
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Bartolotta, Supervisor
Kim Markee, Clerk
Steve Thomas, Treasurer
Jeff Gilbert, Trustee
Sam Harris, Trustee
Marie E. Hauswirth, Trustee
Gary Wall, Trustee

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joellen Shortley	Mark Simlar	Alison Swanson
Sharon Thomas	Robin McGregor	Matthew Nye
Jeffrey Polkowski		

Supervisor Bartolotta opened the meeting by informing the Trustees that he talked with Chris Barnett from Orion Township and their new garbage collection service, Waste Management, is doing a good job. Their overall costs for their garbage services increased slightly, whereas Priority will keep Waterford's costs the same. He asked Joellen to get our contract ready for the Board to approve on February 24, 2025. Joellen said she has not heard back from Priority's attorney and will contact him.

Supervisor Bartolotta informed the Trustees that he has formed a committee for Plante Moran Realpoint to communicate updates to and those committee members are: Anthony Bartolotta, Supervisor, Alison Swanson, Parks and Rec Director, Jeff Gilbert, Trustee, Gary Wall, Trustee. Trustee Harris requested the committee to provide a report two times per month to keep all Board Members informed. Trustee Hauswirth said, "We need to be transparent, so all Board Members are informed of the progress." Trustee Gilbert and Trustee Wall assured Trustee Harris that they would come back and report the updates to all Board Members. Alison Swanson said that Plante Moran, Realpoint will be developing a policy for change orders and communication updates that the complete Board of Trustees will have to approve. She also said that all updates will be posted on the website for all to view. Clerk Markee suggested that Trustee Harris review the timeline that was provided by Realpoint to give an overall idea as to when work will be initiated and completed.

Trustee Harris asked, "When do we start paying Realpoint?" Joellen Shortley, Attorney, and Clerk Markee explained we start paying them when the contract is fully signed and executed. He was concerned about the bids being communicated to the Trustees, and Clerk Markee explained there is a bid process, and you can get notifications in your email for when these bids are sent out. Realpoint also said they will communicate with many suppliers to ensure that we get many bids for the Community Center projects.

There was a lot of discussion regarding Plante Moran Realpoint PMR contract signing and when invoicing began between Trustee Harris, Supervisor Bartolotta and the board members. Trustee Harris is concerned with oversight of the project and costs. Harris confirmed with Supervisor Bartolotta that the contract was signed the day after the last board meeting January 28, 2025 and that as Harris read the contract, that is when Plante Moran Realpoint PMR started charging the Township for advisory services of approximately \$26,500 a month for the 1st 12 months. Supervisor Bartolotta and some other board members were unsure of the start of invoicing, so Trustee Harris asked Attorney Joellen Shortley for her opinion of the contract language and to clarify for the other board members. Attorney Joellen Shortley confirmed that PMR was probably invoicing for the last two weeks if we received an invoice yet or not per the contract language.

Trustee Harris then re-stated that since PMR was on the clock now for two weeks approximately \$13,250 that he would like a report from the Parks and Rec Bond project committee Anthony Bartolotta Supervisor, Alison Swanson Parks and Rec Director, Jeff Gilbert Trustee, and Gary Wall Trustee.

Supervisor Bartolotta stated he thought there was a meeting coming up later that week Thursday and some discussion ensued. After that discussion Trustee Harris again stated, so that it would not be a surprise for the board at the next meeting, that he would be looking for full transparency and reports at every board meeting on this project throughout the duration of the project for the next 36 months with two reports monthly to coincide with our regular meetings.

Requested reports to contain

- 1) Financial tracking of the contract and accounting of the to date expenditures for the base contract and any extras.
- 2) What was accomplished for the 1st payment of approximately \$13,250
- 3) What will be accomplished for the 2nd payment of approximately \$26,500 total expenditure plus extras if any.
- 4) Who at PMR performed work during the two-week reporting period and what tasks were completed. (updated every report)
- 5) Will Andy Foutain and Robert Stempien be reporting and involved throughout the project?
- 6) What are the actual dates of the following
 - a. The advertisement for Architectural services.
 - b. The advertisement for CM Construction Manager services
- 7) Where will the advertisements for Architect and Construction manager be placed?
 - a. Supervisor Bartolotta asked, "Do you want us to advertise in the Free Press?" Trustee Harris Responded, "sure that would be fine."
 - b. Trustee Harris stated he would like those service requests to be advertised in as many places as possible to include the recognized Construction Reporting services for Southeast Michigan and all government construction reporting services. Some private examples with CAM Construction Association of Michigan, GBRX if still around Grand Rapids Builders Exchange, Plan Hub, Blue Book. Many to contact.
 - c. Trustee Harris stated that we should get that advertisement information and due date for bids from PMR and the newly formed official- unofficial committee, well in advance so that we can all spread the word and so that the competition is expanded for many qualified professionals to have time to consider the project and throw their hat in the ring for this desirable Waterford Township major construction project for the new Parks and Recreation location.
 - d. Trustee Harris also stated that he wants this process to be transparent for the Waterford Taxpayer.
 - e. Trustee Harris also stated that he voted yes for PMR because he had a discussion with them and Andy and Robert assured them that they thought a transparent CM Construction Manager was the best route to go for transparency and with the amount of time we have to set that all up in advance seeing that we cannot even start physical construction until we close on the building sometime mid 2026 or at the end of 2026.

Clerk Markee said she was working on getting a map and letters of support to request grant funding for the Community Center. She also reached out to SEMCOG to get letters of support. She said she would keep all Trustees informed as to what transpires regarding a grant submission for the Community Center.

Trustee Hauswirth said that Roman Wasykewyck put together a detailed description of our sidewalk deficiencies where there was never a sidewalk connecting two sidewalks. Trustee Wall said we should not be adding any sidewalks when we can't maintain the ones we have. Trustee Hauswirth said we should have a flat fee per household and suggested putting a ballot question on in 2026 to ask residents to help fund the sidewalks. Supervisor Bartolotta said we do not have funds to support more sidewalks.

Trustee Gilbert was concerned with the new law changes as to who owns the sidewalks and Trustee Wall did not think that Waterford owns them.

Trustee Wall said that he will be doing a traffic study for nine hours per day for the pedestrian bridge by Leggett. He will bring back his findings once the study is complete. Mark Simlar, HR Director said that in 2017, the School District had a quote for \$100,000 to demolish the pedestrian bridge.

Alison Swanson said we do not have funds to maintain the Riverwalk and there are discussions between her Team and F&O as to who is going to maintain the Riverwalk. There may be a shared responsibility. She said Jim Powers was going to ask the Boy Scouts if they could help empty the trash barrels along the Riverwalk for a community service project. Trustee Harris suggested "Adopt a Park" for businesses or 501C (3) groups to help maintain a portion of the Riverwalk. Trustee Hauswirth said she didn't think that the "Friends for the Greenways Committee" has met yet and they are going to work on getting help to maintain the Riverwalk.

Supervisor Bartolotta asked Joellen Shortley, Township Attorney, to inform the Trustees about the FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression) group that sent a letter asking us to change our public speaking policy during our Board Meetings. It seems like they want to create business for themselves by suggesting they help us improve our policy or possibly initiate litigation to receive money from us. She suggested changing our current policy very slightly to avoid legal obligations. The changes have been discussed and will be coming forward for the Board to approve at the next meeting.

Alison Swanson, Parks and Rec Director said the roof is leaking badly in the library section of Leggett. She has received several quotes and will have to spend money to get the roof re-done in that area. The previous repairs were very inadequate.

Trustee Harris said he would like to postpone the Deputy Supervisor's position from tonight's meeting and move it to the next Board of Trustees meeting. He also was not in agreement with the 2.25% raise for all Trustees. Supervisor Wall said that is the same amount all employees of Waterford received per the Union Contract.

Matthew Nye, Fire Chief, said there is a request to purchase a new fire engine on tonight's agenda and it is in the budget. Fire engines take two to four years for delivery and the costs continue to rise. Private equity capital investors are purchasing all the manufacturers of fire engines and are continuing to increase the costs because they are becoming a monopoly. The Fire Department put together a Team to study the cost increases and negotiate a better price by working with several suppliers. They were able to negotiate some reduced pricing.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:52 p.m.