

Augusta Charter Township  
8021 Talladay Road  
Whittaker, MI 48190

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

1. Virtual Meeting called to order by Shelby at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Present: Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Absent: None.
3. Motion by Shelby, 2nd by Gonczy, to approve the agenda with the following amendments: Add; Board Response after Public Comment. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
4. Public Comment Opened at 7:02 p.m. Colleen Coogan from WoodHill Group spoke: Thank you Mr. Supervisor and Board I just wanted to have a comment during the public time because I'm very concerned about some of what my company would view as slanderous and libelous, written and verbal statements that are being said and I'm very concerned about the tenor, these statements are also factually incorrect, and they're using terms like illegal and so I wanted to put the Board on Notice that as a firm we are very concern about some of the communications that are transpiring over at Augusta. Thank You for letting me talk. Closed at 7:05 p.m.
5. Board Response Opened at 7:05 p.m. Treasurer Burek made a statement to be included in the Minutes: The treasurer's office is responsible under statutory duty to maintain collection of revenues and deposit it into approved depositories. The office keeps an account of receipts and expenditures. The treasurer and clerk's office together are involved with the township's

financial transactions, which are all board approved. There are no other authorized persons or company that have access to move money. Any statement made that reflects otherwise is a lie. Yearly audits are performed to check the financial records for proper accounting of the township's accounts. Thank you.

Clerk Gonczy made a statement to be included in the Minutes: See Attached.

Trustee Adams made a statement to be included in the Minutes: See Attached.

Trustee Fuqua-Frey made a statement to be included in the Minutes: See Attached.

Trustee Hall stated: Residents of Augusta Township thank you all for coming to the meeting tonight. I want to insure each and every one of you that you have a full working Board. One of my jobs as Trustee is to make sure that everyone is doing what they were elected to do. I for one is a Trustee that does come to the Hall and check on things. I can raise my right hand to you and assure you that everybody is doing as they've been elected and hired to do. No money is missing, no money has been moved or disappeared. All the money is where it should be. I also want to say it is easy for people to sit home, make comments of what people are doing and not doing. Also, it is just as easy to come down to Town Hall, attend Officer meetings and observe and learn. Please before you listen to rumors on social media, come to meetings or come to Town Hall and ask questions. I am in contact with our Supervisor, Brian, on a daily basis personally I believe Brian and Deputy Allan are doing an excellent job. Thank you all for listening.

Trustee Ortiz stated. The only comment I can make is this Board is doing a good job. They are very concerned about the people of this township, but unfortunately the people of this township like to spread rumors. Rumors are like wildfire once it's

lite it keeps going. As long as it's fed it's going. Now every member of this Board does their job. We are not perfect no one said we are, we are all flawed but we do the honest job we were elected to do. I encourage people to stop with the Facebook stuff, that is nothing but a place where everyone can complain about everything under the sun. If they're that concerned about your township come to these meetings. Stop complaining about when the meetings are going to open up to the public but when we are open to the public they never show up. So, if you are going to complain about it complain about it then squash it otherwise come here see what we are doing. Get involved. Remember this Township, this Board works for you, the people. You do not work for us. We work for you. So, if you are that concerned zip the lip and come to the meetings. Thank you.

Brian Shelby, Supervisor, I'm extending an offer to anyone to spend some time at the Hall to see the work that is being done. Give a call we will make room and time for you. Allan and I have three buildings torn up for remodeling and so on but we will make time for anybody so you can see what is being done. So, if you have any questions, I can be contacted all the time. My numbers are out there for anybody. I want to thank the Board for the comments and let's move on now please.

Attorney Victor Lillich addressed the Board: Some things I have heard rather true or not. Everybody on the Board should understand it is a violation of state law for being one of you to make a statement that is false regarding the finances and the funds of the Township. So just beware I have heard about this and I want everyone to know, to be put on notice that false statements regarding township funds, their money is a violation of state law and could lead to prosecution.  
Closed at 7:19 p.m.

6. Motion by Gonczy, 2nd by Adams, to approve the Draft Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes from 4/27/2021. Roll Call: Aye;

Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.


7. Motion by Fuqua-Frey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shelby to Table Resolution 21-15 YCUA Contract. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
8. Motion by Gonczy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Adams to approve Resolution 21-17 Resolution to Amending the Operating and Capital Budget of Funds Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
9. Motion by Gonczy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burek to approve Resolution 21-13 to Establish Supervisor's Salary at \$32,000 annually. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Gonczy, Shelby. Nay; Ortiz, Fuqua-Frey, Hall. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
10. Motion by Gonczy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Adams to approve Resolution 21-14 to Establish Treasurer's Salary at \$32,000 annually. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Gonczy, Shelby. Nay; Ortiz, Hall, Fuqua-Frey. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
11. Motion by Gonczy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burek to approve a 3% Cost of Living Wage raise for Augusta Township Staff and Deputies. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby. Nay; Fuqua-Frey. Absent; Ortiz. Motion Passed.
12. Motion by Gonczy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hall to approve Resolution 21-16 to Establish Trustee's Salary with a 3% Cost of Living Wage increase. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby. Nay; Ortiz, Fuqua-Frey. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
13. Motion by Gonczy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ortiz to approve an Annual Cost of Living Wage to be Determined by the Federal Government for our Staff and Deputies. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz,



Gonczy, Hall, Shelby. Nay; Fuqua-Frey. Absent; None. Motion Passed.

14. Motion by Shelby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ortiz to approve sealcoating the Township Parking Lot not to exceed \$2500. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
15. Motion by Gonczy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Adams to approve the purchase of three wireless Headsets for the telephone not to exceed \$855. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
16. Motion by Shelby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ortiz to approve painting the south bay of the old fire department not to exceed \$5,000. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
17. Motion by Shelby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ortiz to approve land clearing at the Augusta Township Park not to exceed \$1,500. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
18. Motion by Shelby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ortiz to approve American Leak Detection's quote for \$9,778 for water system leak detection. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
19. Motion by Shelby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hall to accept the Supervisor's Report as given. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
20. Motion by Gonczy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shelby to approve Warrants 24056 – 24130. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.

21. Motion by Shelby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hall to accept the Clerk's Report as given. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
22. Motion by Shelby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Adams to accept the Treasurer's Report as given. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
23. Motion by Shelby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hall to accept the Fire Department's Report at given by Trustee Adams. Roll Call: Aye; Adams, Burek, Ortiz, Gonczy, Hall, Shelby, Fuqua-Frey. Nay; None. Absent; None. Motion Passed.
24. Public Comment Opened at 8:02 p.m. Closed at 8:05 p.m.
25. Motion by Shelby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ortiz to adjourn. Motion Passed.
26. Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.
27. Respectfully submitted:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Shelby, Supervisor

6/23/2021  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Gonczy, Clerk

6/23/2021  
Date

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Thank You

Susan Burek

## CLERK'S STATEMENT

May 25, 2021

It is very disturbing to me that our paid professional would feel the need to put us on notice to address the Board with this. There is no possible way that WoodHill Group or anyone for that matter could take or move the Township's money. The experience, knowledge, and expertise that WoodHill Group has brought to the Township speaks for itself. Four and a half years ago when the previous Board Took office the books were a mess. The Township was two years behind on their State of Michigan audits, they had received a Request for Improvement of Deficiencies – Corrective Action Plan letter from the State of Michigan. We are very fortunate that WoodHill Group agreed to take on the task to help us to get our books and get our bookkeeping back in order. They continue to make sure we stay compliant with the State of Michigan. Their BS&A and governmental bookkeeping experience along with their professional is nothing short of exemplary.

I'm so proud of the work we've done over the last five years!

Coming onboard in 2016 the trust from the community and fellow Board members had been violated and damaged.

Over the past five years I have worked with Brian Shelby, Susan Burek, Belynda Domas, Chris Ortiz, Linda Adams and from the previous Board Cath Howard, Dennis Chie, and Ray Knick. Together, myself as a Deputy, we've partnered with some great paid professionals. We have formed great relationships with our neighbors, the County, MTA, and the State of Michigan.

Belynda recognized that Elected Officials are normally not Accountants. The Township needed to have qualified paid professionals to provide guidance and oversight.

None of us Board members are Accountants, Lawyers or Engineers. It is imperative that we have these partnerships to ensure the integrity of our work.

Once again Augusta Township is prepared for the Annual Audit. We should all take pride in the fact that we are able to be Audited within three months of our year end. I should not feel like I need to defend the honest hard work that we are doing.

Hearing lies and rumors offends me and the work that I am doing. I am the Clerk and I'm responsible for the General Ledger. I take my job very serious and wanted to make this public statement.

Augusta Township Elected Official's will continue to rise above the rumors and lies and to do our jobs that we were elected for. As usual, I am available buy phone, email or in person. Facebook is not a place that I can be reached professionally as your Clerk.

Thank You. Kim Gonczy



I would like to make this statement a public record.

There has been allegations made of wrong doing and theft that has spread across the township recently. And I want to say right from the start that is not only a fabrication of information, but an outright lie. At no point in this or the previous board term has there even been any funds that were un-accounted for.

To make such statements not only undermines the hard work and dedication of our paid professionals, treasurer, staff and other board members that has worked so hard to put this township in the best fiduciary standing that it has seen in many years. But it also undermines the confidence and trust that every resident should be able to have.

I know that we all live in a time where if it's posted on the internet that it must be true, right? Well that is not correct!!

I challenge everyone that is here tonight to continue to attend board meetings, to ask questions, and finally to ask for proof when such allegations are made instead of spreading it like wild fire on social media.

Thank you for your time

Linda Adams  
Augusta Charter Township Trustee  
5/25/2021

Deborah Fuqua-Frey's statement regarding the water rate plan May 25, 2021

For the record and I want this statement reflected in the minutes of this meeting.

When I ran for Trustee my platform was to reduce the water and sewer rates.

When the 5 year rate plan was adopted by the prior board Brian Shelby, Chris Ortiz, and Dennis Chie voted against the plan.

These individuals did not agree with it and believed we could reduce our rates.

Since being elected I have tried to get the charge for depreciation removed from our rate plan.

In our financial records the water and sewer funds were not easily identified so I requested the bookkeeping be changed to reflect those monies so we could more easily determine the financial health of the water and sewer accounts. That request was honored. Thank you.

Since those funds were segregated, recently, my husband asked Brian how much was in the water and sewer funds. Brian checked told him there was over \$1million in the water fund and over \$900,000 in the sewer fund.

My husband suggested that he determine how long it took us to accumulate those funds. That would be a starting point to project our needs and cash flow for the future and be able to calculate an appropriate rate reduction.

I ask you a simple question which Brian was asked, how can you accumulate over \$1 million and claim you are losing money. Answer, you can't.

So since that inquiry, at the last board meeting the Woodhill group reported that since there was over \$1million in the water fund they were removing \$600,000.00 but did not say where those funds would be allocated.

Since it wasn't identified as to where they would be earmarked, I sent an email to clarify what was being done with the \$600,000.00.

Since I asked that question on Mr. Hall's Facebook page he accused me of claiming the funds were missing and he deleted my posts and kicked me off his page. I never stated the funds were missing I only wanted to know what was being done with them. So much for free speech, debate and censorship.

Mr. Hall claimed that they separated the water and the sewer funds. This is inaccurate. They did not separate the water and sewer fund with that bookkeeping entry. That was done upon my earlier request.

I sent an email and to clarify where the \$600,000.00 was allocated, and was told that it was going to be allocated as "depreciation" and used in the future to pay for the future resident's water system approximately 40-50 years in the future

Now I personally don't believe that these funds will remain untouched for that period of time.

Also, the current water customers should not be responsible for the current cost of the system, the past cost of the system, and the future customer's use of the water system.

Future customers need to pay their own way, not the current customers.

They can pay their own way with their own loans which they can pay off on their water bills, just as the water and sewer customers are now paying off the loans the last board obtained for the water and sewer system

Also, the bookkeeping entry of \$600,000 is an indicator of how much we are being charged "depreciation" and the rates need to be lowered by that much and those monies need to be refunded to the customers. This is part of the O&M charges.

Since the ratio of depreciation to the total water fund is 60%, the O&M charges need to be reduced by 60% and the \$600,000.00 needs to be refunded to the current water customers.

Also, it was discovered that the School system was undercharged approximately \$300,000.00 so the rates charged to the water customers have been charged for that loss and subsidizing the school's water bill. Therefore, they need to also be reimbursed for those charges immediately; otherwise they are indirectly paying an additional school tax which hasn't been approved by the voters.

Just a "point of information" there are numerous methods that a township can use to determine water rates. The Woodhill group has chosen the most expensive method available.

It is this board's responsibility to set the rates, not the Woodhill group's and they should present the different choices and let the board decide something fair to our water and sewer customers.

And I have stated that I will not support raises for anyone until the water and sewer rates are fairly calculated for our residents on the water and sewer system.