a report of activity over the past month.

Deputy Whetstone reported he has spent time at the Walton Junction site, and there have been arrests of multiple individuals there who have fled from other police departments. He has spent time downtown Fife Lake meeting people. He looks forward to meeting the residents, is glad to be here, and emphasized his door is always open. His cell phone number is listed on his office door for anyone who may wish to contact him.

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

Ms. Nicole Gibson:

Ms. Gibson stated she received an EMS report from Kalkaska Emergency Services Director Mr. Mike Berendsohn:

There were seven calls for service in Springfield Township and 26 calls for service in Fife Lake Township.

They received an appraisal of the old ambulance when the Township still owned it and are in the process of seeking interested buyers. A new truck is coming into service, scheduled for August delivery.

The Critical Care Paramedic Program planned in Petoskey was cancelled due to lack of interested candidates. They would like to pursue this again as there is a great need.

They would like to purchase blood/IV warmers for the ambulances. They have purchased a cardiac monitor.

ACLS and PALS refreshers were held July 18.

An itemized call list is available on request.

Ms. Gibson expressed her personal thanks to the EMS staff and management. She continues to hear amazing things about them.

Chief Scott Tinker:

Chief Tinker delivered his report:

For the month of June there were 16 runs, many of which were wild land fires. Forty-eight hours of service were dedicated just on wild land fires which have grown worse each year. Consequently, they continue to focus on the wild land truck, gear and PPE for staff.

There were multiple MVA calls and EMS assists as well as one vehicle fire.

They applied to a \$189k FEMA Grant and are in the final stages of the process. Chief Tinker has high confidence it will be awarded and has preliminarily signed an agreement to abide by the rules of the grant. This is for new Air Packs.

They also applied for a \$30k grant with the Firefighters Michigan Grant Program for PPE, helmets, coats, and power systems (personal identification system).

Chief Tinker announced Springfield Township Parks & Recreation is holding their annual First Responder Pig Roast for Fife Lake-Springfield Fire Department. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to the Fire Authority for duty uniforms, t-shirts, etc. It will be held this Saturday, July 29, from Noon-6 p.m.

Trustee Gibson reported that the EMS Authority Board is in need of alternates for the Board. It is currently comprised of four people between two townships, and a quorum is not always able to be established. She is asking both Springfield and

Fife Lake Townships to provide an individual from its Board or a Village or Township member who can serve as an alternate Member.

Fife Lake Village – Village President Mr. Tom Hempsted:

President Hempsted reported the alley behind the post office is getting asphalt. They have bids and hope to make a decision next week. The project is expected to be completed within 30 days.

Regarding the mulch the Village placed at the roundabout, it took 33 cubic yards which is twice as much as anticipated. He is asking the Township to contribute half of the total cost which was \$1,294.92. The Village would typically present this request in advance, but it needed to be placed before the 4th of July holiday.

He thanked Marilyn and Jim Hayes who volunteered to weed the site and the DPW for spreading that amount of mulch.

Clerk Gifford noted the Township Board had discussed the mulch at the roundabout last month.

Board Action:

Ms. Gifford made a motion for Fife Lake Township to contribute half the cost of the mulch at the roundabout in the amount of \$647.46. Ms. Zimmerman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Clerk Gifford requested an invoice from Village President Hempsted.

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

Clerk Gifford was absent at the FLAUA meeting; it was attended by FLAUA Board Member and Fife Lake Township Supervisor Gerianne Street who is absent at this evening's Township Meeting to deliver a report. Clerk Gifford noted that Recording Secretary Kay Held is not an FLAUA Board Member, but asked for a recap of information from the July 19 meeting based on her attendance as their Recording Secretary.

Ms. Held stated FLAUA Treasurer Thayer distributed and discussed the bi-annual Modified P&L Report as the USDA loan information does not reflect in the regular monthly P&L Statements. Therefore, she provides this modified report to account for this information. Budget data continues to be closely monitored.

Zoning Administrator – Mr. Robert Hall:

Absent. Zoning Administrator Hall had submitted his report for the meeting packet. His report primarily referenced the proposed project at the former Pugsley Correctional Facility.

See Attached Report with Approved Minutes.

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

Ms. Zimmerman reported the Planning Commission met on July 11, 2023; all Planners were present. The Board approved the RRGF grant submission by Resolution regarding a \$35k grant application with funds to go towards revamping the Zoning Ordinances. Consequently, the FLAPC is requesting support from both Fife Lake Township and Fife Lake Village for the grant match. Fife Lake Village approved this support; a proposed Resolution for Fife Lake Township consideration is on this evening's Agenda.

The By-Law Committee reported their proposed changes. Revisions will be reviewed at the next meeting prior to Board adoption.

Master Plan updates will be forwarded to Secretary Leedy to send on to Williams and Works, the professional planning firm with whom FLAPC has been working.

The Board reviewed existing and future maps to be included in Master Plan.

Their next meeting will be Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fife Lake Township Hall.

Clerk Gifford stated Kalkaska has sent Fife Lake Township notification they are working on their Master Plan at this time.

Civic Center South – Ms. Gerianne Street:

Absent. A report was enclosed in the Meeting Packet. The report covered activities being offered and noted that reconstruction of the asphalt trail was completed by Elmer's. The \$1m SPARK grant application has been submitted; awards are expected in September.

See Attached Report with Approved Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Back of Building Clean-up:

Trustee Gibson recused herself from this Agenda item.

There are numerous trees and debris that need to be cleared out and removed from behind the Township Hall and EMS/Fire Barn. Branches hanging over the roof are problematic to the new Fire Barn roof. Underground roots may also impact the building's foundation.

Because the cost for this project is anticipated to be more than \$2k, per our Purchase Policy, the formal bid process needs to apply. One unsolicited bid was submitted. However, the bid process will start with the posting of a Request for Bid posted on all required physical locations and electronic sites.

Board Action:

Ms. Zimmerman made a motion to put out a Request for Bid for the cleanup of the back of the Township Hall/Fire EMS building. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Ms. Gibson abstained from the vote.

Road Name off Hodge Road:

An application to name a private drive on a new home construction project has been received from Mr. Bill Stone. He needs an address for 911 and utilities before he can begin construction. Clerk Gifford explained this information is in the packet. Due to the subsequent issues with the recent naming of another road in the Township, the Township needs to do all aspects of due diligence on the matter before approving the naming of this road.

Mr. Stone would like to name the road "Kayden Drive." It is reported there are four or five other parcels on this easement. In addition to reviewing the application, the Board will conduct a site visit, require confirmation from the other residents that they agree with the road name, and other factors.

There was Board consensus that no action will be taken at this time in order for proper research to be conducted. This item is tabled to the August meeting.

FLAPC Grant Resolution:

Ms. Zimmerman read aloud the proposed Resolution as requested by Fife Lake Area Planning Commission (FLAPC) for supplemental funding as part of the FLAPC's grant application for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Rural Readiness Grant Program. The intent of the grant is for support and professional expertise in writing a joint zoning ordinance upon completion of the 2023 Master Plan.

The FLAPC is applying for a \$35k grant, requesting \$28k in funding while providing \$7k in matching funds. They are asking for a commitment from Fife Lake Township and the Village of Fife Lake for the \$7k match. The Village of Fife Lake has adopted the Resolution.

Board Action:

Ms. Gifford made a motion to adopt Grant Resolution #2023-07-27-FLAPC as presented by the Fife Lake Area Planning Commission to support their grant application through the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Rural Readiness Grant Program for assistance in writing a joint zoning ordinance. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Sorrow-Y, Gifford-Y, Zimmermman-Y, Gibson-Y. 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Road End Access Posts:

Trustee Gibson recused herself from this Agenda item.

Clerk Gifford reported the survey marker posts at the Township road ends and accesses around the lake (a total of five locations) need to be cut and tapered to 4' in height. Our MRS crew would then paint and stencil information on the posts. Because this project is well under the \$2,000 cost, letting it out for bid is not required.

An estimate was submitted by Mr. Roger Gibson, not to exceed \$300.

Board Action:

Ms. Sorrow motion to accept Mr. Roger Gibson's bid to cut and taper survey marker posts at Township road ends and accesses around the lake; five locations have been identified. Labor and equipment expenses will not exceed \$300. Ms. Zimmerman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Ms. Gibson abstained from the vote.

Boat Wash Signage:

Fife Lake Township Deputy Supervisor Jeff Berthiaume addressed the Board regarding the prospect of adding informational signage to the boat wash station downtown. He reported that he monitored the station for three days over the course of the 4th of July holiday and saw that it is severely underused. He suggested that boaters need to be educated in the use of the boat wash station which is imperative in stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species in Fife Lake.

He provided the Board with photographs of signage approved by the DNR and DEQ which provides information and instructions while offering high visibility. Two of the signs would be at no cost from the Michigan DNR to be placed at each boat station, most likely at the docks.

There are also large stencils available from the DNR to paint on the asphalt entrance to the boat launch station. We can borrow the stencils and would need to purchase the appropriate type of paint for this as well as paint it.

Deputy Supervisor Berthiaume displayed a large 4x4' sign that also informs boaters of wash procedures with visual graphics and explains that it is required by law. The signs are highly visible and informative. He would work with the DNR on the most appropriate placement of the sign. Four inch posts and concrete would also need to be purchased for its installation.

In response to the question whether the other two constituent municipalities would contribute to this expense because they each have lakefront properties, Mr. Berthiaume stated he expects to present this to the Village as well as Springfield Township but needed Fife Lake Township input first. There was Board discussion that the three municipalities shared the initial expense of the boat wash station 40/40/20% (FLT, FLV, Springfield) and recalled that each group understood and agreed there would be some shared annual expenses moving forward. Springfield Township has expressed resistance. The Board believes all three municipalities should share the expense.

Mr. Berthiaume presented the cost estimate he received for the 4x4' sign of \$505.79. He anticipates the posts and concrete to be approximately \$200, plus the purchase of paint for the asphalt stenciling. The two smaller signs are free from the DNR.

Board Action:

Ms. Gibson made a motion that Deputy Supervisor Berthiaume formally approaches the Village of Fife Lake and Springfield Township asking for a shared contribution toward the purchase of informational signage at the boat wash station as presented. They suggest the typical split of expenses at 40% (Fife Lake Township), 40% (Village of Fife Lake) and 20% (Springfield Township) for a total of \$505.79.

Secondly, if Springfield Township denies the request, that Fife Lake Township and the Village of Fife Lake share the expense 50/50. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Boat Wash Station Software:

Fife Lake Township Deputy Supervisor Jeff Berthiaume presented information to the Board regarding the software that is available to track the analytics on the usage of the boat wash station. This option was originally discussed last year when purchasing the boat wash. The annual cost is \$1,200.

There was Board discussion whether or not there is a need for this software.

Mr. Berthiaume informed the Board he has been informed some people are using it to vacuum vehicles, in spite of him putting up temporary signage that was removed. People also park there. The previously approved signage includes verbiage for "no parking."

There was Board consensus not to purchase the software at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Marihuana Zoning Ordinance Amendment:

Clerk Gifford announced the Marihuana Zoning Ordinance Amendment was previously approved at the June 22, 2023, Regular Township meeting.

Amendments included changes to Hours of Operation, authorizing Curbside Service and approving Drive-thru and Walk-up Service with a Special Use Permit.

This Amendment will be published appropriately.

Generator:

Fife Lake Township Deputy Supervisor Berthiaume reported Shoreline Electric will be installing the cement and switches for the new generator next week.

Committees and Committee Forms:

Trustee Zimmerman reported she and Supervisor Street met recently and modified the "Fife Lake Township Committee" form and "Fife Lake Township Application for Board, Commission or Committee" form. These forms comply with the policies previously approved by the Board.

Copies of these were distributed to the Board for review.

Board Action:

Ms. Gibson made a motion to approve the modified "Fife Lake Township Committee" document and "Fife Lake Township Application for Board, Commission or Committee" document as presented. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

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

Cemetery:

Treasurer Sorrow submitted Cemetery Sexton Lisa Plamondon's report. She referenced burial and monument activity. Fence repairs at both cemeteries and tree removal at Fife Lake Cemetery were inspected and acceptable. Burials under the north road were researched and a report submitted.

See Attached Report with Approved Minutes.

Keffer Road:

Trustee Zimmerman read aloud an excerpt dated July 13, 2023, from Mr. James Baker of Grand Traverse County Equalization to Fife Lake Township Supervisor Gerianne Street. In part, Mr. Baker stated "the Township voted to name a shared driveway that now provides seven separate properties sole access to Keffer Road. Five of these addresses were existing and would have required an address change no matter what the shared driveway was named, and two were new address requests. The Township ordinance requires the naming of a shared driveway when there are more than six addresses. The County ordinance states that they may require the naming of a shared driveway when three or more premises share the driveway, or if they see there are plans for development."

Ms. Zimmerman stated this was not the way the information was presented at the June meeting. She, and others, were under the impression that it was for one person/one lane wanting to go off Keffer Road, and that is how it was stated. Subsequently, she made a site visit to visualize the property. She explained Keffer Road has a road that veers off of it with six addresses. There is another area where the new home will be built that requested an address and road name. It

became apparent there are other people involved and more than one person requesting this. Consequently, residents were sent of a Change of Address notification renaming Keffer Road to Freedom Valley Lane.

Ms. Zimmerman and other Board members verbalized they took the information they were presented with at the meeting at face value and consequently made the decision they did, recognizing now it is problematic due to incomplete information.

Clerk Gifford noted an appeal was filed by Keffer Road resident Mr. Randy Adcock to the Grand Traverse County Equalization Department, appealing their determination to rename Keffer Road "Freedom Valley Lane." A hearing on the matter is scheduled. She stated there is Keffer Road, private sector Keffer Road and another area for Freedom Valley Lane. This obviously is a problem. She believes the County Equalization Department needs to do a field investigation on this, particularly to provide clarity for emergency services as well as provide information to current residents and the applicant who requested the new road name.

The Township cannot retract the previously approved motion but plans to make another motion for a letter to be sent to Equalization.

Mr. Adcock provided information to the Board regarding existing residents, stating they need to come to a majority vote on a road name.

Board Action:

Ms. Gibson made a motion that a letter be sent to Grand Traverse County Equalization Department they conduct a field investigation on the Keffer Road/Freedom Valley Lane renaming issue and in order to provide clarity to EMS Fire and Ambulance. Ms. Sorrow seconded the motion.

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

Clerk Gifford will provide a copy of this letter to Mr. Adcock prior to his hearing.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Clerk Gifford announced Mr. Robb Munger of Exodus Place would be providing information to the public. Trustee Gibson reiterated the majority of this Board was unaware of this situation until the news reports this week. There will be no vote held tonight on this matter. If the proposal advances, all of the proper channels and procedures will be followed through the Planning Commission. Additionally, this is for information purposes only, and questions will not be answered during Public Comment. Individuals have three minutes for their comments.

Exodus Place – Mr. Robb Munger:

Mr. Robb Munger of Exodus Place introduced himself to the Board and members of the public in attendance.

Mr. Munger expressed his purpose for the proposed transitional housing project for the former Camp Pugsley Correctional Facility. Exodus Place is a 990 non-profit organization.

He gave a brief personal history as growing up in rural America, being a military officer, his educational background and professional career in real estate and finance. He realized his privilege after assisting someone experiencing joblessness and homelessness. He has since seen the levels of homelessness in the state and the country, and provided statistics. He realized many work hard but don't have the structure to get out of homelessness. He referenced the homeless problem in in Grand Rapids and Traverse City as well as large cities such as San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles and Chicago.

He saw a unique opportunity in Pugsley to eliminate the blight and fences, and to do something special to make an impact to the United States. His focus is rural America. There has been a lot of discussion on social media which is untrue. He needs help and teamwork changing people's lives.

Plans for the property include revamping the building and grounds, and put a structured facility there to change people's lives for the better through transitional housing. Exodus Place in Grand Rapids currently houses 132 men. He introduced a nurse, operations manager and another individual from the facility who all help run it. Exodus Place does not tolerate violence, alcohol or drugs and creates a program to get people out of homelessness. His goal is to cure homelessness. The Pugsley facility has been empty since 2016; if he retrofits and renovates the building and grounds, and if his program fails, the community ends up with a property that is cleaned up for redevelopment or sale.

Mr. Munger invited and encouraged the public to visit the Grand Rapids facility for a tour, particularly those who are resistant to the idea. He would like to dispel rumors and misinformation. He has not yet purchased the property but would follow all the necessary procedures. He provided his contact information.

Mr. Munger was thanked by the Board for his information.

Clerk Gifford stated no application has been received and noted the next phases of the process if he were to move forward.

Clerk Gifford reiterated the Public Comment process, stating comments are welcomed; however a Question & Answer format is not part of the process.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Ms. Mary Borbolla, 6851 Walton, Kingsley, MI 49649

Ms. Borbolla lives ¼ mile from the facility. She believes the area is no different than a big city and has concerns about drugs as well as up to 1,000 men residing in the facility. She encouraged people to write letters opposing Mr. Munger's grant application and letting their voices be heard.

Mr. Steve Batzer, 8383 M-113, East, Fife Lake, MI 49633

Mr. Batzer referenced the closing of the former state hospital and the rise in drugs. He is not opposed to helping people. Jobs would be needed. If they don't have things to do, there will be failure.

Ms. Sue Sensenbaugh-Padgett, 8995 Oak Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Ms. Sensenbaugh-Padgett stated she is a member of the Fife Lake Area Planning Commission. She is concerned about this project not being of best practice in the field of homelessness and Mr. Munger's comments that Grand Traverse County is doing nothing for the homeless population. Other concerns include travel, transportation, employment opportunities, taking services away from the existing population and no noted procedures in how Exodus Place handles violence and drug issues. She inquired whether any homeless convicts may be on the sex registry. She also questioned the legality of residents using their Bridge card at Exodus Place.

Mr. Ryan Smith, 6532 Gleaner Hall Road, Kingsley, MI 49649:

Mr. Smith lives one mile from the facility with his family. There are many children in the neighborhood. He is concerned with Exodus Place bringing in 350-1,000 strangers and the issues of substance abuse and sex offenders. He referenced the existing issue at Walton Junction. Grand Rapids has its own problems, and this problem should stay in Grand Rapids.

Ms. Nicole Schaaf:

Ms. Schaaf stated she is a Licensed Master of Clinical Social Work with 15 years' experience serving the unhoused and those with mental illness, addiction and domestic violence issues. She does not believe this proposal has the resources to support this population. The National Coalition to End Homelessness believes permanent housing is the way to end homelessness; Exodus Place provides transitional housing. She referenced the location of healthcare and Fire/EMS, stated mental health services are already stressed, and wondered how residents would find employment. She does not believe the \$5 million grant would get them very far and questioned what happens if the grant is not renewed. She has both visited and had clients at Exodus in Grand Rapids where there have been insect, transportation and financial problems.

She questioned why donor money is not put into Exodus Place in Grand Rapids and the other cities Mr. Munger spoke of instead of displacing the population. She is dumfounded the Director signed off on this proposal and questioned how fit he and the Board are to carry out their duties. She had dedicated her life to working with this population and is appalled.

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

Mr. Strobridge stated he would like to be on the record that he is against this proposal for all the reasons previously stated.

Mr. James Strobridge, 518 East State Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Mr. Strobridge questioned why Mr. Munger is not networking with Dégagé Ministries and Guiding Light in Grand Rapids who provide a ministry for women and men, food, employment, and addiction treatment. He posed the possibility whether the Pugsley site might house illegals. He questioned many items and how they would be paid for/handled related to transportation costs, schools, employment, food, healthcare services, mental health and addiction treatment, counseling, security and crime. He believes the grant will be a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed. He hasn't seen information addressing these issues but rather has only seen platitudes.

Ms. Sheila Jones, 8909 Townline Road, Kingsley, MI 49649:

Ms. Jones is concerned that Mr. Munger has two companies interested in working with Exodus Place; however, cannot name them yet. Her pastor, with much prison experience, shared with her 1,000 men cannot be moved into a rural area and expect success. She referenced the past issues with the Pugsley lagoon/septic system. Exodus Place has a \$1.9m purchase agreement with the Grand Traverse Economic Development Corporation (EDC), but the property is listed for \$3.9m. She wonders how the Tribe can take a \$2m hit and asked the public to think about that.

Mr. David Nichols, 9596 Hodge Road, 518 East State Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Mr. Nichols referenced the gun range next to the Pugsley facility, stating the DEQ and EGLE have deemed it a hazardous waste site with concerns for drinking water and direct ground water contact. He stated there are 30k pounds of lead there. The noise level is over 70db, with shooting 2-3 times per week and worse in the fall with night vision training. There are plans to expand the gun range. He wants the community and Exodus Place to know it is a hazardous waste site that has not been cleaned up.

Ms. Katherine Ridgemon, 9051 Hodge Road, Kingsley, MI 49649:

Ms. Ridgemon lives less than a mile from the facility. There are numerous children in the neighborhood. She and others will not feel safe if there are 1,000 ex-cons living there who are free to leave at-will. She questioned why Mr. Munger cannot name the two companies building the infrastructure. Her concerns include employment, limited bus system, housing after transition, how to handle an influx of 1,000 people, preventing camps and residents quitting the program. The Exodus Place website lists one LPN on staff; this is not adequate to address health and substance abuse issues.

It doesn't make sense to bring people here from Detroit, Lansing, Flint and Grand Rapids; there are many vacant buildings in those areas with the nearby services she listed. She asked how Mr. Munger will fund the program when the \$5m grant runs out.

Mr. Ross Padgett, 8995 Oak Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Mr. Padgett lives in Walton Junction where there have been two OD deaths and a wanted felon who was captured there. He is a former Army Infantry Sergeant. He does not want these people moved up north when established families here cannot get jobs, housing and transportation. He does not believe it is right to bring 100 convicts up from downstate.

Mr. Munger attempted multiple times to interrupt and address Mr. Padgett's comment; he and the crowd were called to order. Clerk Gifford and Trustee Gibson called for an Officer. Deputy Whetstone intervened to deescalate the situation and asked for mutual respect among parties, stating everyone has a voice.

Trustee Gibson reiterated this portion of the meeting is for public comment and outbursts will not be tolerated. Members of the public will not be addressing Mr. Munger directly but rather the Board. The Board will not be answering questions nor will Mr. Munger. If he chooses, he will be given the same 3-minute public comment opportunity.

Mr. Zack Schaaf, 8748 Hodge Road, Kingsley, MI 49649:

Mr. Schaaf lives a mile from the facility and has the same concerns as other people here. This idea does not make sense and doesn't have the infrastructure to support it. He quoted Mr. Munger stating "the worst thing that could happen if I fail is we end up with a nice facility." Mr. Schaaf stated it is not the worst thing; it would be if just one resident makes a bad decision and wanders off, harming one of us or our children.

Mr. Doug Brandt, 11463 Lake Shore Drive, 518 East State Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633:

Mr. Brandt is an architectural engineer, having worked in Grand Rapids since 1984. He is familiar with the homeless situation and is the worst it's ever been there. It would cost many millions to build housing at Camp Pugsley; it would be better off starting elsewhere with different infrastructure. The need in Grand Rapids is large, and they are short 15-30k housing units presently. Affordable housing is the bigger issue than homelessness.

Mr. Tad Thompson, 9245 Townline Road, Kingsley, MI 49649:

Mr. Thompson lives a mile from the facility. He fears for his wife and children and what could happen bringing 1,000 men to the middle of nowhere, free to leave the facility. He asked what would be stopping them from ruining his family's life.

Mr. Dion Bloom, 9019 Hodge Road, Kingsley, MI 49649:

Mr. Bloom stated he echoes what others have said. He moved from Traverse City to live in the middle of nowhere. Initial reports were the facility was for homeless people and then a rehabilitation facility for convicts. It was asked on local media if the Traverse City homeless were welcome at Exodus Place; the response was yes, if they fit the model. His concerns are someone walking away and committing a crime and that there is one Deputy to patrol Fife Lake Township. He stated this is a totally unacceptable idea.

Ms. Vanessa Rousch, 10336 Hodge Road, Kingsley, MI 49649:

Ms. Rousch lives less than 1 mile from the facility on property her grandchildren like to camp. She would never allow this with 1,000 men living there. There were safety measures in place when it was a prison; however, now individuals would be in a prison environment with no fence. She asked why only men would be there and not families from the Goodwill Inn. There are multi-generational homes because people cannot find a place to live. If Mr. Munger does anything for the community, build housing for generations who are moving away. She worked at Camp Pugsley for 16 years.

Mr. Paul Anstead [address not provided]:

Mr. Anstead is in agreement with others and strongly disagrees with the proposal turning the facility into a center for ex-con rehabilitation with no security or amenities for miles. The fear is real that something bad could happen. Mr. Anstead addressed the Planning Commission stating they have the power to stop this venture. He spoke about fair and equitable taxes, tax breaks, and filling the beds at the facility.

The public did not ask Exodus to come here; if Township officials asked, they don't know their constituents. He cannot see any form of Exodus Place or the State of Michigan dumping their prison population here that benefits any local communities. He believes it is a money grab for a non-profit organization.

Mr. Bryan Paraski, 9898 Walton Pines Drive, Kingsley, MI 49649:

Mr. Paraski moved here from the DC area and does not understand how Exodus Place could see this as a good idea. He has 20 years' construction experience and has had numerous run-ins with the homeless in Traverse City where EMS and law enforcement were called multiple times. He witnessed the behavior of the homeless at the Pines, Safe Harbor and the Park Place Hotel. Traverse City has its own serious homelessness problem, particularly with substance abuse issues, crime and weapons. He wants to know more about security and vetting of residents. There are plenty of available buildings in Grand Rapids.

He believes in second chances, helping the young and elderly but not at the expense of the dynamic of this area. If this program does not work out, where would they go?

Mr. Robb Munger, Exodus Place, 322 Front Avenue, S.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504:

Mr. Munger addressed the Board and members of the public stating he came here to listen to people. There have been many untruths tonight that he will not debate. He stated in all transparency, he cannot control whether people walk out, relapse and camp in the pines. He stated he did hear people and did not think this through; if one child or person was hurt, it's not worth it.

He is confident in his system, and it has been proven successful. He came here to help people and to listen, not to get in a fight. His objective was to work with people. He would not want to be responsible for someone harming another, and it is not what he stands for. He works daily to make a positive difference in people's lives. His intention was not to trash the community but to do better.

Mr. Munger announced he will be speaking with his agent and cancelling his deal. He does not want to be responsible for harm to anyone and apologized for wasting people's time.

Mr. Ken Fritz, 12067 East Gilbert Road, [City/ST/Zip not provided]

Mr. Fritz addressed the zoning of the Pugsley facility, which is planned development under the Master Plan. Currently, Fife Lake Township has a population of 1,411 with 960 housing units. Exodus Place's proposal to bring up to 1,000 tenant units to the facility would increase the population 70%, a voting population that doesn't pay taxes to the Township.

Typically, a developer for that type of property requests tax breaks from the local jurisdictions. The Township currently receives zero taxes from that property through the end of 2024. The property would bring \$24k to the Township. With 1,000 residents, that \$24k would not cover the needs for additional police, fire and EMS services. He addressed the Township Board regarding consideration of any proposed development at that site that proper procedures be in place to provide adequate income to support those services. This is the case regardless of who or what is there.

Ms. Kristen Burgess, 9572 M-113 East, Fife Lake, MI 49633

Ms. Burgess' property is near Camp Pugsley. She is concerned about any activity there for her family including the shooting range, which is an ongoing problem. The berms reflect the noise all the time. She is concerned about her property values, safety and PTSD flares. People all around are impacted by any decision made for this property. Any decision needs to be carefully thought through.

Mr. Mark Schaub, 5507 Walton Road, [City/ST/Zip not provided]

Mr. Schaub stated his wife works at Munson and has been approached by homeless people at 5 a.m. in the parking lot. He travels through Grand Rapids weekly and sees the homeless population. Traverse City has the same issues; we need to take care of them before people from other communities. He sees numerous empty warehouses in Grand Rapids that could be converted to housing and are close to amenities.

Mr. Dan Wilson, [address not provided]

Mr. Wilson stated this is a resort area. If this project were to happen, it would greatly affect tourism. He agrees with what people are saying here and that people need to have a chance. However, we are a small town and tourism is what keeps it going.

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

Ms. Newell's concern was misinformation fed from Exodus Place and numerous media outlets and interviews where the information was not consistent. The population went from 150 to 1,000, two businesses were coming in, it was men and women, etc. The information was conflicting, and the delivery of it to the community was very poor.

Clerk Gifford asked if there were any additional individuals who wished to speak. She thanked Mr. Munger and the public.

OUTSTANDING TASK LIST:

Review of the June Outstanding Task List was tabled (along with the previously tabled May OTL) to the August meeting.

Board Action:

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Submitted by: Kay Z. Held, Recording Secretary